NEW FRONTIERS OF EDISCOVERY

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NEW FRONTIERS?

- EMAIL IS OLD NEWS
- ▶ WEB 2.0
- THE MILLENNIALS / GEN Y
- EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
- GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGIES AMONG ALL AGE GROUPS
- CHANGING SOCIAL NORMS

PRESENTATION ROADMAP

- INSTANT MESSAGING
- VOICE MAIL
- MOBILE DEVICES
- MP3 PLAYERS
- WEB BASED EMAIL ACCOUNTS
- CLOUD COMPUTING
- SOCIAL NETWORKING
- NOW WHAT?

INSTANT MESSAGING

- Early argument that IM was more like a telephone conversation than an email
- Yet archiving on non-enterprise based systems has been possible, easy and not illegal for years
- Enterprise based IM gaining some acceptance
- Other party may save even if your custodian does not
- Surprisingly little litigation on this

VOICE MAIL

- Even in early days of VM, many key messages were transcribed
- VOIP technology made voicemail like email
- Unified messaging continues this trend
- Software providers are addressing searchability of audio files
- Sampling or testing protocols may work well for large numbers of audio files

IN RE: VIOXX LITIGATION, NJ 2006

- Documents suggested Merck employees were using VM instead of email for relevant communications
- System could only retain VM for thirty days
- Court held VM was covered by original retention order – "all evidence"
- Employees ordered not to use VM for any Vioxx related communications until system could be upgraded

MOBILE DEVICES

- Mobile device data is the new email
- Yet it is often still possible for parties to agree to ignore mobile device data
- Prior to reaching agreement, preservation obligation must be considered
- Privacy considerations are commonly raised
- Stored Communications Act may be asserted as bar

HUANG V. GATEWAY HOTEL HOLDINGS, MISSOURI 2008

- Fair Labor Standards Act claims
- Employer requested production of all devices including cell phones
- Court required plaintiffs to provide inventory of all devices
- Defendant could seek production of devices at later date if showing of need
- Query: what do plaintiffs do in the interim?

QUON V. ARCH WIRELESS, 9th CIR 2008

- Sherriff's department contracted with third party for text message service
- Department reviewed text messages obtained from provider to determine reason for overages
- Found sexually explicit material and attempted to discipline employee

QUON continued

- Court held that Stored Communications Act applied
- Employee had reasonable expectation of privacy
- Supreme Court has granted cert

FLAGG V. CITY OF DETROIT, MICH 2008

- Allegedly botched murder investigation
- Relevant text messages to/from city employees including mayor
- Court held that Stored Communications Act could not be used to prevent discovery of relevant text messages via subpoena to carrier
- Text messages were effectively in "control" of City even though they had to be obtained from carrier

SOUTHWESTERN MECHANICAL SERVICES INC V. BRADY, FLA 2009

- Sanctions were imposed for failure to preserve data on Blackberries
- For key time period, devices were not synched with server
- Court focused on email, but also text messages, contacts, calendar items, telephone usage records

SOUTHWESTERN continued

- Theft of trade secrets by employees who left to join competitor
- Court issued TRO requiring return of all information and property to former employer
- Forensic exam showed that data had been wiped from Blackberries used by two former employees

MOBILE DEVICES - audio visual

- Nothing new about discoverability of audio visual media
- Digitalization has resulted in explosion of data
- Anyone and everyone can take photos or short videos easily
- Preservation is the issue

MOBILE DEVICES - mp3 players



MOBILE DEVICES - SUMMARY

- Device technology undergoing rapid improvement
- Device usage is increasing and supplanting use of traditional computers
- Counsel and courts are becoming more aware of the availability of this data
- Forensics tools are improving and costs are coming down

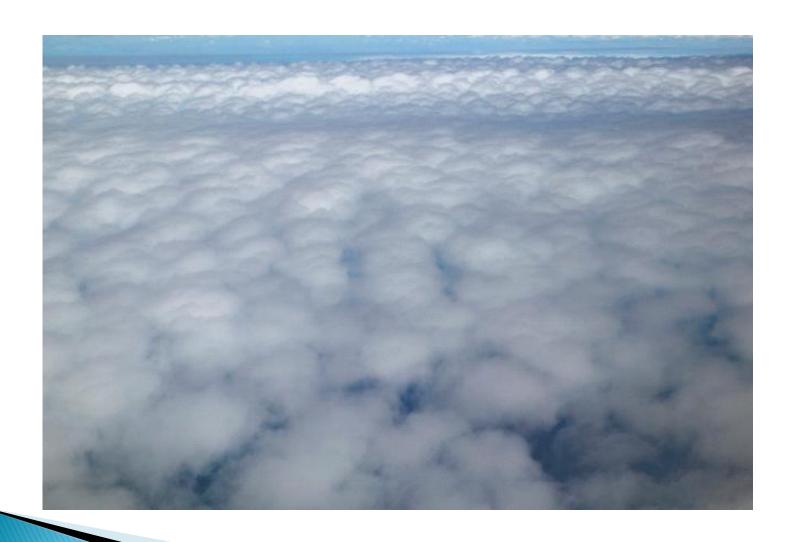
WEB BASED EMAIL

- Hotmail, gmail, yahoo, comcast
- Often used to "hide" communications
- Where does the data reside?
- Who can get it?
- How can it be gotten?

WEB BASED EMAIL ACOUNTS

- Can be collected with user's permission
- Can be subpoenaed from service provider
- Sometimes requesting party will do both
- Privacy policies vary
- Beware of shared or easily determined passwords

CLOUD COMPUTING



CLOUD COMPUTING

- What is it?
- Cloud computing v. software as a service (SasS)
- Part of Web 2.0 trend

CLOUD COMPUTING

- Current concern about ediscovery preparedness
- Obtain copy of service agreement
- Litigation hold may not be possible without modification of service agreement

HOW DO WE PREDICT TRENDS?

- Courts will borrow from experience in law enforcement related matter
- Courts will be influenced by frequent use of mobile device data in family law disputes
- A few prominently reported decisions will result in rapidly changing expectations
- State courts will continue to lag federal courts, but gap will narrow

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Think the unthinkable
- Know that actions will be viewed in context of technology at time the judge hears the dispute, not at time decision is made
- Defensibility
- Documentation

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Yahoo Lit Support Group
- Google, Lit Support News
- Ediscovery.com
- Applieddiscovery.com
- ILTA
- Women in Ediscovery
- Association of Litigation Support Professionals
- Electronic Discovery Reference Model
- Sedona Conference