

Darren Hopkins

Partner in Brisbane

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Darren specialises in advising businesses on both proactive and reactive uses of technology in the areas of cybersecurity, privacy, digital forensics and technology-led investigations.

Darren is a highly respected, qualified investigator and forensic technology expert with more than 31 years of specialist forensic experience and more than five years as a foundation member of the Forensic Computer Examination Unit with the Queensland Police. Held in high regard by attorneys and the courts, he has undertaken complex computer forensic examinations for both criminal and civil litigation in Australia and overseas.

He works regularly with boards, executives and senior business leaders in organisations of every size to consider and set technology strategies for cyber, privacy, data protection and information risk management. His extensive experience spans across a wide range of industries, including business services, construction, entertainment, financial services, government, healthcare, insurance, leisure, manufacturing, retail and technology.

Darren has assisted organisations respond to cyber incidents including complex ransomware attacks. In addition to supporting the containment, response and recovery from cyber incidents, Darren helps organisations build cyber strategies and plans to improve their cyber resilience.

He also regularly applies his digital forensic and investigative expertise to help resolve time-critical and highly sensitive issues as they arise. These matters range from large-scale data breaches or theft, through to employee misconduct or intellectual property matters.

Engagement Experience —

- Expert before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) representing the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The dispute originated in a Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) comprising three interrelated agreements entered into in October and November 2010.
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- Assisted a Queensland Government Department investigate a Cyber breach of a hosted cloud service. The work involved analysis of various forms of digital evidence using analytics and forensic processes. We provided various forms of reporting including a report which was used by the Queensland Government CIO and a report which provided the executive with recommendations in relation to cyber resilience and security.
- Assisted a large Australian Superannuation client to establish a Master Services Agreement with McGrathNicol, where our team now act as a regular contributor to their National program of cyber security and data

Qualifications & Memberships —

- Bachelor of Information Technology, Griffith University
- Certified Computer Examiner (CCE) International Society of Forensic Computer Examiners
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- Certificate III Investigative Services (AIPS)
- A+ Certification CompTIA certification program
- Queensland Private investigator licence – Security Providers Act 1993



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protection education and awareness across all levels of their business. The program included the development of a cyber-strategy to test the effectiveness of controls when faced with a real time cyber threat.

- Assisted a Queensland NGO manage a time critical, cybercrime investigation in relation to a cyber-breach and successful attach which led to a significant fraud. We provided incident response and advice in relation to the organisation's response and investigation strategies.
- Assisted an international manufacturing company to conduct a risk-based review of user access management across the business.
- Provided forensic technology assistance to a leisure company with respect to the production of electronic information to legal advisers based in the USA as a result of discovery orders, including the capture, analysis and preservation of a substantial amount of electronic evidence and the development of methodologies for data production.
- Provided forensic technology assistance in relation to the alleged theft of intellectual property from a financial services corporation. The work involved the detailed analysis of the software that had allegedly been copied and modified by a competitor.
- Project managed the forensic technology services provided to a pharmaceutical company in relation to an international dispute. The work involved the ongoing management and leadership of the electronic discovery process for a number of Asian countries.
- Provided electronic discovery assistance for a major Australian bank, including providing assistance to the bank's internal IT team to recover source documents from five years of backup tapes.
- Engaged to provide expert witness services by an Australian broadcasting corporation in relation to a broadcasting rights dispute.
- Undertook a computer based investigation on behalf of a New Zealand based transport company in relation to alleged breaches of fair trading practices.
- Assisted a Commonwealth agency with the execution of court orders to identify and capture electronic evidence from an internet service provider. Was also appointed as joint expert to conduct further examination of the data captured.
- Provided forensic technology and investigation assistance to a manufacturing company in relation to the theft of intellectual property and breach of employment contracts.
- Conducted an internet and email compliance audit on behalf of an international mining company. The results of the compliance review were reported to management and required the subsequent investigation of a number of employees.
- Conducted a review on behalf of a Victorian Government agency in relation to an IT outage incident and provided our report of findings to the relevant minister.
- Assisted the Australian Securities and Investments Commission with the execution numerous search warrants in order to locate relevant electronic information.