



LOCATION DATA GEOTAGGING

Device Location Data

- GPS location data either from an application running on the phone, a geo-tagged picture or some other data point.



Geotagging is the process of adding location information to a file. With location data services enabled, multimedia (photos and videos) taken by the device can contain GPS based location data stored within the image or video file. The location data from geotagged items can be overlaid into a map by forensic tools.

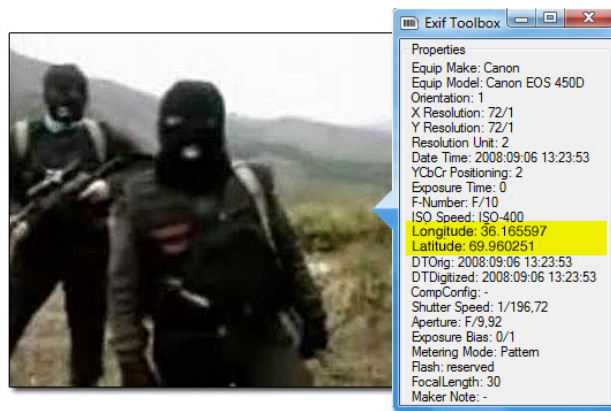


Image Metadata

A simple definition of metadata is “data that describes data”. The metadata of the image stores the location data and other identifying information which can be further used to authenticate the image. In addition to location information derived from the device GPS data, metadata of a multimedia file can include camera make, model, capture time, camera orientation, resolution and much more.





Privacy Settings

The main factor for the recovery of location data from a mobile device will depend on what the user allowed in the settings. In most cases, the device user can turn location off on the device or limit its use to selected features or applications.



Validation

However, a multimedia file could be taken by a user with one device and then be sent to a user of another device via email or text message with the original metadata intact. Also, a device without a GPS signal could default to the last good GPS signal and report inaccurate data. Therefore, it is important to review all the metadata from a multimedia file to validate the data.





DIGITAL EVIDENCE TOOLBOX

For more topics and information on digital evidence, see our toolbox at:
<http://www.irisinvestigations.com/wordpress/iris-digital-evidence-toolbox/>



For more information on location evidence, call now and speak with a certified expert. I.R.I.S. LLC is available 24 hours in emergency cases.



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