

Digital Forensic Analysis on Mobile-based MiChat Services using National Institute of Standard Technology Method

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ABSTRACT

The development of technology is increasing, mobile phones have now developed into smartphones. Smartphones can make it easier for users to communicate, do learning and many things with the support of the internet. The internet has a good impact on its users but of course, there are also bad effects because anyone can access it. This research was conducted based on real cases that have occurred, to collect digital data on smartphones. Digital data is very important in helping to uncover cybercrimes but digital data that has been deleted from the device cannot be recovered in its entirety. This study will simulate cases of online prostitution using MiChat services. This research was conducted to find out how digital data from mobile-based MiChat services can be obtained. This research uses the National Institute of Standard Technology (NIST) method. This method has four stages, namely the stages of collection, examination, analysis, and reporting. The tool to be examined is a rooted cell phone used in online prostitution transactions. This study shows the data found from the MiChat application which can be obtained using the MOBILedit Forensic Express, Autopsy and DB Browser for SQLite tools. The data that can be found from the tool used is a message in the form of a photo of the user's profile, proof of a transaction, a voice message, user data of the linked MiChat account, and the time the transaction occurred.

Keywords

NIST, Data Digital, MiChat, Smartphone, Android, Online Prostitution, Cyber Porn, Forensic Mobile

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of technology in Indonesia is increasingly rapid in everyday life where the internet has become one of the necessities for the lives of some people [1]. Especially during the pandemic that hit the world, people are increasingly spending their activities using smartphones with internet connections for school or working from home (WFH). Smartphones and the internet are very popular these days, especially with their various features: social media apps. One type of social media that is very actively used is instant messaging. Instant Messaging can facilitate communication even remotely by privately sending messages, pictures and videos to someone. Technological developments in addition to bringing many positive impacts also have negative impacts. The sophistication of various applications today allows for an increase in online crime cases, such as cyberporn, online gambling, spreading hoax news, fraud, hate speech, cyberbullying, and many other cyber cases. Online crimes related to online prostitution can be found on various social

media and instant messaging applications, and MiChat is one of them. In Indonesia itself, many cases use MiChat as a means of transaction. Several cases related to online prostitution through MiChat have also been recorded in district courts in several regions in Indonesia.

1.1 Study Literature

1.1.1 Previous Study

The first research entitled "Forensic WhatsApp based on Android using the National Institute of Standard Technology (NIST) Method" explains maintaining digital evidence when the smartphone is rooted and non-rooted. The evidence that has been obtained and stored is carried out by imaging which is then analyzed for the level of similarity. The use of different forensic tools will produce mixed results. [2].

The second in the research "Analysis of the Distribution Pattern of Pornography on Social Media with Social Network Analysis" explain the use of data collection methods based on certain keywords that will produce a picture, although not complete, of this phenomenon to To get a large dataset of more than 1500 data, it takes about two hours interval between data collection time [3].

The third research entitled "Web Browser Exploration in Searching Digital Evidence Using SQLITE" explains what information can be obtained from a web browser database using SQLite, the results of which will be very helpful in searching digital data, although not all data can be obtained. but with a combination of other tools, data can be obtained [4].

The fourth in the research "Live Memory Acquisition Method for Digital Artifact Searching for Laptop Memory Devices Based on Simulation of Cyber Crime Cases" proves that a device's memory can store users' internet activities. Tests carried out on three data acquisitions of digital artefacts can produce three different percentages [5].

The last research entitled "Forensic investigation analysis of cyberbullying on Whatsapp Messenger using the NIST method" describes the use of text mining to identify evidence that can lead to cases of cyberbullying. The use of the cosine similarity method to check the level of similarity between two objects. [6].

1.1.2 Digital Forensic

The handling of cybercrime cases is carried out through investigative activities known as digital forensic [7]. Digital Forensic is the application of computer science and technology for the benefit of legal evidence, which in this case is proving technological crimes or computer crimes that

can be obtained scientifically to obtain digital evidence that can be used against violators[8]. Digital forensic is evidence with the characteristics of having suitability in supporting factual evidence and uncovering events based on convincing statistical evidence [10]. The purpose of digital forensic is to prove the existence of instructions that have occurred by conducting a crime scene investigation so that they can prove it from evidence such as computer systems, storage media, electronic documents, or data packets moving through computer networks [9].

1.1.3 Forensic Mobile

Mobile forensic is a branch of digital forensic[10] Mobile forensic is the science of recovering digital evidence, or data from mobile devices, using acceptable methods[11]. Mobile forensics where data is taken from smartphones, the results of which can be used as evidence. The digital forensic process is carried out to look for digital evidence that can be recognized and used as legal evidence in the legal realm[12].

1.1.4 Digital Evidence

Data is the result of observations made directly on an event, which symbolizes an object or concept in the real world[13]. Data has a definition as a fact or anything that is referred to as the result of an observation of a natural phenomenon. The result of direct observation of events or facts of phenomena in the real world, data includes writing or pictures that are equipped with certain values[14]. The use of data (after processing and analyzing) for decision-makers is an objective basis in the decision-making process or policy. Digital evidence consists of 2 words, namely evidence and digital. Evidence is information that is used to establish or refute a fact. The evidence is divided into two, namely physical evidence and digital evidence[16]. Evidence from cases of cybercrime is different from conventional crimes, where the handling of electronic evidence and digital evidence contained in it is susceptible to change or contamination, so electronic evidence must be packaged and stored properly in a safe place[17].

1.1.5 MiChat

MiChat is a mobile communication app for people to connect with family and friends through fun chat features. MiChat is a complete communication tool that functions as both a social media and an application for its users to exchange messages. MiChat was launched and published in April 2018. MiChat is a great messenger app that's not much different from WeChat's design but has some differences in its features. MiChat will provide close friendship suggestions.

1.1.6 CyberPorn

One of the problems of cybercrime that is very troubling and has received attention from various circles is the problem of cybercrime in the field of decency. The types of cybercrime in the field of decency that are often disclosed are cyber pornography (especially child pornography) and cybersex [18]. Cyber porn is an act that uses cyberspace to create, display, distribute, and publish pornography and obscene material on a site[19].

1.1.7 National Institute of Standard Technology

The National Institute of Standard Technology stage is an inspection stage that has standard policies and work guidelines to ensure each inspection follows the workflow so that the work can be repeated and can be maintained. So that the flow is carried out in a structured manner and can be

identified based on a systematic solution, the research method uses forensic work steps that are used to describe the stages and stages of the research to be carried out. without researchers reducing that which has been proposed by the NIST metode method [20].



Figure 1. Stages of National Institute of Standard Technology

Figure 1 shows 4 stages of NIST that can be used for the forensic process. The descriptions are as follows [21] :

1. Collection
The Collection stage is the process of labelling, identifying, recording, and retrieving data from relevant data sources with procedures to maintain the integrity of data.
2. Examination
The Examination stage is carried out by processing the data collected in the use of forensic combinations of various scenarios, either automatically or manually, as well as assessing the data and issuing data as needed while maintaining data integrity.
3. Analysis
The Analysis stage is the stage of analyzing the data that has been obtained using methods and techniques that are by applicable rules.
4. Reporting
The Reporting stage is the stage of reporting the results of the analysis which includes the description of the actions taken.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Scenario

In this study, the smartphone was in a root condition. Research design begins with creating an engineered scenario that is executed to obtain digital evidence[22]. This simulation uses a simulation of a case that has existed previously and is modified to suit the research. The case raised is online prostitution on the MiChat service that runs on Android-based phones. The initial stage in this research is creating an account on the MiChat application, then the customer starts contacting the perpetrator or pimp asking about the availability of their online prostitution service, and then communication occurs between the two accounts who have become friends on the MiChat service. In communication through the message feature on MiChat, online prostitution transactions occur. During the transaction, this prostitution service also sends a picture of the woman it offers on the day and dates the customer needs it and the customer sends proof of the transaction.

The flow of the case scenario of this research can be shown in Figure 2.

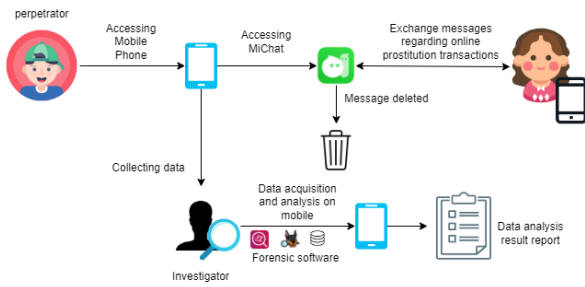


Figure 2. The flow of the Case Scenario on MiChat

Figure 2 shows the flow of the case scenario which starts from the process of searching and collecting message data in the form of text, images and sound data. The explanation of the case simulation in Figure 2 is as follows:

1. Perpetrators and Customers conduct online prostitution transactions through the MiChat application;
2. After the transaction is complete, the MiChat application message on the cellphone is deleted by the perpetrator;
3. Next, root the perpetrator's smartphone;
4. Researchers collect data related to online prostitution transactions;
5. Furthermore, the data that has been collected will be examined further;
6. In the last stage, the results of data collection and search are presented in tabular form.


2.2 Research Stages

The research stage is a process that is applied by an investigator to carry out the forensic process. The steps or stages used in this research use the stages of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) which has four stages, namely Collection, Examination, Analysis, and Reporting.

2.2.1 Collection

Data collection is very important as an early stage to collect and search data from digital sources. The data collection process can be done via a smartphone where there are conversations related to online prostitution. The smartphone will be rooted first with the help of the Odin and SuperSU applications, MOBILedit Forensic Express will function during the Imaging process of data files on the cellphone. In addition, a USB cable is also needed to connect the cellphone to a laptop to access cellphone data. The following tools are used in this research:

Table 1. Physical Evidence Found

No	Name	Image	Description
1	Smartphone Samsung J1 Ace (Duos)		The phone used by the perpetrator is rooted and the message is deleted



2	Smartphone Samsung A7 (2018)		Customer's phone, not root condition
3	USB Cable Connector		Cable connecting smartphones and laptops in the process of analysis

Table 1 shows documentation of physical evidence in the form of smartphone devices used by pimps and customers related to online prostitution.

2.2.2 Examination

This Examination stage is an advanced stage of the data collection process in the form of evidence contained in the previous table such as two smartphones and a connector cable. These tools apply techniques and procedures to generate re-enactments of ongoing events, to help digital forensic investigators create lists of evidence that can dictate information about innocent or guilty suspects [23].

2.2.2.1 MOBILedit Forensic Express

First, open the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool to perform data acquisition on smartphones, and then the investigator chooses application analysis to extract application data on the smartphone [24].

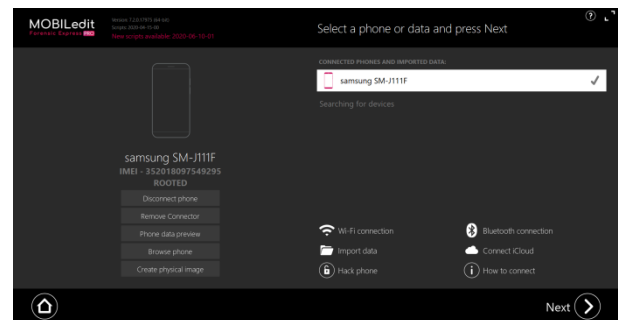


Figure 3. Smartphone connected to MOBILedit Forensic Express

Figure 3 shows the smartphone is rooted and connected to a PC/Laptop using a cable USB to perform the data acquisition process with the tools MOBILedit Forensic Express [25]. That process is called Physical Image, this process is carried out to make a copy of the data and keep the original data so that there is no damage during the analysis process. The time in the imaging file process depends on the size of the contents of the smartphone used.

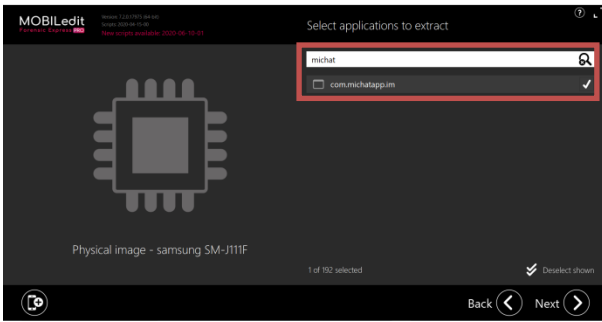


Figure 4. Acquisition of MOBILedit Forensic Express

Figure 4 shows a page on the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool in the application section to be extracted and can be selected according to the application to be analyzed. In this study, Michat was chosen as the application that will perform the extraction. The application to be extracted which can be searched directly with the search engine feature and selected by checking the data in the folder named com.michatapp.im for MiChat that acquisition smartphone was carried out using the tool MOBILedit Forensic Express.

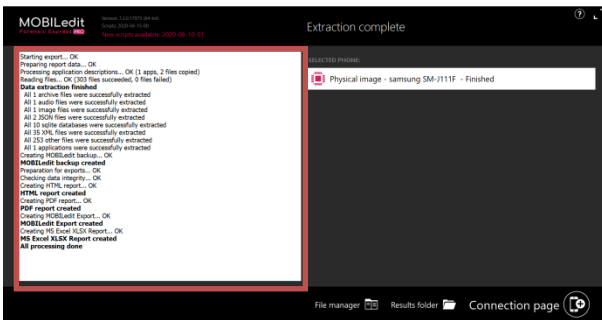


Figure 5. Data Acquisition Results

Figure 5 shows the display of data in the MiChat application that has been successfully acquired using the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool without any error messages displayed in the process, the error message will be marked with writing in red. Next step to see the results of data acquisition, you can directly click the Results Folder, after which will be directed to the data acquisition folder that was successfully store.

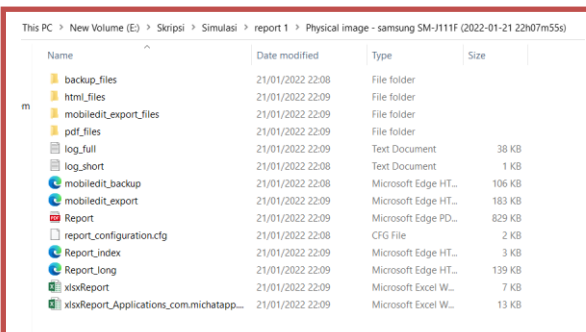


Figure 6. Display of Saved Data Results

Figure 6 shows reporting results from the data extraction process that has been carried out have file types including backup_files, mobile_export_files and pdf_file which are shown in the image.

2.2.3 Analysis

At this analysis stage, the data that has been obtained in the previous stage, namely the examination stage, is to ensure that

the data obtained are by the results required in the investigation. the evidence found is adjusted to what was submitted by the victim to the investigator. Digital evidence analysis includes the collection of critical digital data and the reading of digital evidence.

2.2.3.1 Analysis by MOBILedit Forensic Express

The results of Examination data on a smartphone that has been rooted and opened are the results of the reporting file from the acquisition folder taken via the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool.



Figure 7. PDF Report MOBILedit Forensic Express

Figure 7 shows information related to smartphone specifications acquired with MOBILedit Forensic Express and the data detected by the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool can be seen on the table of contents page, the table is a display of data results obtained by the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool.

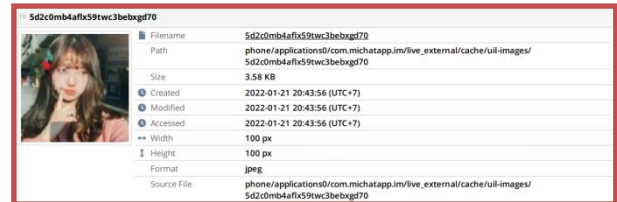


Figure 8. The Profile Photo of the Perpetrator

Figure 8 shows that in the PDF file there is a profile photo of the pimp or the owner of a commercial sex worker.



Figure 9. Deleted photo in conversation

Figure 9 shows a picture of the proof transfer sent by the customer to the perpetrator which has been deleted from the perpetrator's cellphone.

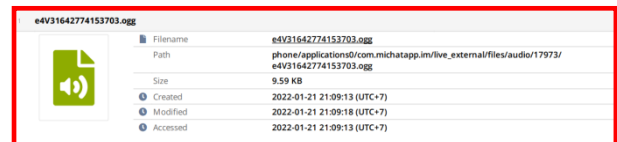


Figure 10. Evidence of Voice Conversation

Figure 10 shows the audio file sent in the message room, which data can be opened and listened to when clicked directly on the MOBILedit Forensic Express PDF Report file.

2.2.3.2 Autopsy

The next step is to open the Autopsy tool to add data search results that have previously been done using the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool. Imaging results on the MOBILedit

Forensic Express tool will be used in data retrieval using theAutopsy tool.

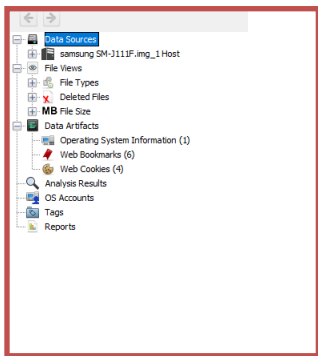


Figure 11. Autopsy Results

Figure 11 shows the final results of the data search process performed on the Autopsy tools.

Figure 12. Data finding Transfer Proof Photos in Deleted MiChat Conversations

Figure 12 shows During the Autopsy data check, it was found that there was evidence in the form of picture or images file the transfer of transaction for online prostitution services via MiChat messages.

2.2.3.3 DB Browser for SQLite

Figure 13. Contact Data Table Obtained with DB Browser for SQLite tools

Figure 13 shows one of the tables from the database from MiChat Messager that was successfully obtained, namely is the id_contact table, the table shows the contact information data contained in the MiChat application and successfully stored in the database. One of the columns in the data, namely thenick_name shows the name of user that connect with the smartphone and head_image_url column can be opened to display the user's profile photo.

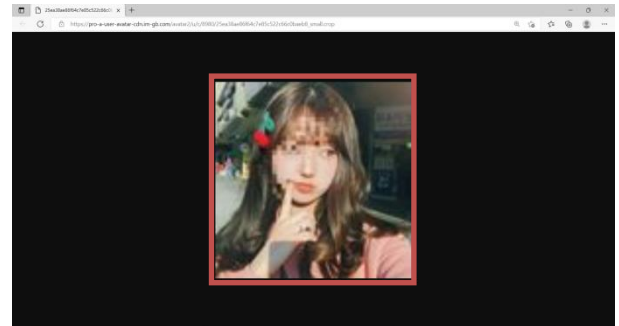


Figure 14. Display the Perpetrator's Profile Photo from the Database

Figure 14 shows the data results obtained from DB Browser for SQLite in the id_contact table in the head_image_url column which is directly directed to the browser.

Figure 15. Message Data that has not been Deleted

Figure 15 shows the database from MiChatmessenger in the table name tb_messagechecked through DB Browser for SQLite only shows messages that are still in database and haven't been deleted and doesn't store data regarding messages that have been deleted.

2.2.4 Report

The reporting stage is the last in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) method. The reporting process will report all the results of the analysis of the evidence found in the previous process [26]. At this stage, the investigator will document the results of the analysis of the evidence found in detail. The reporting stage includes a description of the identification, an explanation of the forensic process, and data from the use of forensic tools.

2.2.5 Result

The final results that can be processed from the MiChat service research use several tools to find data on the perpetrator's smartphone. The results obtained from the MOBILedit Forensic Express tool managed to find image and audio data. Autopsy tools succeeded in obtaining image data from the conversation. DB Browser for SQLite managed to get account data information and remaining messages that have not been deleted from the phone. Data Viewer CSV is very useful to make it easier to search smartphone data. Tests that have been carried out with various tools obtained data search reports generated from MOBILedit Forensic Express, Autopsy and DB Browser for SQLite.

The results of the analysis obtained from the forensic process using forensic tools can be shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Comparison of Evidence Found obtained from Several Tools

No	Digital Evidence	Forensic Tools		
		MOBILedit Forensic Express	Autopsy	DB Browser for SQLite
1	Deleted Text Message	-	-	-
2	UnDeleted Text Messages	-	-	√
3	Profile Picture	√	-	√
4	Image in conversation	√	√	-
5	Audio	√	√	-

Table 2 shows the findings obtained from analyzing the MiChat application on a mobile-based smartphone using the forensic tools MOBILedit Forensic Express and Autopsy. The data found included other media (images, voice messages, messages that have not been deleted), and account information on MiChat services such as profile photos of perpetrators/victims and account information in database. The use of the DB Browser forensic tool for SQLite is to open the result database file been captured, and successfully found some evidence.

Table3. The Findings of Evidence

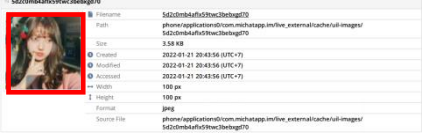


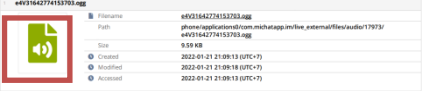

Digital Evidence	Findings
Images/Photo profile	
Images in Deleted Conversation ns	
Account Information	
Voice	
Undeleted Message	

Table 3 shows the evidence findings. Username of the perpetrator (Pelaku X) and victim (Percobaan) in a database file. MOBILedit Forensic Express finds perpetrator profile

photos, audio and video. Autopsy displays images in the victim's conversation and profile photos of perpetrators and victims.

3. CONCLUSION

Digital data on the MiChat application that has been deleted cannot be fully recovered, The data that can be found from the tool used is a message in the form of a photo of the user's profile, proof of a transaction, a voice message, user data of the linked MiChat account, and the time the transaction occurred. The MOBILedit Forensic Express tool provides an accuracy index value of 60%, higher than Autopsy and DB Browser for SQLite with a value of 40%. For further research, it is hoped that you can use other or new tools, and also try to use the latest smartphones and the latest iOS-based smartphones.

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