

# **Dr Paul Hunton CEng, BSc, MSc, D.Prof, FBCS**

**Expert Technical Witness | Digital Forensic Specialist | Cyber Crime and Security Consultant**

## **Overview**

As an accomplished digital forensic and cybersecurity expert, I have specialised in investigating, examining, and developing computer systems and data networks for nearly 25 years. Building on my early IT career as a software developer, my technical investigation skills originate from a specialist background in digital forensic examination with law enforcement. This skill set has been uniquely broadened, having spent several years as a professional and academic researcher at the forefront of developing large-scale computer data integration and analysis systems to deliver business and criminal intelligence. I possess specialist knowledge of the Internet and its underlying technology, including complex data networks and software systems, as well as software development in corporate and commercial environments.

## **Investigation Experience**

I have a wealth of industry experience, having been involved in numerous technical investigations ranging from complex civil disputes to serious international criminal cases. I have acted as an expert technical witness in civil legal proceedings and criminal cases for both the prosecution and the defence. I also act as a single joint expert (SJE).

## **Education and Professional Qualifications**

As an expert witness, I hold three computer science degrees, including a professional doctorate (D.Prof) in Business Intelligence Systems and Data Integration and Analysis Technologies, a Master of Science (MSc) degree in e-Business Technologies and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Business Computing. This is further supported by ongoing professional development activities and the regular attendance at training courses and conferences. I am also an accredited Chartered Engineer (CEng) and a Fellow of the British Computer Society (FBCS). I am also an accredited trainer under the original GCHQ accreditation scheme in the field of cybersecurity.

## **Publications and Academia**

I am a published academic specialising in the field of cyber investigation and digital evidence recovery. I am a former member of the Professional Board for the Journal of Computer Law and Security Review, and my current academic research is focused on cybercrime and digital investigation practices. I am a part-time university lecturer, having taught topics including digital forensics, cybercrime, Internet investigation and expert witness report writing. I am also the author of one of the first Maritime Cyber Risk Awareness courses to be specifically designed for the maritime industry and accredited under the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) certified training (GCT) scheme.

## **Notable case highlights**

*Zellis UK data breach [2026]*. Instructed in the matter involving Zellis UK and the MoveIT Transfer data exploitation.

*Capita plc data breach [2026]*. Instructed in the matter involving the data breach of Capita plc.

*Data Protection Commission (Ireland) v TikTok Technology Limited [2025]*. Instructed in the matter involving TikTok's failure to comply with GDPR in relation to its transfer and processing of personal data in China.

*The National Corruption Bureau of Ukraine v Oleksandr Hranovskyi [2025]*. Instructed in the matter involving the Ukrainian People's deputy on charges of organised crime.

Quantum (SPG PTE) V DKT Allseas Shipping Ltd [2025]. Instructed to assist with the complex technical issues surrounding a large-scale distributed CRM and business intelligence system dispute, including its implementation and fit-for-purpose.

R-v-Eaton [2025]. Instructed in a matter involving the hacking and exploitation of a medical charity's computer systems.

R-v-Bashforth [2025]. Instructed in the matter involving fraud of a pension liberation scheme.

Republic of Montenegro v Dusko Knezevic [2024]. Instructed in the matter involving legal document plagiarism.

easyJet data breach [2024]. Instructed in the matter involving the data breach of the easyJet airline.

Police Federation of England & Wales [2024]. Instructed in the matter involving the data breach of the Police Federation.

Arnold Clark data breach [2024]. Instructed in the matter involving the data breach of the Arnold Clark automotive.

R-v-Sterritt and others [2023]. Instructed in the matter involving a Denial-of-Service (DoS) Attack against Microsoft.

The National Corruption Bureau of Ukraine v Oksana Varakina [2023]. Instructed in the matter involving the former Ukrainian MP on charges of creating an organised crime gang and bribery.

Andrew Tate [2023]. Instructed in the matter involving the Tate brothers and the investigation surrounding the allegations of people trafficking, rape and organised crime.

CW and CG Claims Limited v Clarkewood Limited [2022]. Instructed in a significant financial dispute to examine a largescale distributed CRM system and establish transactions originating from relevant parties.

Fastway Couriers Ireland [2022]. Instructed in the class action involving the data breach of the Fastway courier network and data systems, which led to the loss of personal data and an investigation by the Irish Data Protection Commission.

Ticketmaster UK Ltd [2021]. Instructed in the class action involving the large-scale data breach of the Ticketmaster online ticket purchase system, which led to the loss of personal and financial data.

R-v-Cornelio, Prerez and Sanchez [2021]. Instructed by the Royal Gibraltar Police to examine software systems and processes surrounding the alleged hacking and/or sabotage of the National Security Centralised Intelligence System.

R-v-James Skilling and others [2021]. Instructed in one of the first EncroChat cases in the UK following the takedown of the communication network by the French Authorities and Europol and brought to trial by the National Crime Agency.

CPD Powerlines Limited v Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited [2021]. Instructed to consider the electronic tendering processes and systems in a high-value commercial dispute.

DSG Retail Ltd [2020]. Instructed in the class action involving the large-scale data breach of Currys PC World store data and IT systems, which led to the loss of personal and financial data.

British Airways [2020]. Instructed in the class action against British Airways involving the large-scale loss of personal and financial data surrounding their website.

Huawei Technologies Co [2019]. Instructed in the matter against the Canadian Royal Mounted Police in relation to the arrest of Huawei's chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou.

R-v-Mohammed Khilji [2018]. Instructed in the case of Khilji charged under the Terrorism Act with the creation and dissemination of terrorist material in the form of digital media. Khilji was convicted for encouraging terrorism.

*Ryanair v Google [2017]*. Instructed in the challenge raised by Ryanair relating to Google's AdWords programme.

*Tourplan Pacific Ltd v Australian Tours Management Pty Ltd [2017]*. Instructed to assist with the complex technical issues surrounding an international software copyright dispute of a global travel management system.

*R-v-Elliot Hyams and Others [2016]*. Instructed by the defence in one of the first UK trials relating to the infamous Dark Web online marketplace 'Silk Road'. Working in the New York offices of the Federal Investigation Bureau (FBI), I examined and reviewed the investigation processes, data handling practices and the reliability of electronic evidence produced during the FBI's investigation of the 'Silk Road' website and Bitcoin servers.

*Nicociqs Limited v Fontem Holdings 1 BV and Fontem Ventures BV [2016]*. Instructed in a high-value patent claim to provide a pivotal role in examining the reliability and provenance of complex technical evidence. My technical analysis established that the claimant's highly reputable technical experts' findings were incorrect and fundamentally flawed.

*R-v-Adam Johnson [2016]*. Acting for the prosecution in the case of the Sunderland and England international footballer Adam Johnson, instructed to provide expert technical case consultancy, including the forensic recovery and examination of pertinent electronic evidence, expert reporting, and court testimony. Johnson was convicted of sexual offences.

*Orb a.r.l. and ors v Ruhan [2015]*. Instructed by the claimant in a £100m commercial dispute to establish the reliability and provenance of digital documentation and provide other expert technical investigation and assistance.

*R-v-John O'Brien and Others [2015]*. Instructed in a high-profile international organised crime gang case involving the theft of £57m of museum exhibits and artefacts from several museums across Europe.

*Harbour Supplies Limited v Jeremiah Strongarm Limited [2014]*. Instructed by the Respondent to re-examine computer systems and electronic data previously examined by digital forensic experts acting for the Claimant. Following re-examination, discrepancies in the Claimant's technical expert's examination processes were identified, resulting in sections of technical evidence being amended or withdrawn.

*R-v-Unclassified Youth [2013]*. Instructed to provide expert technical analysis in a complex computer hacking case by an alleged member of the hacking group 'Anonymous'.

*Unclassified [2012]*. Instructed in a matter involving the online digital evidence capture and the covert test-purchase recovery of property associated with a high-profile individual and belonging to a Formula 1 race team.

*R-v-Alan Ellis [2009]*. Acting on behalf of the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) and the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) in the first UK criminal investigation into online music piracy and the 'Oink' website.

## **Contact Details**

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