#1 What is Digital Forensics? Why is it important? When is it used? What types of Investigations #2a In this day and age it is difficult to come up with a crime or civil infraction that does not in some way involve digital evidence or that cannot possibly yield a piece of evidence or investigative item with a digital element. For example, a homicide can and often does require the acquisition of cell phone data; there may be a license plate involved, for which there is a database query; there may be e-mail or a computer generated document giving evidence of the crime or at least evidence of the motive for the crime. I think it's safe to say that most people typically don't find the ability to use digital means to develop evidence against a criminal particularly disturbing. On the contrary, they probably find it comforting. But what about those of us who are NOT committing a crime? Your discussion is to answer the following: 1) Do you believe that "digital evidence" is being generated on you right now, even though you're not committing a crime? 2) What digital elements (if any) do you use/or surround yourself with, or you are subjected to, that can be used to monitor you? 3) And lastly, if you are being monitored, are you comfortable with it? Interestingly, crimes/infractions for which there is no digital means by which to track information is almost unheard of. The intent of this thread is to get you to start thinking about the pervasiveness of digital evidence. #2b Hashing Files - When hashing a file or a set of files a mathematical algorithm is applied to the files or set of files. A hash value is a result, which uniquely identifies a file. In this discussion, I want you to download the attached hashing program (Hash Calc) or use a hashing program of your choosing to hash a file following the below steps. Step 1: Download and install hash calc at the link hashcalc (1).zip. Unzip and install the program. Step 2: Hash a word document within your computer and post the hash value within the discussion. Step 3: Open, make a small change to the document and save the changes. Step 4: Re-hash the file. Record in the discussion what occurred.