

# ICloud The Account As The Real Evidence Store

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<https://e-discovery.uk/library/icloud-the-account-as-the-real-evidence-store>

ICLOUD: THEACCOUNTASEVIDENCE · A GUIDE FOR UK LAWYERSiCloud: The Account as the Real Evidence StoreWhy the Evidence Often Lives in the Account, Not the Device, and How toReach It LawfullyCOMPUTER FORENSICS LAB§ ABOUT THE AUTHORPREPARED BY COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB E-DISCOVERY TEAMFULL CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY DOCUMENTATIONS§ CONTENTSIn this guide01 Executive summary02 The problem in plain English: the account behind the device03 What iCloud holds04 Why the account is the real evidence store05 Reaching iCloud law full y06 Advanced Data Protection and what changes07 Deployment: the account as source and fallback08 Source architecture: where else the evidence lives09 Worked examples10 Common mistakes and technical limitations11 Questions to ask · Suggested wording12 Checklist and red flags · When to involve a digital forensic expert13 Frequently asked questions14 Glossary · References · Disclaimer · How a specialist laboratory can assist§ 01 · ORIENTATIONExecutive summaryiCloud account behind it, which holds photos, messages, backups of every device, files and app data, oftenonly route when a device is gone, but reachable only law full y.§ 02 · FIRST PRINCIPLEThe problem in plain English: the account behind the device§ 03 · WHAT I CLOUD HOLD SWhat iCloud holds§ 04 · THEREALEVIDENCESTOREWhy the account is the real evidence store§ 05 · REACHINGICLOUDLAWFULLYReaching iCloud law full y§ 06 · ADVANCEDDATAPROTECTIONAdvanced Data Protection and what changes§ 07 · DEPLOYMENTDeployment: the account as source and fallback§ 08 · THEWIDERMAPSSource architecture: where else the evidence livesEVIDENCEACCOUNT DEVICES (NO ADP) (ADP ON) DEVICE OTHER CLOUD§ 09 · IN THE WILDWorked examplesEXAMPLE1 · THEWIPEDPHONEANDTHEINTACTACCOUNTEXAMPLE2 · ADVANCEDDATAPROTECTIONCHANGEDTHEROUTE, NOTTHEOUTCOMEEXAMPLE3 · THEACCOUNTTHATHELDTHEOLDERHISTORY§ 10 · WHEREITGOESWRONGCommon mistakes and technical limitationsCommon mistakesTechnical limitations§ 11 · INTERROGATORIES & DRAFTING AIDSQuestions to ask · Suggested wordingAsk your clientAsk your opponentAsk your e Discovery / forensic provider§ 12 · QUICK CONTROLChecklist and red flags · When to involve a digital forensicexpertThe iCloud account checklistRed flagsWhen to involve a digital forensic expert§ 13 · COMMON QUESTIONSFrequently asked questionsWhy look at iCloud rather than just the phone?If a phone is wiped or lost, is the evidence gone?How is iCloud data obtained law full y?What is Advanced Data Protection and why does it matter?Does the account show what devices someone has?Isn't collecting a whole iCloud account very intrusive?§ 14 · REFERENCEGlossarySources and authoritative referencesDISCLAIMER§ HOW A SPECIALIST LABORATORY CAN ASSISTWorking with Computer Forensics Lab35 or CrimPR Part 19. This guide continues the iPhone and iPad block. Conflicts checks, confidential scopingSpeak to a forensic examiner, not a salesperson.INSTRUCTTHELABNEWENQUIRIESEMAILE - DISCOVERY

## Questions and answers

### **Why look at iCloud rather than just the phone?**

Because for many users the account, not the phone, is the real store (

### **How is iCloud data obtained lawfully?**

By consent, lawful process, or production (

### **What is Advanced Data Protection and why does it matter?**

It is Apple's optional end-to-end encryption for much iCloud data (

### **Isn't collecting a whole iCloud account very intrusive?**

It can be, which is why it is scoped and minimised (

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