PLX Basics Training Overview

Day 1
Getting Started In this section, students learn what kinds of data can go into PLX and how, including creating a new case and the securities and permissions a user can assign to a case. Students also receive hands-on practice with the top 15 user interface tools as well as basic PLX vocabulary. These skills and knowledge will help lay a good foundation for students to be successful throughout the class and when the return to their office.
Events Basics In this section, students learn what an event is in PLX and why events can be useful to their investigations. This section includes hands-on practice with creating a new event and adding various pieces of evidence.
Autoloading In this section, students learn how to autoload a file into an existing case in PLX, including how to confirm the correct time zone is assigned. The file used is an AT&T call detail record.
Data Selections In this section, students learn how to navigate the three Data Selection tabs: Cases, Targets and Files, including how to select a case, target, or file for analysis.
Interactive Grids In this section, students learn the basics of an interactive grid, starting with a Calls interactive grid. Students learn how to customize the grid with various columns sortings and filters in order to save a custom view they can use with any case. Also in this section, students learn how PLX normalizes the provider date and time of loaded communication records in order to correctly analyze files from various carriers.
Building Frequency Reports In this section, students learn Grouping. Grouping is the innovative way PLX users can quickly create frequency reports with their data. Students will learn how to group multiple types of data as well as employ filters, sortings and keyword searches to further customize their frequency reports.
Subjects In this section, students will learn how to create a new subject in PLX via autoloading a subscriber file. Additionally, they'll learn how to edit that subject to add a photo, additional communication IDs, physical and governmental information. This section will wrap up with learning how to merge subjects.

Day 2

Additional Autoloading Skills

In this section, students will learn new ways of autoloading files including creating a case while autoloading, autoloading multiple files at a time. This section also includes learning about our autoload best practices. Students will learn the key things to help ensure their files load and how to begin troubleshooting if a file doesn't load.

Call Detail Window and Additional Columns

In this section, students learn how to access and navigate the Call Detail Window in order to glean key information including target, subject, and location information as well as direction of the communication. Students are also introduced to new interactive grid columns to help further their analytical skills, including the eleven columns that can contain location information used to map records in PLX.

Link Charts

In this section, students learn how to launch the link chart report in order to get a great visual of the connections between targets and contacts. They'll also learn what the various nodes represent as well as how to customize the link chart to easily see direction, type, and amount of communication records between different parties.

Building Commonality Reports

In this section, students will learn how to take their data analysis to the next level with commonalities, specifically with determining if there are contacts in communication with multiple targets or in multiple cases, thus helping generate leads and patterns. Students will then apply this new skill in the Events Analysis Area through uncovering photos at common locations in extracted from the phones of multiple targets.

Case Overlap

In this section, students will learn how to use the Case Overlap tool in PLX to determine if there are any communication IDs in their cases that are also involved in other cases in their agency. Students will learn how to break down the data to see if those common numbers are a target in a case, when this number was active and if someone has assigned this number a subject record.

Grids vs Reports

In this section, students will learn the differences in functionality between an interactive grid and a report. They'll dig into the benefits of each and learn the typical situations when one is more appropriate than the other.

Day 2, Continued

Mapping Basics

In this section, students will dive into the world of mapping communication records in PLX, starting with telephonic records. Students will learn the key tools in the map including how to change target colors, add a subject, change the map and cell sector layers and animate the animate a map.

Cell Phone Forensics

In this section students will learn the correct way to autoload a cell phone forensics file in PLX, including the required file type and the way to ensure extracted media is loaded. Students will also learn how to change the name of the subject created for the device holder as well as how PLX processes the media post-autoload. The file type used is Cellebrite.

Media Gallery

In this section, students will learn how to use the Media Gallery report, the one-stop shop in PLX to access, view and analyze all the images and videos in a case. They'll learn how to categorize these images and videos as well as plot them on a map in order to help see the big picture of how the media overlays with communication records.

Additional Subject Creation Methods & Reports

In this section, students will learn how to create subjects manually as well as from a communication record (both from a call record as well as from a Facebook record). This section will wrap up with learning about the three Subjects Analysis Area Reports – Subject Interactive Grid, Subject Listings Grid and Subjects Communication ID Grid.

Text Message Conversation

In this section, students will learn how to analyze text message content autoload from a cellphone forensics file and brought in via live collection. Topics include how to view text message content in the grid, as well as in conversation form, searching for key words and exporting conversations for further analysis, briefings, or court.

Labels

In this section, students will learn what labels are in PLX, including how to create and apply them to records, specifically calls, messages and emails. Students will also learn how to search for records containing a label, thus making it easy to search for key data amidst thousands or millions of records.

Day 3
Key Word Searching & Regular Expressions In this section, students will learn how to use the keyword search and regular expression engines in PLX in order to find key pieces of information in the content (e.g., phone numbers, addresses, VIN numbers, etc.). Students learn how to use regular expressions with call content as well as with message and email content.
Loading Social Media Files In this section, students will learn how to correctly autoload a social media file and where to access the various types of records a social media file may contain including – conversations, friends lists, attachments and log-ins. Students receive hands-on practice within the Message Interactive grid. Students also learn how an IP2 location file can help resolve IP addresses in PLX, thus providing location and domain name for IP addresses contained in the social media files. The file type used in this section is a Facebook file.
Loading Email Files In this section, students will learn how break down the different files they can expect to receive in an email file and then how to properly autoload the file into PLX. Similar to the social media files section, students will learn how to access and analyze the different data types contained in the file including – email conversations, attachments, contact lists, internet search history and log-ins. The file type used in this section is a Gmail file.
Accesses In this section students will learn what an access is in PLX and how these types of records can help further an investigation. Students will learn how to differentiate between type types of logins their data may contain as well as learning how the The section is wrapped up with learning how to map access records, specifically overlaying these types of records with call records to help get an idea of where the target was when using their device for communicating telephonically as well as through social media.
Combined Interactive Grid In this section, students will learn how to pull multiple pieces of their investigation together in our Combined Interactive Grid. They'll get hands-on practice with looking at their calls, emails, messages, accesses, and events in one grid, with learning about key columns, while solidifying frequencies and commonalities skills. The section is wrapped up with putting all types of records on the map in order to see the behavior, locations and travel patterns of eight targets involved in our scenario-based course.