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The million dollar question for us is, “How will this affect the legal industry, and more specifically, those of us in the e-discovery space?” The short answer is that the technology and its potential applications across industries is actively being explored. That being said, we can expect to see instances where it will come in to play as having potentially relevant and responsive information. With respect to IoT, we may see practical applications in employment cases, for example, where an employer needs to verify activity of an employee. By leveraging data from the cloud and interconnected devices, it may be possible to paint a clearer picture of that activity.

The distributed ledger system of blockchain will also prove to contain valuable information in cases where it is employed. By downloading the blockchain ledger, we may be able to determine the where and when of particular transactions along the chain to establish a definitive timeline of events.

The industry is still learning how to leverage this information in the e-discovery environment, and is still developing best practices for collection and analysis. Software tools are still in a developmental stage and in many cases fall short in their ability to consolidate these new types of data for easy analysis. As we work through the early stages of IoT and blockchain, we'll continue to apprise ourselves on technology changes and improve our analysis of it.

## **Mobile Forensics**

In the conference's exhibit hall, a significant number of vendors continued to highlight their solutions for mobile device evidence collection and analysis. The evolution of this technology is a helpful case study; shedding light on what we can look forward to seeing in the IoT and blockchain arenas down the line. Mobile device forensics remains an attractive space for innovation and development due to the steadily increasing usage of this evidence across the legal and law enforcement communities. New devices, apps, and operating systems continually present new types of evidence, requiring forensic companies to remain agile and quickly react to the emerging technologies.

Yet, thankfully, we benefit from increasing progress in the mobile domain, especially over the past couple of years. Newer tools present data to analysts in much more refined layouts. We've also seen more and more cooperation and overlap between mobile forensics and e-discovery solutions. For example, Encompass' EnCAP team is able to leverage NUIX's ability to process mobile messages directly out of Cellebrite's Physical Analyzer tool. All signs point to this same type of progress occurring with IoT and blockchain.

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