

Elcomsoft Recovers Deleted Notes from iCloud



Moscow, Russia – May 19, 2017 - ElcomSoft Co. Ltd. updates [Elcomsoft Phone Breaker](#), the company's mobile acquisition tool. Version 6.50 gains the ability to recover deleted notes from the user's iCloud account. ElcomSoft has discovered that any notes that are marked as "deleted" are being kept in the cloud for undefined periods of time. Both Windows and Mac versions of Elcomsoft Phone Breaker can now extract deleted notes, including attachments, directly from the user's iCloud account. The oldest note extracted with Elcomsoft Phone Breaker was two years old.

[Elcomsoft Phone Breaker 6.50](#) is the only tool on the market that can access notes deleted more than 30 days ago. While users can still access notes they've deleted by checking the Recently Deleted folder, that folder only contains notes deleted up to 30 days ago. Elcomsoft Phone Breaker 6.50 goes beyond that.

In addition, ElcomSoft updates [Elcomsoft Phone Viewer](#), the company's lightweight forensic tool to help experts view and analyze information extracted with [Elcomsoft Phone Breaker](#). The updated Viewer adds the ability to filter existing and deleted notes.

*"We did it again", says **Vladimir Katalov**, ElcomSoft CEO. "After recovering deleted photos and Safari browsing history from iCloud, we now add the ability to recover deleted notes from the same source even past the 30-day retention period. The oldest record we've been able to pull was deleted back in 2015."*

Background

Apple has an option to sync certain types of data across devices sharing the same Apple ID. Information such as phone calls, contacts, Safari tabs, browsing history, favorites and notes can be synchronized across devices. Unlike daily cloud backups, syncing works near instantly with little or no delay.

Most good note keeping apps enable some sort of online sync across devices using the same app. As an example, Google Keep (available for iOS and Android platforms and accessible through a Web browser) syncs newly added, changed and deleted notes instantly across all online instances of the Keep app via Google Cloud Messaging. Another cross-platform note taking app, Simplenote, syncs notes with the server, but the changes are generally propagated to Simplenote instances when the user launches the app.

Apple has its own app for taking and syncing notes. The Notes app automatically syncs data across all iOS and macOS devices that are on the same Apple ID. However, unlike competing services, Apple appears to indefinitely retain notes that are deleted by the user. Most users expect cloud providers to erase any data they choose to delete. Since iCloud users don't have access to records they deleted a long time ago, they may be completely unaware about these records' existence.

ElcomSoft has a history of discovering information that has not been properly deleted from the cloud.

- August 2016: deleted photos are kept in iCloud Photo Library for several years
<https://blog.elcomsoft.com/2016/08/icloud-photo-library-all-your-photos-are-belong-to-us/>
- February 2017: deleted Safari browsing history remains in iCloud indefinitely
<https://blog.elcomsoft.com/2017/02/elcomsoft-extracts-deleted-safari-browsing-history-from-icloud/>
- May 2017: deleted Notes are kept in iCloud indefinitely

Apple has fixed the Photo Library issue by removing access to deleted photos soon after the issue was brought out. The company has also fixed deleted Safari history records by imposing a 2-week limit on all Safari history items, both deleted and current.

Some users opt to disable iCloud backups for privacy reasons. However, this may not be enough to actually remove information that has once been uploaded to the cloud.

About Elcomsoft Phone Breaker

[Elcomsoft Phone Breaker](#) is an all-in-one mobile acquisition tool to extract information from a wide range of sources. Supporting offline and cloud backups created by Apple, BlackBerry and Windows mobile devices, the tool can extract and decrypt user data including cached passwords and synced authentication credentials to a wide range of resources from local backups. Cloud extraction with or without a password makes it possible to decrypt FileVault 2 containers without lengthy attacks and pull communication histories and retrieve photos that've been deleted by the user a long time ago.

Pricing and Availability

[Elcomsoft Phone Breaker 6.50](#) is available for both Windows and Mac OS X. Home, Professional and Forensic editions are available. iCloud recovery is only available in Professional and Forensic editions, while password-free iCloud access as well as the ability to download arbitrary information from iCloud and iCloud Drive are only available in the Forensic edition. Elcomsoft Phone Breaker Pro is available to North American customers for \$199. The Forensic edition enabling over-the-air acquisition of iCloud data and support for binary authentication tokens is available for \$799. The Home edition is available for \$79. Local pricing may vary.

System Requirements

[Elcomsoft Phone Breaker 6.50](#) supports Windows Vista, Windows 7, 8, 8.1, and Windows 10 as well as Windows 2003, 2008 and 2012 Server. The Mac version supports Mac OS X 10.7 and newer. Elcomsoft Phone Breaker operates without Apple iTunes or BlackBerry Link being installed.

About ElcomSoft Co. Ltd.

Founded in 1990, [ElcomSoft Co. Ltd.](#) develops state-of-the-art computer forensics tools, provides computer forensics training and computer evidence consulting services. Since 1997, ElcomSoft has been providing support to businesses, law enforcement, military, and intelligence agencies. ElcomSoft tools are used by most of the Fortune 500 corporations, multiple branches of the military all over the world, foreign governments, and all major accounting firms. ElcomSoft is a Microsoft Partner (Gold Application Development), Intel Premier Elite Partner and member of NVIDIA's CUDA/GPU Computing Registered Developer Program.