

## **Computer Forensics**

Computer forensics is the science of collecting digital evidence from electronic devices. As such, computer forensics involves more than computer hard drives and can include evidence recovered from mobile phones, data storage devices, network systems, and satellite navigation units. Digital evidence can exist in many forms. Computer experts trace, gather, and analyze incoming and outgoing emails from an account. They break encryptions and reconstruct damaged and deleted file information. They even trace alternate and previous formats of the same data. The collected evidence can be used to prosecute a criminal case.

**Further Discussion** Cybercrimes involve criminal activity that either uses a digital device in the commission of a crime or targets a computer for attack. An example of the first is when drug traffickers use public Internet stations and anonymous email accounts to pass information to contacts. An example of the second is when someone hacks into a computer system and steals sensitive information.

**Activity: Brainstorm** Divide the class into groups. Group members should discuss various crimes that might be committed with the aid of a digital device and present their list to class.