

CASE STUDY

How Turn-By-Turn Driving Directions Uncovered a Killer's Lies

When digital intelligence was used in a murder investigation in Australia to compare geolocation data with Internet search history data, a swift arrest and conviction was possible.

The Case

When a young Queensland, Australia woman was reported missing by her family in 2015, the Queensland Police Service established that she was last seen with a 19-year-old man who insisted he had dropped the woman off and hadn't seen her since. Suspecting the man was lying, investigators needed "directional data" that could shed light on his whereabouts that evening.

To inform their interview of the suspect, the Queensland homicide team performed a data extraction of his phone. Geolocation data helped guide them to the woman's body in a location close to where the suspect had previously requested digital mapping instructions. Additional digital evidence, such as web-search history, built a strong case: The suspect was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

The Challenges

The suspect told police that on the night the young woman went missing, he picked her up at school, drove her to another location, and left her. Homicide investigators planned to question the suspect further to uncover what they believed was the truth—but recognized that validating or negating his statements could require a good deal of resources and time.



Date

August 2015



Challenge

To place a murder suspect in proximity with his victim, Queensland investigators draw out the truth using digital intelligence.



Tools

- UFED Touch
- UFED Physical Analyzer



Result

Key legal arguments were built around specific phone data, extracted and analyzed with Cellebrite digital intelligence tools. The suspect was charged and convicted of murder, and sentenced to life in prison.

The key challenges were:

- Obtaining directional data to help focus the investigation and solve the case faster.
- Quickly finding corroborating data, such as CCTV and witnesses, that could help locate the missing woman.
- Placing the suspect in proximity to the victim, using evidence that would stand up in court.

The Solution

Homicide investigators used Cellebrite UFED Touch to examine the suspect's phone. When analyzing, non-coded databases, investigators found geo-location data showing that the suspect was actually about five kilometers south of the position he told police he was at with the missing woman.

Armed with the known location in a rural area, investigators asked businesses and residents to share CCTV footage as well as search their properties for signs of the missing woman. The local appeal resulted in discovery of the woman's body about two weeks after she was reported missing.

Extracting and analyzing turn-by-turn map data. To identify further evidence placing the suspect close to the site of the body, investigators used UFED and data carving of a non-decoded section of the phone's database to reveal spoken turn-by-turn directions requested of Google Maps. Because the suspect was in a semi-rural area, the directions easily allowed investigators to identify roads the suspect had traveled on—and to back up these findings with CCTV. Investigators then created a detailed map of the suspect's movements and eventually presented it to the jury—contradicting the suspect's first statements of his whereabouts at the time of the crime.

Uncovering web-search history. One day before the murder took place, the suspect was found to have used the search term, "best way to dispose of a body." This digital intelligence discovery was key to proving the murderer's motive, contradicting his original plea of manslaughter and his claims that the killing was accidental.

How Digital Intelligence Helped Crack the Case

- Extracting digital data from the suspect's phone, including call logs and deleted text messages.
- Analyzing location data including geolocation data and turn-by-turn mapping instructions.
- Corroborating data with CCTV footage and community outreach.

"Many of the legal arguments in this case were very specific to the phone data, and it all held up at trial—even in terms of his appeal being dismissed. The data stood up to a very rigorous court process."

**Det. Chris Knight,
Operations Leader/
Homicide Division,
Queensland Police
Service.**

"Capturing data is one thing. Having the resources to triage and review it is an even more massive challenge. That's why we need automated tools that we can put faith in, because we need to make big decisions based on what we discover."

**Det. Chris Knight,
Operations Leader/
Homicide Division,
Queensland Police
Service.**



The Results

- The suspect was charged and convicted of murder, and sentenced to life in prison.
- Key legal arguments were built around specific phone data, extracted and analyzed with Cellebrite digital intelligence solutions.
- The convicted murderer's appeal was rejected, in part because the digital evidence—which proved the murderer had lied and concealed evidence—withstood the rigors of the court process.

To learn more about Cellebrite's full suite of Digital Intelligence solutions, visit [Cellebrite.com](https://www.cellebrite.com)



"Digital intelligence directs us into the right areas that we need to focus on. It helps us get independent corroboration that confirms our data is accurate."

Det. Chris Knight,
Operations Leader/
Homicide Division,
Queensland Police
Service.

Sources

"Brenden Bennetts found guilty of schoolgirl's murder, sentenced to life in jail," ABC, 14 September 2017: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-14/brenden-bennetts-found-guilty-jayde-kendall-murder/8943966>

Wolfe, Natalie, "Brenden Bennetts' appeal to overturn conviction for murdering Jayde Kendall is quashed," News.com.au, 29 May 2018: <https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/brenden-bennetts-appeal-to-overturn-conviction-for-murdering-jayde-kendall-is-quashed/news-story/2769c0021888e09332b2410e491878ce>



CORPORATE

Cellebrite
94 Derech Shlomo Schmeltzer St.
Kiryat Aryeh, Petah Tikva PO Box 3925, Israel
Tel: +972 3 394 8000
Fax: +972 3 924 7104

USA

Cellebrite Inc.
7 Campus Dr. Suite 210
Parsippany, NJ 07054, USA
Tel: +1 201 848 8552
Fax: +1 201 848 9982

UK

Cellebrite UK
First Central 200
2 Lakeside Drive
Park Royal
London NW10 7FQ, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 3949 9521

GERMANY

Cellebrite GmbH
Herzog-Heinrich-Strasse 20,
80336 München, Germany
Tel: +49 (0) 89 2 15 45 37 18
Fax: +49 (0) 89 2 15 45 37 99

LATAM

Cellebrite Ltda.
Av. Engenheiro Luiz
Carlos Berrini, 550-12º
Andar Brooklin
04571-000 São Paulo, Brazil
Tel: +55 11 3216 3800

APAC

Cellebrite Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.
150 Beach Road
#08-05/08 Gateway West
Singapore 189720
Tel: +65 6438 6240
Fax: +65 6438 6280

AUSTRALIA

Level 9, 2 Phillip Law Street
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Tel: +61 2 6243 4841

INDIA

Room No. 516, 5th Floor,
Tower C Green Boulevard
B-Block Sector 62 Noida 201309
India
Tel: +91 9811144437

JAPAN

100-0005東京都千代田区丸の内3-2-2
丸の内二重橋ビル 2F
Level 2, Marunouchi Nijyubashi Building, 3-2-2
Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-0005 JAPAN
Tel: +91 9811144437

About Cellebrite

For more than 20 years, Cellebrite has been the global leader and premiere provider of integrated digital intelligence solutions to law enforcement, military, government, and private enterprises worldwide. We help resolve investigations faster by addressing the growing challenges of an expanding digital world.

Developed in close partnership with our customers, our integrated suite of digital intelligence software, solutions, and training include: access to all devices, digital platforms and applications when and where teams need it; management and control of all relevant data in a secure and collaborative system; and powerful leverage to quickly reveal critical insights.

Our solutions seamlessly integrate with existing infrastructures that allow organizations to make command decisions more efficiently to better protect their communities.

To learn more, visit: www.cellebrite.com

