

IOS Knowledge And Biome The Device Activity Record

e-discovery.uk, Computer Forensics Lab. Published 2026-09-02.

<https://e-discovery.uk/library/ios-knowledge-and-biome-the-device-activity-record>

IOSKNOWLEDGE & BIOME · A GUIDE FOR UK LAWYERS
iOS Knowledge and Biome: The Device Activity Record
The Phone's Own Diary of What Was Done, and Why It Must Be Read by an Expert
COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB
§ ABOUT THE AUTHOR
PREPARED BY COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB
E-DISCOVERY TEAM
DEVICE-ACTIVITY RECONSTRUCTION CPR PART 35 EXPERT REPORT
FULL CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION
§ CONTENTS
In this guide
01 Executive summary
02 The problem in plain English: the phone keeps a diary
03 What the iOS activity databases record
04 Reconstructing the device-activity timeline
05 Why expert interpretation is essential
06 Log rotation, corroboration and honest limits
07 Deployment: proving what the device was doing
08 Source architecture: where else the evidence lives
09 Worked examples
10 Common mistakes and technical limitations
11 Questions to ask · Suggested wording
12 Checklist and red flags · When to involve a digital forensic expert
13 Frequently asked questions
14 Glossary · References · Disclaimer · How a specialist laboratory can assist
§ 01 · ORIENTATION
Executive summary
The headline point: an iPhone keeps a fine-grained diary of its own use in internal databases such as Knowledge C and Biome, recording which apps were used and when, screen and lock state, notifications and connections, a powerful source for reconstructing user activity, but cryptic, specialist to interpret, and subject to ageing out.
§ 02 · FIRST PRINCIPLE
The problem in plain English: the phone keeps a diary
§ 03 · WHAT THEY RECORD
What the iOS activity databases record
APP USAGE
SCREEN / LOCK
NOTIFICATIONS
CONNECTIONS
TIMELINE
§ 04 · THE ACTIVITY TIMELINE
Reconstructing the device-activity timeline
§ 05 · EXPERT INTERPRETATION
Why expert interpretation is essential
§ 06 · ROTATION AND HONEST LIMITS
Log rotation, corroboration and honest limits
§ 07 · DEPLOYMENT
Deployment: proving what the device was doing
§ 08 · THE WIDER MAP
Source architecture: where else the evidence lives
EVIDENCE MAC / PHONE
LIVE ACTIVITY
BACKUPS / APFS AGED-OUT / DATABASES
ICLOUD SNAPSHOTS
RECOVERABLE
PAIRED OTHER
IPAD DATA
§ 09 · IN THE WILD
Worked examples
EXAMPLE 1 · THE DIARY THAT SHOWED THE PHONE WAS IN USE
EXAMPLE 2 · THE CRYPTIC FIELD THAT WAS NEARLY MISREAD
EXAMPLE 3 · THE GAP THAT WAS ROTATION, AND THE BACKUP THAT FILLED IT
§ 10 · WHERE IT GOES WRONG
Common mistakes and technical limitations
Common mistakes
Technical limitations
§ 11 · INTERROGATORIES & DRAFTING AIDS
Questions to ask · Suggested wording
Ask your client
Ask your opponent
Ask your e Discovery / forensic provider
SUGGESTED WORDING · INSTRUCTION FOR AN ACTIVITY-DATABASE ANALYSIS
§ 12 · QUICK CONTROL
Checklist and red flags · When to involve a digital forensic
The activity-database checklist
Red flags
When to involve a digital forensic expert
§ 13 · COMMON QUESTIONS
Frequently asked questions
What are Knowledge C and Biome? What can these databases show? Why do these need an expert to interpret? If there are no activity records for a period, does that prove nothing happened? How reliable is this evidence? How

urgent is preserving the phone for this?§ 14 · REFERENCEGlossarySources and authoritative
referencesDISCLAIMER§ HOW A SPECIALIST LABORATORY CAN ASSISTWorking with
Computer Forensics LabSpeak to a forensic examiner, not a
salesperson.INSTRUCTTHELABNEWENQUIRIESEMAILE - DISCOVERY

Questions and answers

What are Knowledge C and Biome?

Internal iOS databases that record device activity (

What can these databases show?

Whether the phone was in use and what was being done, at a fine time resolution (

Why do these need an expert to interpret?

Because they are undocumented and cryptic (

How reliable is this evidence?

Reliable when interpreted by expert is e and corroborated (

Source: <https://e-discovery.uk/library/ios-knowledge-and-biome-the-device-activity-record>. Free to read and share with attribution to Computer Forensics Lab, e-discovery.uk.