

## PROFILE: Evidence Talks

# Digital crime fighter

One thing which does grow in a downturn is crime and 99 times out a hundred there's going to be a digital device full of damning evidence involved.

**E**nter Milton Keynes based Evidence Talks, forensic data technologists, whose products and services are helping businesses and law enforcement agencies trace the villains.

### Curious and creative ambition

Andrew Sheldon, the Managing Director, developed a forensic curiosity as a boy, taking almost anything to pieces to find out what made it work. It gave him a creative streak so that when he worked as a radiographer checking North Sea pipeline joints, he patented a method of enhancing the quality of the images which is still in use today.

When the company he worked for was sold, a passion for computers led

him to start a company that became a world leader in desktop audit technology. A request for some help to identify stolen computers from the local police was the final link in the chain which launched Evidence Talks. Now employing ten specialists, the business has an international client base of Government departments, law enforcement agencies, lawyers and big, global corporations. If it's digital, they can dissect it and they probably solve more crimes than Hercule Poirot. One managing director moved to a new company secretly stealing all his old employer's client database; he'd done it all from his laptop and then tried to wipe all the signs he had sent the information to his home e-mail. Enter Evidence Talks to prove what he'd

done. Commercial Director, Elizabeth Sheldon, says that digital technology can be remarkably revealing under expert analysis: "We help detect most of the crimes you see reported from the simple stuff like staff misusing office computers to complex frauds hidden in massive e-mail chains."

### Unique analysis

But the company is far more than just a service provider. "We are unique in that we also develop and sell our own highly specialist forensic software. Our "Remote Forensics" package means that users can carry out an instant analysis anywhere in the world on a suspected fraud or other digital issue rather than having to transfer data," says Elizabeth. Another product has transformed the analysis of e-mail trails by speeding up the process through narrowing the parameters of evidence. New products are on the way but clearly, in a business which is all about security, the information about them is highly classified.

### Future crimes?

"The volume of digital crime is likely to increase," Elizabeth says. "And so the market for detection will grow. Beyond that, the opportunities for selling advice on ensuring protection against fraud being attempted in the first place, as well as knowing what to do if it does happen, is likely to become bigger too." Evidence Talks is working with SEEDA to develop its markets at home and internationally and is a member of its Security Industry Sector Consortium which is helping to promote the UK strength in security technology.

[www.evidencetalks.com](http://www.evidencetalks.com)



Digital forensic laboratory