

MSAB

XRY Pro

Enhancing Digital Forensics Capabilities  
in a Critical Murder Investigation

CASE STUDY

## **SOLVING CRIMES HINGES ON ACCESSING CRUCIAL EVIDENCE**

from electronic devices. In this day and age, this truth has irreversibly changed the way policing works.

As a detective with the Kingston Police in Ontario, Canada, Derek Frawley has experienced the shift to digital evidence firsthand. He worked in policing for over 28 years, and from 2009 forwards that he led the computer and cellphone forensics team for the Kingston Police. Getting into digital forensics wasn't always the plan, but a career-altering accident got the detective to switch his focus. Digital forensics was a natural transition.

“Ever since I can remember, I've had a knack for building computers. It was a hobby of mine. So, when the need for digital forensics arose within Kingston Police, I was the one with the desire and skillset to fill that void. That's how I transitioned from tactical police work to digital forensics.”

## **The case**

While working in the Kingston Police digital forensics unit, numerous challenging cases came by Derek Frawley's desk. One, in particular, tested the limits of his unit's capabilities.

“There had been a murder, and we had a suspect in custody. The clock was ticking as we obtained a general warrant. That's the type of warrant where we had only a certain period of time to get access to the suspect's phone, execute what we needed and then put it back. Basically, there was a four-day window to get the information off the phone without the suspect realizing it was missing.”



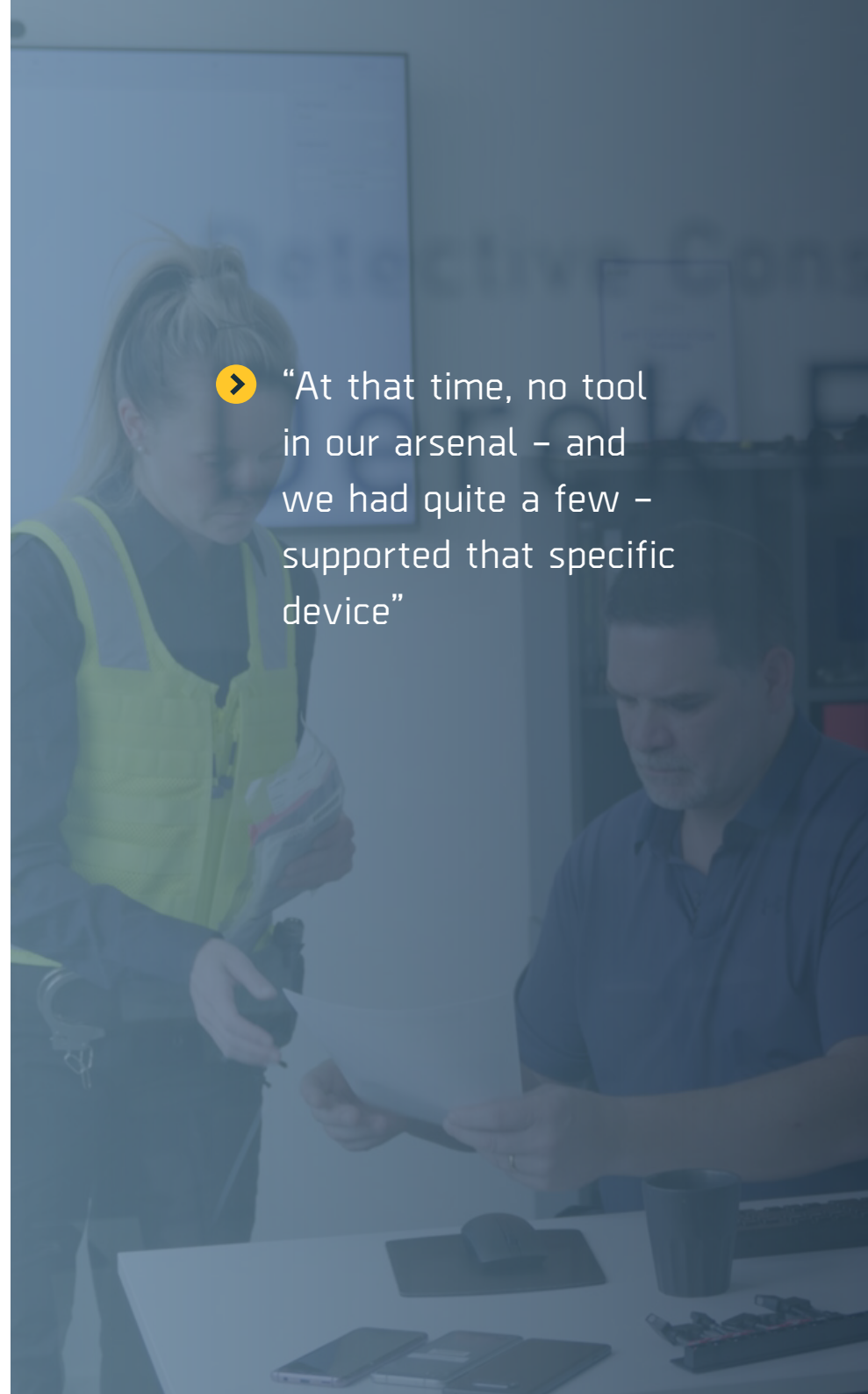
# The Challenge

The challenges were just beginning.

“We were dead in the water. First off, we didn’t even know what type of phone it was because it wasn’t in our custody. When we finally received it, a modern Samsung device, we discovered that it was unsupported across the board. At least at that time, no tool in our arsenal – and we had quite a few – supported that specific device. On top of all that, the warrant only granted us a four-day window to extract the information from the phone. We reached out to multiple police forces to get their help with the phone because it was such a critical piece of evidence, and we were running against such a critical deadline. Multiple tools were tried, and none could penetrate its defenses.”

In such a crucial murder case, where a lot of the proof needed to secure a conviction was sitting on that device, they knew they had to find a solution. And fast.

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# Solution

In a race against time and mounting pressure, Frawley's team turned to their Advanced Acquisition Lab, known today as XRY Pro.

"At that point, we had Advanced Acquisition Lab, which is now XRY Pro, and I reached out to Tech support on a Wednesday explaining the urgency and complexity of the situation. By Friday – just two days later – we had a workable solution ready. MSAB dedicated their efforts to finding a solution for us and they did it in record time. They worked tirelessly and developed an exploit for the unsupported device. We were able to extract the information off the phone and obtain all the evidence needed."

The evidence ultimately played a pivotal role in securing a successful outcome in court.



Despite all the challenges, MSAB's experts rallied to develop a solution. As Frawley recounted:


"It was an extraordinary turn of events. To have a solution specifically developed for our case in under three days was not only impressive but also crucial for our investigation. Advanced Acquisition Lab, now XRY Pro, proved to be the missing piece of the puzzle. It was so fast, efficient, and productive – it surpassed any of our expectations."

Derek Frawley's positive experience with XRY Pro extended past this unique case.

"With AAL (currently XRY Pro), we've been able to extract a lot more information from a lot more phones faster. There are more devices that we seem to be able to get into. The decoding is pretty amazing, and the investigators easily understand how to use the software."

**Conclusion:**

The success of this case underscores the significance of cutting-edge tools like XRY Pro in modern law enforcement. It is also through the unwavering commitment of professionals like Derek Frawley and the team at MSAB that justice gets served and our world becomes a little bit safer every day.



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