DISCO | CASE STUDY

# Defending Trade Secrets

How the DISCO Forensics team provided a competitive edge in an Intellectual property dispute

## BACKGROUND

A litigation boutique representing a company in the energy sector was hired to assess whether former employees took intellectual property from company servers and other mobile devices before joining a competitor. The firm partnered with DISCO's forensic experts to assess over thirty devices from eight defendants and identify instances of data exfiltration, spoliation, or obstruction to the discovery process.

## DEPARTED EMPLOYEE ANALYSIS

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| **ANALYSIS & CUSTOM DATA HANDLING** | • Internet and USB device connection history<br>• Deleted analysis and recovery (hard-deleted email, shadow volume copies, deleted records, USN journal entries)<br>• Google Drive & mobile device database analysis<br>• User activity analysis (when certain files were opened by which users, from what volumes, lnk files, jump list, shellbags)<br>• Anti-forensics analysis (recently run programs, file system record analysis) |
| **EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY** | • Provided affidavit to the court with preliminary findings and authored detailed expert report |

## THE RESULT

The DISCO team established clear patterns of the defendants working together to transfer intellectual property to their own devices using chat and file-sharing platforms, email, and over thirty USB devices. Through bleeding-edge forensics and custom tools, DISCO's forensic expert examined Google Drive for desktop artifacts on the defendant's devices to show that company files had been uploaded en masse to both personal and shared team drives within the Google Workspace. DISCO also proved that the defendants deleted files en mass — even after the court issued a temporary restraining order. The analysis gave the company the ammo they needed to effectively prosecute the litigation.

## WHY DISCO FORENSIC SERVICES?

DISCO provides best-in-class technology and services under one roof — so we can offer complete outcomes, not just pieces of the ediscovery puzzle. The DISCO Forensics team is comprised of certified experts with a history that includes thousands of collections of different devices and other data sources. Whether remote or onsite, we use advanced techniques and tools to identify and recover artifacts in the search for the truth within the data.

## PRESERVATION, COLLECTION, & CONSULTING

DISCO offers forensically defensible preservation and collection of all types of data sources to fit the needs of any matter. In many situations, DISCO can collect data remotely, which results in minimal interference with custodians' schedules.

## DEPARTED EMPLOYEE ANALYSIS

DISCO can determine if external devices were connected to workstations, if data was transferred to external cloud locations, and analyze if any intellectual property may have been stolen by former employees of a company.

## SPOLIATION & DATA GAPS ANALYSIS

DISCO can assess if recovered artifacts could be indicators of potential spoliation of the data from nefarious actions, or can even assist in recovering data from the gap period in question.

## MOBILE DEVICE EXAMINATIONS & ANALYSIS

Our team can analyze Mobile phone data sources to determine location, user activity, communications, additional data sources, artifact metadata, and third-party database record parsing.

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For more information about DISCO Professional Services, reach out to **discodesk@csdisco.com**

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