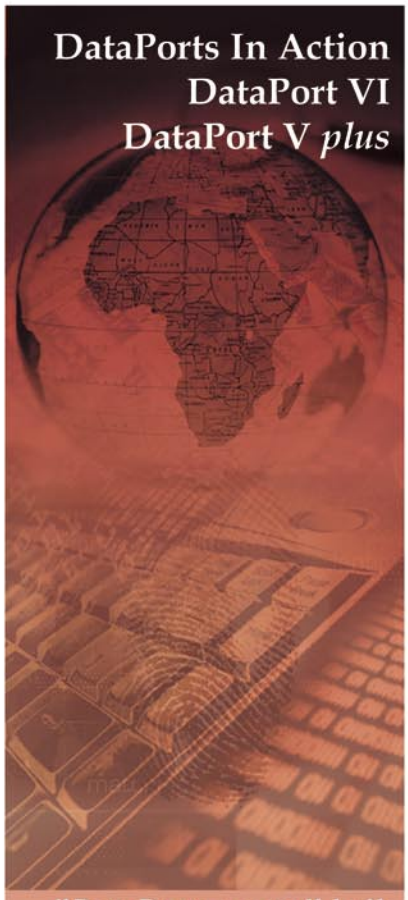
Computer Forensics

DataPorts Fight Cyber Crime Worldwide



When several African countries requested U.S. assistance and training in computer forensic investigations, the U.S. Secret Service called upon Forensic-Computers.com to build 22 highly specialized forensic computer workstations - or forensic towers - for the program. The towers needed to be rugged, dependable, fast and durable in order to quickly process critical evidence, protect data from corruption, and to enable mobility from field to lab and vice versa. The Forensic-Computers.com team chose to use DataPort brand removable hard drive enclosures exclusively for the project.

Challenge

Today, criminals can use virtually any computer to commit or facilitate crimes -- from pornography and counterfeiting, to identification theft and money scams. Transnational cyber crimes can be committed in one country and the data can be saved on a hard drive in another country. Launched in January 2004, a Secret Service training program will teach several cyber crimes investigative units in Africa how to track and locate files stored on all forms of electronic media in order to generate written reports to support prosecution.

A critical factor in any type of forensic investigation is establishing and maintaining a reliable chain of evidence. If that chain is broken, the case is compromised and ultimately weakened. When it comes to computer forensics, everything hinges on the reliability of the hardware and software being used by investigators. If data is corrupted or lost, there goes the chain ... and your case.

Forensic-Computers.com was charged with building forensic computer workstations that could be used to image the hard drive of a suspect's computer so that investigators could then search the duplicated drive for incriminating evidence. Jim Raubach is Owner/Founder of Forensic-Computers.com. He is a retired Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) special agent and computer crime investigator, and he served as the Deputy Director for Computer Crime Investigations out of Washington, DC. According to Raubach, the towers are the "Swiss Army knives" of forensic workstations. "The computers need to support multiple operating systems and formats and they have to be fast. They get a lot of hard-core use in the field and we simply can't have unreliable parts wearing out or compromising the dependability of the system".

"DataPorts are well built and extremely durable. And the ten-year warranty is unbeatable. When you purchase a DataPort, you know you have something that's going to last and that's critical in our business."

Jim Raubach
Forensic-Computers.com

CRU DataPort™

Rugged Reliable Mobile Secure

DataPort VI

DataPort V *plus*

Solution

Raubach and his team built 20 Forensic Solid Steel Towers and two portable Forensic Air-Lite V units for acquitsition and analysis of computer forensic data. The towers feature six DataPort removable hard drive storage modules: two DataPort V *plus* modules (one read only, one read/write) equipped with bridgeboards in back to enable FireWire conversion, two DataPort V *plus* IDE modules, and two DataPort VI modules featuring 68-pin and 50-pin SCSI interfaces. The DataPort V *plus* and DataPort VI are rated for 25,000 insertions, use gold-plated DIN connectors for real-time data transfer, feature a patented drive-cooling technology which reduces heat by 30 to 50 percent, and are backed by an industry-leading 10-year warranty.

The workstations image at a lightning-fast one gig per minute -- a robust and highly reliable data transfer rate. "With these at all of our workstations, there is a high expectation for the quality of transferred data", said Raubach. "The DataPorts are able to maintain this speed without corruption and they completely capture the data. Performance is excellent."

The portable units feature one DataPort V *plus* with IDE interface for acquisition and analysis of data in the field; the transfer rate averages 1GB per minute for these units as well.

Why CRU-DataPort?

There are many options available for removable hard drive storage; why does Forensic-Computers.com rely solely upon CRU-DataPort? "CRU has taken very good care of us over the years; their customer service is responsive and helpful," said Raubach. "We once tried to use generic hard drive storage units but the quality was inconsistent, the warranties were poor, and the performance was dismal. DataPorts are well-built and extremely durable. And the ten-year warranty is unbeatable. When you purchase a DataPort, you know you have something that's going to last that's critical in our business."

"DataPorts make our systems rock!"

About Forensic-Computers.com

Founded by a retired Air Force Office of Special Investigations special agent in 1995, Forensic-Computers.com engineers, fabricates and produces computer forensic workstations in portable, tower and rackmount versions. The West Virginia-based company utilizes a law enforcement perspective when building their systems, which are deployed all over the world. Forensic-Computers.com has a broad client base that includes most federal investigative agencies, all service branches of the U.S. military, and Fortune 500 companies, among others.

About CRU-DataPort

Founded in 1986 and based in Vancouver, Washington, CRU-DataPort develops and markets computer data security and storage devices. The company's DataPort brand of removable hard drive enclosures has become the de facto standard for physical data security and drive removal in government, education and corporate information technology departments. CRU-DataPort products are available through major distributors OEMs, VARs and a host of resellers and systems integrators throughout the United States and abroad.

For more information about CRU-DataPort, visit:

www.CRU-DataPort.com

CRU DataPort™

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