



The Case of the Hacked High-Tech Lab

Julie Chen is computer programmer at a high-tech military research facility, which is working on new spy satellite technology. She arrived at her office early this morning and discovered her door ajar, with the glass pane broken. A quick analysis of her computer revealed that someone had used her terminal to hack into and download classified information regarding the satellite's design. She reported the incident immediately. While Ms. Chen has a perfect record and a high security clearance, the lab's chief researcher suspects that she may have staged the break-in and downloaded the information herself so that she could sell it to a foreign agency.

You and the other forensic specialists from the National Security Agency (NSA) have been assigned to examine the crime scene. You should look for physical evidence, document everything you find, and carefully package and label any evidence removed from the scene. You will then transport the evidence to your lab and analyze it along with samples taken from possible suspects. Please refer to the "Guide to Crime Scene Analysis" for specific procedures.

You will be responsible for documenting and gathering the following types of evidence from the crime scene:

- Fibers and/or hair
- Bloodstains
- Miscellaneous trace evidence (pieces of paper, items the thieves may have dropped, etc.)

When you arrive at the crime scene, you are told by the agent in charge that the investigators have tried to keep the area as undisturbed as possible. They inform you that the fingerprint team has already dusted the area and lifted prints, and the glass fracture pattern expert has already examined the broken window.

The NSA wants information from the physical evidence as soon as possible to answer, to the best of your knowledge, the following questions:

- 1.) Is there any evidence to suggest that a person other than Ms. Chen entered her office recently?
- 2.) Is there any evidence that would suggest that someone other than Ms. Chen has worked at her computer terminal recently?
- 3.) Is there any physical evidence present that could link a potential suspect to the crime or be used to exonerate Ms. Chen?

Provide a detailed written answer for each of these questions. Your supervisors may have additional questions for you later.

Make sure that when you enter the crime scene, you are wearing adequate protection to prevent contaminating any evidence (gloves, booties, lab coats, hair coverings). Make sure everyone on your investigative team knows her/his role:

- team leader
- photographer and photographic log recorder
- sketch/map artists
- evidence recovery and evidence recording team