



Device Power ON – Power OFF Table

Protecting the Integrity of Your Evidence

DEVICE	IF ON, DO THIS	IF OFF, DO THIS
Computers	Remove power ^{1,2}	Keep OFF
Networks	“It depends.” ¹	Keep OFF
Printers	Keep ON	Keep OFF
Scanners	Keep ON	Keep OFF
Electronic Storage Media	Not applicable	Not applicable
Personal Data Assistants	“It depends.” ^{1,3}	Keep OFF
Compact Disk Duplicators & Labelers	Keep ON	Keep OFF
Copiers	Keep ON	Keep OFF
Facsimile Machines	Keep ON	Keep OFF
Telephone Equipment	Keep ON ³	Keep OFF
2-way Radios	Keep ON ³	Keep OFF
Digital Cameras	“It depends.” ¹	Keep OFF
Camcorders	“It depends.” ¹	Keep OFF
Audio Recorders	“It depends.” ¹	Keep OFF
Security Systems	“It depends.” ¹	Keep OFF
ID Card Printers	Keep ON	Keep OFF
Global Positioning Systems	“It depends.” ^{1,3}	Keep OFF
Skimmers & Parasites	“It depends.” ¹ (Examine quickly)	Keep OFF
Entertainment Devices	“It depends.” ^{1,3}	Keep OFF
Vehicle Computer Devices	“It depends.” ¹	Keep OFF
Home Electronic Devices	“It depends.” ^{1,3}	Keep OFF

1. **Do contact** a forensics expert for assistance.
2. **Do not** turn the computer on again after the power has been removed.
3. **Do not** let the batteries run down on portable equipment or dynamic data may be lost.

Cautions —

- Do not attempt to conduct your own forensics examination! Even a seemingly innocent act like opening a file to read it may make the digital evidence useless in court.
- Dynamic data may need to be preserved for some investigations. Removing power will destroy it!
- Media must be secured and verified or admissibility of the information on it as evidence may be lost.

Good general procedures in all digital evidence seizure cases —

- Restrict access to devices and any attached peripherals. Be alert for remote access to equipment.
- Make every effort to locate all instruction and operating manuals, power cords, chargers, and other related paraphernalia pertaining to the device.
- Take photographs of any screens or displays at time of seizure.
- Do not expose the equipment to heat, cold, or moisture.

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