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Teel Technologies provides advanced analysis and solutions to federal, state and local law enforcement, digital investigators, network operators and security professionals.

Quick Facts: Crowbar™



Questions & Answers

Q: How does Crowbar address current challenges in the forensic field?

A: Crowbar addresses the problem that PIN-locked SD and MMC media is presented by traditional forensic hardware and software, and common operating systems as "corrupt" without indication that the device is locked. By creating a proprietary combination of hardware and software, the Crowbar is not subject to this limitation, enabling it to attempt unlocking the media at a far greater rate than a human would be capable of performing.

Q: What are some other benefits of using Crowbar?

A: Crowbar is an easy-to-use, handheld portable tool designed for use in the field. It saves field investigation time by attempting to crack PINs much faster than could be done manually. Crowbar also creates a forensically sound image of an unlocked card for further examination in a lab and serves as a write-blocked card reader for unlocked memory cards.

Q: Who can buy Crowbar?

A: Crowbar is available for sale to federal agencies as well as state and local law enforcement organizations. "Crowbar as a service" is also available to commercial customers, who can send their multi-media cards to ManTech CSI for processing.

Q: Does ManTech CSI offer a demo of Crowbar?

A: Yes. ManTech CSI has time-limited demo units available for potential customers to test under real-world conditions.

Q: How can I learn more about the purchasing process and speak to a Crowbar expert?

A: Law enforcement agencies who would like additional information about Crowbar, who would like to arrange for free delivery of a time-limited demonstration model, or for more information about other ManTech CSI digital forensics products and services call 1-877-416-2195, e-mail Crowbar@Cybersolutions.ManTech.com for general inquiries.

The Challenge:

Traditional forensics tools will identify a PIN-locked flash memory card as "corrupt" without ever indicating that the card may be PIN-locked. Recognizing that the mass of "corrupt" secure digital (SD) and multi-media card (MMC) media they were receiving from captured terrorists and insurgents was highly anomalous, ManTech CSI's research and development arm attacked the problem and discovered the PIN locking phenomenon that was throwing off forensics tools and letting highly valuable intelligence go undiscovered.

The Solution:

By building a unique hardware-based approach to the problem, ManTech CSI engineers were able to build Crowbar which is able to determine if a memory card is PIN locked, actually corrupt, or damaged. If it is PIN locked, Crowbar is designed to launch a brute-force attack against the PIN. Simple alpha-numeric PINs can be cracked in as little as a few seconds. Crowbar is Unicode compliant, so PINs that may be based on foreign languages are no obstacle.

Product Description: Crowbar is a custom-designed and built multi-media flash memory card PIN cracking and forensic imaging device. It is a unique hardware-based solution to the forensic problems associated with PIN locked multi-media cards that are used in mobile phones, PDAs, digital cameras and a wide range of other devices.

Special Features:

- Crowbar was designed for rugged use in the field and under harsh conditions. It has only one joystick-like control mechanism for ease of use and has no internal light source for situations where a covert posture is essential (a model with a backlit screen will also be available)
- Easy-to-use handheld portability designed for use in the field
- Saves field investigation time by attempting to crack PINs much faster than could be done manually
- Creates a forensically sound image of an unlocked card for further examination in a lab
- Serves as a write-blocked card reader for unlocked memory cards.
- Will distinguish between locked and corrupt cards and is able to read all corrupt cards.

Target Customers: U.S. federal, state and local agencies, as well as commercial enterprises.

Law Enforcement Applications for Crowbar:

- At border entry points agents can quickly image (and unlock if necessary) the memory cards being carried by visitors to the US who are selected for supplementary screening.
- Officers working gang-related issues can use a Crowbar to obtain information about who members are calling or texting, providing information about the scope and scale of gang activity and communications that might not otherwise have been known.
- Crowbar is able to support special activities units that may have a need to obtain information from a memory card in confidence without the owner of the original card knowing that his information has been copied.