

Digital Forensics ACCA7031

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Date of Feedback: 18/05/2026

Marker Name: Dr. Nitheesh Murugan Kaliyamurthy

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Overall Mark: 71

The work demonstrates a good to very good level of achievement. There is clear understanding of integrity checks, and the cross-referencing of evidence with photos and images was a positive aspect of the analysis. However, the demonstration lacked clarity and stronger evidential arguments, particularly in explaining why specific tools, such as Parrot, were used and how their findings were technically validated. The investigation would have been stronger with deeper file analysis, file system analysis, metadata review, and clearer justification of whether hidden data, encrypted content, or additional files were present. Some analysis appears to have moved away from the relevant timeline, particularly where older artefacts were discussed without clearly linking them to the case. Recommendations should also be based on the evidence analysed, rather than suggesting that external parties retrieve passwords or complete the investigation. To improve, the report should include stronger technical reflection, clearer forensic reasoning, and more precise investigative terminology such as possible corporate espionage, intellectual property theft, policy violation, or illegal content where supported by evidence. Overall, this is a solid submission with good effort, but stronger argumentation, focus, and critical appraisal would improve it further.

Engagement with Literature Skills

Total Marks: 5 out of 8

Comments: To achieve high marks, students should use a wide range of credible academic and industry literature, summarise relevant literature clearly, and critically appraise sources using correct in-text citations and referencing.

- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in adequate academic credible literatures, diversity of sources and materials referred for current state of the field, the tools – features and capabilities, intersection of digital forensics and cybersecurity, emerging trends in digital forensics, key challenges, national and international job market.
- + More appropriate and academically credible literature sources are required. The work should be supported by reliable scholarly references, such as peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, textbooks, standards, or recognised industry/government guidance, to strengthen the academic quality and validity of the discussion.
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in proper in-text citations, summaries of literatures referred and critical appraisals.

+ The work lacks sufficient critical appraisal. Rather than mainly describing concepts or explaining what each element is, you need to evaluate the evidence, discuss its relevance, identify limitations, and justify how it supports your findings. Stronger critical analysis would demonstrate deeper understanding and show how your conclusions are based on informed interpretation rather than description alone.

Knowledge and Understanding Skills

Total Marks: 9 out of 12

Comments: High-mark work should demonstrate clear understanding of the current state of digital forensics, relevant tools and capabilities, the intersection with cybersecurity, emerging trends, key challenges, and national/international employment contexts.

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in discussions reflecting adequate understanding on the current state of the field, the tools – features and capabilities.

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in discussions reflecting the clear intersection of digital forensics and cybersecurity, the emerging trends and key challenges.

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in insights on national and international job market focusing of digital forensics.

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

Total Marks: 18 out of 25

Comments: High-mark work should demonstrate a structured forensic investigation approach, including evidence continuity, timeline reconstruction, identification of key discussions and files, careful interpretation of additional evidence, and clear professional recommendations.

+ Excellent work demonstrating very strong understanding, accuracy, and effective application in document the continuity of evidence for each device, ensuring integrity and admissibility of evidence.

+ Good reflection on Integrity checks.

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in reconstruct a timeline of interactions between emma, joe, and norman.

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in identify key discussions related to the theft and sale of the qt-ai-2025 patent, including any mentions of payment, meeting arrangements, or file transfers.

+ No password found. Could have add a strong argument on the evidences. Your demo lacks clarity and strong arguments

- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in examine the contents of emma's usb flash drive to identify files related to the qt-ai-2025 patent (e.g., pdfs, cad designs).
- + Autopsy - Used parrot as well. Could have analysed the meta data
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in investigate any additional files that may constitute other evidences.
- + No additional files. Photos from the old dates need to be analysed rather than considered including in this analysis
- + Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen professional forensic investigation report that includes: summary of the incident and investigation scope, their chain-of-custody details.
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in professional forensic report: actions for quantum tech and law enforcement (e.g., charges for corporate espionage, possession of illegal content).
- + Could have added tech. rec like CE, ipt ETC

Practical Application Skills

Total Marks: 18 out of 25

Comments: High marks require industry-standard acquisition, integrity verification, extraction and analysis of communication logs, file metadata and email evidence, plus a clear professional forensic report summarising tools, techniques, timeline and evidence.

- + Excellent work demonstrating very strong understanding, accuracy, and effective application in acquire forensic images of emma's, norman and joe's smartphones and emma's usb flash drive using industry-standard tools.
- + Exceptional work demonstrating outstanding depth, accuracy, and professionalism in verify the hashes (e.g., md5, sha-1) of the acquired images to confirm no tampering.
- + Very good work with only minor improvements needed in extract and analyse communication logs from whatsapp, instagram dms, and emails across all three smartphones.
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in analyse file metadata (e.g., creation dates, modification dates) to determine when and how the files were created or copied.
- + This area requires improvement, as the work does not yet demonstrate sufficient depth, accuracy, or completeness in analyse email exchanges, particularly those involving patent sample transfers, to verify the intent to sell proprietary data.

- + This area requires improvement, as the work does not yet demonstrate sufficient depth, accuracy, or completeness in identify any additional evidence that supports or refutes their involvement in the corporate fraud.
- + Excellent work demonstrating very strong understanding, accuracy, and effective application in professional forensics report: list of devices, tools and techniques used for acquisition and analysis, detailed timeline, communication analysis, file analysis, and suspect roles.
- + Used Parrot, Autopsy, Cellebrite, FTK etc
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in professional forensics report: summary of the evidence proving the attempted theft and any illegal materials.

Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice

Total Marks: 21 out of 30

Comments: High-mark work should communicate the investigation process and outcomes fluently, use supporting materials effectively, cross-reference evidence, justify roles and motives, and include clear personal and technical reflection.

- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in demonstrate the investigation process and the outcomes fluently with clarity and adequate evidences, submit the acquired images, flow of demonstration, supporting materials (use appropriate media to effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences; fluency of expression; clarity and effectiveness in presentation and organisation. work should be coherent and well-structured in presentation and organisation).
- + Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen cross-reference call logs from all three smartphones to confirm communication events, such as a key call between emma, joe and norman.
- + Good cross reference of evidence.
- + Very good work with only minor improvements needed in based on the evidence, determine the roles and motives of emma (perpetrator), joe (intermediary), and norman (buyer).
- + Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen clear personal and technical reflection (during demonstration).