THE JOURNAL OF
DIGITAL FORENSICS,
SECURITY AND LAW

Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law

Volume 8 Article 5

2013

Front Matter

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Recommended Citation
(2013) "Front Matter," *Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law*: Vol. 8 , Article 5.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.58940/1558-7223.1323
Available at: https://commons.erau.edu/jdfsl/vol8/iss1/5

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JDFSL

The Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law

Volume 8, Number 1
2013

JDFSL

The Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law

Volume 8, Number 1 (2013)

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ISSN 1558-7215

Call for Papers

The Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law has an open call for papers in, or related to, the following subject areas:

1) Digital Forensics Curriculum
2) Cyber Law Curriculum
3) Information Assurance Curriculum
4) Digital Forensics Teaching Methods
5) Cyber Law Teaching Methods
6) Information Assurance Teaching Methods
7) Digital Forensics Case Studies
8) Cyber Law Case Studies
9) Information Assurance Case Studies
10) Digital Forensics and Information Technology
11) Law and Information Technology
12) Information Assurance and Information Technology

Guide for Submission of Manuscripts

Manuscripts should be submitted through the *JDFSL* online system in Word format using the following link: http://www.jdfsl.org/submission.asp. If the paper has been presented previously at a conference or other professional meeting, this fact, the date, and the sponsoring organization should be given in a footnote on the first page. Articles published in or under consideration for other journals should not be submitted. Enhanced versions of book chapters can be considered. Authors need to seek permission from the book publishers for such publications. Papers awaiting presentation or already presented at conferences must be significantly revised (ideally, taking advantage of feedback received at the conference) in order to receive any consideration. Funding sources should be acknowledged in the *Acknowledgements* section.

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Contents

Call for Papers 2

Guide for Submission of Manuscripts 2

From the Editor-in-Chief 5

Science Column: **Measuring Inconsistency Methods for Evidentiary Value** 7
Fred Cohen

A Simple Experiment with Microsoft Office 2010 and Windows 7 Utilizing Digital Forensic Methodology 17
Gregory H. Carlton

How often is Employee Anger an Insider Risk I? **Detecting and Measuring Negative Sentiment versus Insider Risk in Digital Communications**
(**Part 1 of 2**) 39
Eric Shaw, Maria Payri, Michael Cohn, and Ilene R. Shaw

Technology Corner: **Visualising Forensic Data**: **Evidence**
(**Part 1 of 2**) 73
Damian Schofield and Ken Fowle

Subscription Information 91

From the Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 8. It is an honor to assume this responsibility as my first foray into the role of Editor-in-Chief, and I thank Gary Kessler, Glenn Dardick, and the rest of the Journal's leadership for their faith. I will strive to maintain the high level of quality the Journal has achieved, and continue to improve it as fitting to meet the needs of you, the readers.

Towards that end I would like to invite your inputs through Letters to the Editor (mailto: editor@jdfsl.org). Those of interest to the wider audience will be considered for publication. One topic worth discussing is the intended audience of the Journal. I was recently asked, "What level or kind of audience is *JDFSL* trying to hit? Practitioner? Advanced researcher? Novice?" I've asked those questions myself, repeatedly. The answer I gave was "Yes." I see the Journal as a mixed bag. We want to keep the standards high, so that it stands as an archival academic journal; this is why we perform double-blinded peer reviews of the major articles. At the same time, we want it to be a valuable resource for practitioners. And for people new to the field, I hope that it helps open their eyes to the breadth of our disciplines and sparks their interest. Your inputs are welcome.

In this issue we have three papers that share a fortunate confluence of theme: an awareness of the role of bias. This isn't bias in a negative, malicious sense, but rather the natural tendency to de-clutter the world by focusing on only those things that support our current line of reasoning (confirmation bias). The caution is that in our zeal, we need to remember to consider alternative explanations and not lose sight of the fact that when evidence is consistent with a hypothesis, this does not mean that the evidence has proven that hypothesis or refuted any others.

Dr. Fred Cohen's science article, *Measuring Inconsistency Methods for Evidentiary Value*, addresses the situation where two or more pieces of evidence appear to be inconsistent with each other, leading to a potential accusation that evidence has been altered. On the surface that is a reasonable conclusion; however, deeper analysis of their originating mechanisms may reconcile the apparent inconsistencies. The underlying truth is discovered through experimentation, reconstruction, and the conscious effort to avoid succumbing to confirmation bias.

Dr. Gregory Carlton's article, *A Simple Experiment with Microsoft Office 2010 and Windows 7 Utilizing Digital Forensic Methodology*, is aimed at practitioners. It provides a real-world example of a set of experiments to ferret out and understand system artifacts. It reminds us to avoid assumptions and biases, and to be methodical–to have a structured, reasoned and scientific

framework for testing out theories of system operations and interactions. It concludes by asking the question, "To what extent do digital forensic examiners perform such experiments?" while encouraging the research community to investigate whether such experimentation is, in fact, necessary.

In the article titled *Visualising Forensic Data: Evidence Guidelines*, Dr. Damian Schofield provides an introduction to the use of visualization techniques for presenting digital data in the courtroom. Such reconstructions can be extremely beneficial for both prosecution and defense to communicate complex information effectively to the jurors and judge. The caution is that such reconstructions, by their very nature, are potentially prone to promote the biases of their creators.

In the fourth paper, *How often is Employee Anger an Insider Risk? Detecting and Measuring Negative Sentiment versus Insider Risk in Digital Communications*, Dr. Eric Shaw explores the question evident in the title. Security managers should be especially interested, since it is the insiders who typically can do the most damage while evading detection.

Thus launches the first issue of the Journal under this new editor. Your patience and feedback will be greatly appreciated.

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