

Safari And Browser Artefacts On MacOS

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SAFARI & BROWSERARTEFACTS · A GUIDE FOR UK LAWYERSSafari and Browser Artefacts on macOSHistory, Tabs and the iCloud Sync That Outlives a Cleared BrowserCOMPUTER FORENSICS LAB§ ABOUT THE AUTHORPREPARED BY COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB E-DISCOVERY TEAMICLOUD-SYNCD HISTORY RECOVERY CPR PART 35 EXPERT REPORT SFULL CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION§ CONTENTSIn this guide01 Executive summary02 The problem in plain English: a cleared browser is not a clean one03 Where Safari keeps its artefacts04 Deliberate versus automatic activity05 The iCloud sync that outlives clearing06 Third-party browsers, attribution and honest limits07 Deployment: proving web activity and intent08 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 summaryThe headline point: Safari records web activity in structured local artefacts and syncs much of it through§ 02 · FIRST PRINCIPLEThe problem in plain English: a cleared browser is not a cleanone§ 03 · WHERE SAFARI KEEPS ITS ARTEFACTSWhere Safari keeps its artefactsHISTORY DOWNLOADS TABS / SESSIONS CACHE / COOKIES ICLOUD SYNC§ 04 · DELIBERATE VERSUS AUTOMATICDeliberate versus automatic activity§ 05 · THE ICLOUD SYNCThe iCloud sync that outlives clearing§ 06 · THIRD - PARTY BROWSERS AND HONEST LIMITSThird-party browsers, attribution and honest limits§ 07 · DEPLOYMENTDeployment: proving web activity and intent§ 08 · THE WIDER MAPSource architecture: where else the evidence livesEVIDENCE I CLOUDMAC PAIRED THIRD-PARTY NETWORK DELETED /SAFARI IPHONE / IPAD BROWSER LOGS CLEARED§ 09 · IN THE WILDWorked examplesEXAMPLE1 · THE CLEARED MAC AND THE IPHONE THAT REMEMBERED EXAMPLE2 · THE URL THAT WAS NOT AN INTENTION EXAMPLE3 · THE ACTIVITY SPREAD ACROSS THREE BROWSERS§ 10 · WHERE IT GOES WRONGCommon 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 forensic expertThe Safari and browser checklistRed flagsWhen to involve a digital forensic expert§ 13 · COMMON QUESTIONSFrequently asked questionsThe history was cleared. Is the browsing gone?If a website is in the history, does that mean they chose to visit it?Should we look at browsers other than Safari?What about private or incognito browsing?Can browsing prove who was at the keyboard?How urgent is preserving the Mac?§ 14 · REFERENCEGlossarySources and authoritative referencesDISCLAIMER§ HOW A SPECIALIST LABORATORY CAN ASSISTWorking with Computer Forensics LabSpeak to a forensic examiner, not a salesperson.INSTRUCT THE LABNEW ENQUIRIESEMAIL - DISCOVERY

Questions and answers

If a website is in the history, does that mean they chose to visit it?

Not necessarily, this is the central discipline (

What about private or incognito browsing?

It leaves far fewer artefacts, and that limit is stated honestly (

Can browsing prove who was at the keyboard?

It shows a profile's activity; attributing it to a person takes care (

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