

Q & A

For John Paul Lucich, Author of **Cyber Lies: When Finding the Truth Matters**

(StarPath Books, LLC., West Caldwell, NJ, Pub date: July 4, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-9774894-0-4)

Q. Your book is about helping people find the truth out about their spouses . . . if they are cheating, for instance. Why did you write *Cyber Lies*?

A. A reader's level of success – in finding out the truth about their spouse as it relates to electronic devices – is directly proportionate to the their level of knowledge of those devices. And, cheaters usually don't expect their spouses to be smart enough to catch on. Nothing else out there gives the average person this information, broken down into simple steps. I'm just leveling the playing field a bit. People deserve to know the truth about their spouses.

Q. What's the first step?

A. The first step is for the reader to feel confident that even if they do not have much experience with computers, they can go through the step-by-step process outlined in *Cyber Lies* and find out for sure if their spouse is, in fact, involved with someone else. Also, they can find out if their spouse has been viewing pornography online.

Q. You teach the reader to pull up emails, etc.?

A. E-mails, instant messages, graphic files – even if the cheating spouse deleted the files from the computer, the reader can follow the steps in the book to image the hard drive and view all activity on that computer.

Q. Even files that were deleted?

A. Yes. I've had clients tell me their spouses have deleted all the data and there is nothing left on the computer's hard drive. They've brought the hard drive to my office and all of these cases resulted in finding information that revealed infidelity on some level. Most people who feel suspicious find there is a basis for their worries; I wrote *Cyber Lies* to give people the tools to find out the truth.

Q. What do you mean by "imaging" or "analyzing" the hard drive?

A. Imaging the hard drive means to make an exact duplicate of the computer's hard drive, all activity including deleted activity. Duplicating it on a separate external drive so that the reader can analyze it at a later time. Readers involved, or about to be involved, in divorce proceedings might want to turn over the documentation to their lawyer, so that it can be used as evidence, or at least as persuasion, in divorce proceedings.

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Q. It sounds pretty complicated. Can anyone analyze computers and cell phones and recover deleted data or do you have to have a technical background?

A. It really isn't a complicated process to image a hard drive. *Cyber Lies* does go through the process with the reader, and the process has been carefully tested on non-tech types to ensure that the average person can follow the steps.

Q. There would be legal issues, wouldn't there, surrounding copying information off of someone else's computer?

A. As far as the legal ramifications, you're right: readers should *check with their attorney* before going into their spouse's computer. Of course this would be particularly true if the computer were owned by the spouse's employer, for instance. But, in most cases, the computer or laptop is owned by the couple (i.e. "community property") and located in their home. While the spouse is at work or away from home the reader might want to find out once and for all what has been going on at two in the morning when their spouse is online. *Cyber Lies* helps them to do that.

Q. Okay, let's say I want to image the information on my wife/husband's computer (just theoretically speaking). What kind of information might I find?

A. Obviously, outgoing and incoming emails could contain information related to romantic or financial activity, or plans to divorce or "hook up," etc. Instant messaging is extremely revealing, as are any photographs. Finding out if one's spouse is listed on single's dating sites would be helpful; there is even a website for people who are married and are seeking to have an affair.

Q. What are some of the most common mistakes that people make when they start to analyze a computer?

A. People will attempt to analyze computer activity (or cell phone activity) on the computer or cell phone they are analyzing. In other words, you've got to image the hard drive so that those files are on another drive; an exact image of your spouse's computer. Then, in that protected environment, you can analyze the information.

It's also important to understand how files are stored and dated on a computer, so that when one is analyzing the data, the potential evidence that might be helpful in legal proceedings is not altered in anyway. This is explained in the book in detail.

Q. From your point of view, as a computer forensics expert, what tips would you give to readers facing divorce?

A. The two most important things to remember is to check with an attorney before beginning the imaging process. And, when you've been given the go-ahead, image the hard drive and then set the files aside to review later, when your spouse is not at home.

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There are other tips as well:

1. Readers should have a cell phone in their own name and have their attorney phone them on the cell phone. In this way, their cheating spouse doesn't need to know they are seeking legal advice, until the reader is ready for that information to come out. Readers should use a land line, not their cell phone, to place outgoing calls to their attorney.
2. In the book, I suggest software readers can buy, or use free demos of, to image the hard drive. Readers should get a Post Office box or use a friend's address to have these products and correspondence sent to, not their home address.
3. Readers, everyone in fact, should use a document shredder.
4. It's important never to conduct research into a spouse's cheating on the computer that is kept in the home. So, again, keeping the research computer at a friend or relative's home is a good idea.
5. Since cell phones log calls, readers should delete call logs as soon as possible.

Q. What can readers learn from their spouse's cell phone?

A. Cheating spouses often think that no one has the ability to look at their cell phone, because it is with them all the time. Of course, that is not the case. This misconception leads them to use their cell phone without discretion, which eventually may expose an affair, if their spouse learns how to analyze the information on it. Cell phones have a potential warehouse full of information, both in text logs and in images.

Q. Any other tips?

- A.**
1. Don't pay for software utilities or hardware with a jointly-owned credit card.
 2. Also, if the reader's spouse moves out, then have his or her name removed from all cell phone and credit card accounts, or open new accounts.
 3. Ensure you will be alone when performing computer forensics, and never store potential evidence at home.
 4. Change your passwords for all voice mail and email accounts.
 5. After checking with your lawyer, delete e-mail accounts and messages that you no longer need.

Q. It seems like the information in the book might be helpful to people other than those trying to catch a cheating spouse. Who else might want to learn how to image a hard drive?

A. Parents today are really waking up to the dangers of the Internet and the perverts out there who seek out and seduce children. Even if the computer is located in a common area of the house, kids today are often smarter about technology than their parents and

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can be sneaky about covering up what they're doing on the computer or who their talking to. *Cyber Lies* shows parents how to look at the files on the computer and see just what their kids have been up to, as far as websites visited, photos they might have downloaded, or people they might be emailing or instant messaging. It's not about getting kids in trouble, it's about being parents and keeping them safe. Kids don't realize how vulnerable they are when they're online, and they don't realize the lengths some crazy adults will go to to befriend an unsuspecting kid. Especially a kid without a lot of friends or activities beyond their computer.

Q. You have a business that offers computer forensics to individuals and corporations; what's the most interesting case you've worked on?

A. I once had the opportunity to testify in court in a trial involving a New York State judge who was on trial. He was found to have lied about sending an e-mail message to President Bill Clinton, and he was subsequently removed from the bench.

Q. Do people really want to know the truth?

A. Well, if they've bought the book they do; but seriously infidelity can affect the health and well being of the spouse who has done nothing wrong. It affects the entire family; the children and their future as well. Financially, physically, emotionally . . . an affair is a life-changing experience on many levels. What a reader does with the information they uncover is up to them; I am not suggesting they divorce or even confront the cheater. What I *am* suggesting is that they have a right to know and they can know, given the proper tools.

Q. Are you planning on writing any more books on the subject?

A. I'll be bringing out a book for parents, to help them ensure their kids are staying as safe as possible in this day and age, with all the electronic devices kids use today. As a parent, I realize how important this topic is and it's not going to go away anytime soon.

Q. Where can people get a copy of *Cyber Lies*?

A. They can go online to www.cyberlies.com. They'll find a link to buy the book, plus a lot of other helpful information on computer forensics. They can also call tollfree 888-674-4872 to purchase the book or email me care of StarPath Books at info@cyberlies.com.

**FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM
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