

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING

FRAMEWORK FOR FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE FROM NAVIGATION DEVICES POWERED BY ANDROID OPERATING SYSTEM

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that, except where quotations have clearly been acknowledged, this Dissertation is my original work and has not yet been submitted before for the award of any university degree.

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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents Mr. Asobola Patrick, Mrs. Phoebe Nafula Asobola, my lovely wife Nahigo Manjeri and my children Martha, Othniel and Nathanael.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACPO Association of chief police officers

ADB Android debugging bridge

CSV format comma-separated values

GPS Global positioning system

HTCI High Tech Crime Investigation

JTAG Joint Test Action Group (named after)

NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology

OS Operating System

SD Card Secure Digital card

AGPS Assisted global positioning system

ABSTRACT

The use of hand-held dedicated GPS (Global positioning system) devices for navigation such as Garmin, Tom-Tom, Mio Technology, Navman, and Magellan has been reducing while the use of Smartphones as navigation devices has increased where by the navigation application system has been integrated into the Smartphone itself. Conducting GPS routing using a smartphone phone is convenient as there would be no need to have another device for GPS navigation devices. The use of this technology is associated with certain crimes, forensic analysis of android navigation devices (android smartphone) is necessary. This study aimed at developing a framework for forensic analysis of forensic data originating from android navigation devices. A descriptive field study using a questionnaire was carried out to find out constructs important for the design of a framework for forensic analysis of android navigation devices. The designed framework was evaluated in a questionnaire based field study and the results showed that; the use of logical technique for data extraction of data as is easy to understand and work with allowing innovation and facilitates direct communication with operating system of the device, analysis of mapping application dataset complemented with operating system dataset gains additional information and also improve on the accuracy of information gained and reconstruction of traces of geo-data like last selected destination and home location coupled with timestamps such as start time of the journey and end time of the journey can be used for reconstruction of the motion of the android navigation device user to enable a digital forensic expert to discern between locations only searched for and locations traveled to by the android navigation device user.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground

GPS technology has substituted the use of printed folding maps for navigation. GPS is a network of 24 satellites placed in a geostationary orbit about twenty thousand kilometers from earth with enabled Synchronized atomic clocks to transmit the accurate time and position in space[1][2]. A GPS receiver device's function is to locate four or more of these satellites, find out the distance to each satellites and use this information to come up with its own location[3][4]. GPS was originally developed as a tool for the military by the United States Department of Defense in 1970. It then became selectively available to the civilians in 1980s and full availability was in 2000, thereby increasing its accuracy[5][6].

The accuracy and reliability of navigation systems are highly dependent on the amount of tracked satellites and the satellite geometry [6], which can be degraded in low satellite visibility areas. To operate properly, the GPS receivers need signals from at least four satellites of the 24 and clear views of the sky. The system is based on using the clear line of sight hence there can be errors and inconsistencies when signals pass through obstacles such as buildings and clouds.

There two main categories of GPS receivers that is; built-in and mobile, the built-in devices are those that are permanently placed in a specific area for operation and the use of the GPS technology is focused on a specific task, mobile units are available that allow GPS functionality built into a small units including those that fit on the wrist, and others which can be hung around the neck[7]. The use of hand-held GPS devices such as Garmins, Tom Tom, Mio Technology, Navman, and Magellan has been reducing while the use of Smartphones as navigation devices has increased where the navigation application system has been integrated into the Smartphone itself[4][8][9]. Most cellular vendors are now offering phones and data plans that support the use of GPS and they work very similar to the smaller vehicle units used to obtain routing information and input addresses of interest, Conducting GPS routing using a smartphone phone is extremely convenient as it eliminates the need to have another device devoted to GPS navigation[7]. Smartphones for GPS navigation has now become a handy tool incorporated inside a device that many people have with them at all times.

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