

Let's Talk Digital Series #7

Digital Forensic Readiness in Organizations

DIGITAL FORENSIC READINESS IN ORGANIZATIONS

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Is Your Organization Prepared for **CYBER INCIDENTS?**



Cyberattacks are
300 times
as likely to hit
Financial Institutions than
business from other industries

Source: Boston Consulting Group, 20 June 2019. For Wealth Managers, Off Year Sparks Opportunity to Reignite Growth
Overview: <https://www.bcg.com/d/press/20june2019-global-wealth-report-222692>

In the current trend, the growth of applications and device capabilities to accommodate various online services leads to a higher risk of exposure to cyberattacks. Some common examples of online services include bank transfers, bill payments, online shopping, trip booking, and membership management.

Despite protective measures in place, there is no guarantee that an organization can be risk-free or immune to cyberattacks. These breaches come with a cost as recovering from a breach consumes time and money.



Source: The Cost of Cybercrime, conducted by Poneman Institute LLC

Current approaches for most organizations in incident handling are oriented to business continuity and disaster recovery. As a result, a proper root cause analysis is often overlooked.

Many organizations face difficulties in gathering sufficient quality evidence for a comprehensive investigation to be carried out when an incident happens.

RESPONDENTS do not have formal
cyber resilience plan in their organization

77%

Source: IBM study more than half of organizations with cybersecurity incident response plans fail to test them

Digital forensic readiness can be described as an organization's capability to collect, preserve, and analyze digital evidence.

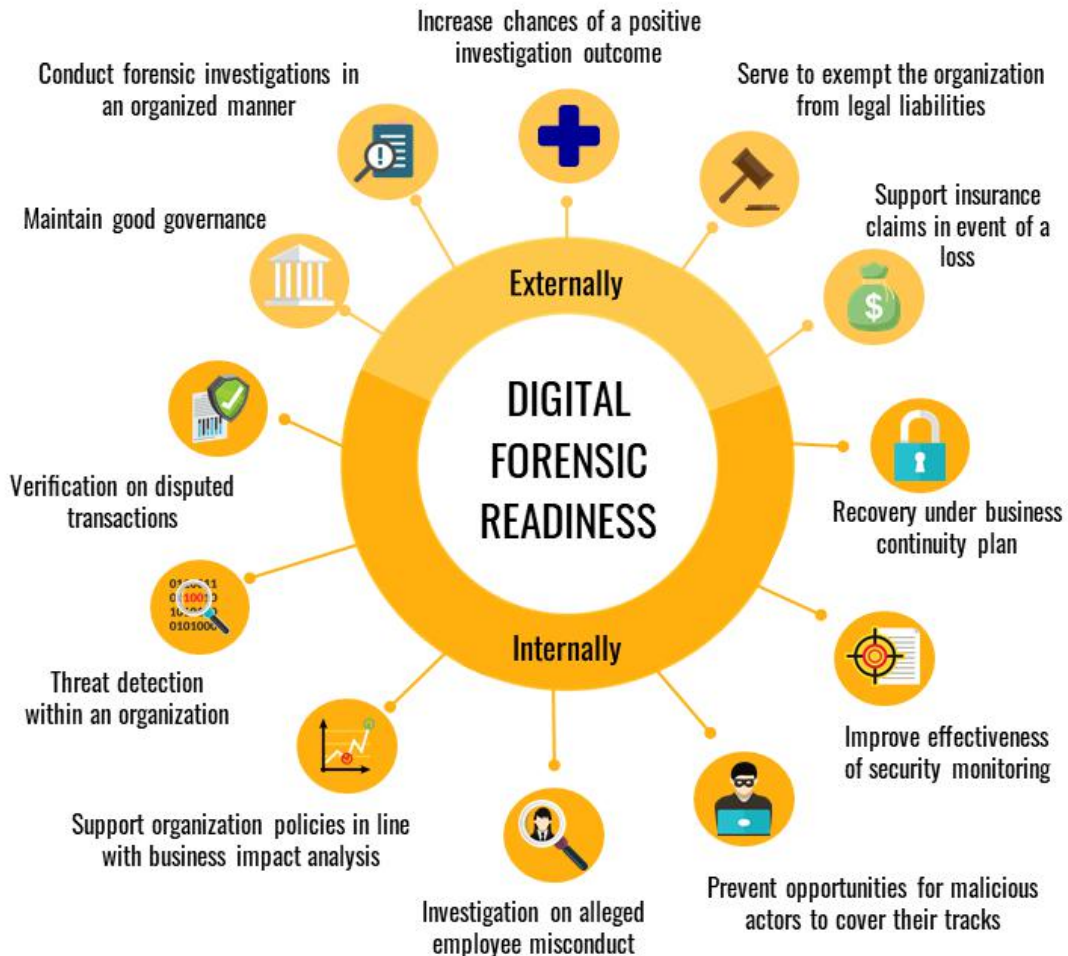
The objective is to maximize the potential in using digital evidence while minimizing the cost and time required for an investigation.

In other words, it is the condition of being prepared in such a way that digital evidence is appropriately acquired before an incident so that it can be readily available when the need arises without interrupting business operations.

Organization's capability to



By adopting digital forensic readiness, organizations can leverage this for both external and internal purposes.



Implementation of DIGITAL FORENSIC READINESS

 1	Identify the business scenario that involve digital evidence	 7	Assess circumstances where a full formal forensic investigation is required
 2	Identify potential sources and types of evidence (e.g. database, application, etc)	 8	Educate staff on incident response and awareness of digital forensic processes
 3	Determine the criteria for evidence collection and storage	 9	Document evidence-based cases, describing the incident and its impact
 4	Establish a capability for securely gathering legally admissible evidence	 10	Ensure legal review to facilitate appropriate action in response to an incident
 5	Establish policy using a proper chain of custody	 11	Regular testing on the applicability of the plan
 6	Awareness of security operations center (SoC) and incident response (IR) team capability	Sources: Digital Forensic Readiness Planning and Readiness Checklist in Order to Reduce Business Risk, Enterprise Security Digital Forensic Readiness Checklist, Reserve Banks Information Technology Private Limited A Ten Step Process for Forensic Readiness, International Journal of Digital Evidence	

In essence, the planning for digital forensic readiness requires identification and assessment of risk areas within an organization and actions to be taken to avoid and minimize the impact of the identified risks.

It should also involve a comprehensive review and analysis of an organization's current security posture, which covers implemented technical controls, policies, procedures, and employee skillset.

Today, increased dependency on information technology for business operations has resulted in the creation of digital footprints which can be used to unravel the specifics of an unexpected incident. Organizations should shift their focus from reactively approaching incidents to being proactively prepared even before incidents are likely to occur to maximize the potential of investigations that will yield positive outcomes while minimizing time and cost.



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This article is part of the Digital Banking Learning Series, 'Let's Talk Digital', an initiative by the ABS Center for Digital Banking. It is written by industry practitioners and are aimed at educating the general public on the intricacies of digital applications in banking and other related industries, including the latest insights and trends of Digital Banking.

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