

NEWS



Hillary Clinton turns in 'blank' email server to investigators

By [Marisa Schultz](#) and [Jamie Schram](#)

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Photo: Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton complied with Justice Department requests for her server — by turning over a hunk of junk.

The much-sought-after home server “was blank,” said Barbara Wells, a lawyer representing the Denver-based computer firm Platte River Networks, which managed the server for Clinton.

“The information had been migrated over to a different server for purposes of transition,” Wells [told The Washington Post](#). “To my knowledge, the data on the old server is not available now on any servers or devices in Platte River Networks’ control.”

Computer experts told The Post that by deleting content, Clinton has made it difficult, but not impossible, to recover her messages.

“If you delete a large file and then write over it with a smaller file, then you may be able to retrieve the data that was not written over,” a federal law-enforcement source told The Post.

“If somebody uses a software program to scrub the hard drive clean, that’s problematic.”

But another expert said the FBI has been able to capture data even in cases where “subjects” thought it was irretrievable.

Clinton said she turned over all her official e-mails to the State Department in December and then wiped clean her server.

Clinton deleted some 30,000 personal e-mails but backed up work ones on thumb drives that were also turned over to federal authorities.

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In compliance with a federal court order, lawyers for two top Clinton aides, Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills, assured a judge Wednesday the aides won't delete any of their official e-mails.

The Clinton campaign said Thursday there is nothing on her server left to retrieve. "As David Kendall [Clinton's lawyer] said in March, we do not believe any e-mails from her time as secretary exist on the server," the campaign said in a statement.

Platte River says it began work for Clinton in June 2013, after she left office, to upgrade, secure and manage her e-mail server.

The company retrieved the server from her New York home and housed it at a data center in New Jersey, said company spokesman Andy Boian.

Wells did not return phones for comment on whether the content can still be retrieved.

It's unclear when the server was wiped clean when "migrated" to a different server, as Wells said, and where that information was transferred.

Clinton's campaign did not say.

One security expert said many questions remain. "They are saying they migrated that data somewhere. Where is the somewhere?" asked the security expert, who asked not be identified for fear of legal ramifications from his employer. "What happened to the data that was transferred, and is the new server following any of the regulations it's supposed to?"

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