

From the Editors

We thank you for your patience as you have waited for this long delayed issue of IJDE. We believe that the obstacles we faced are resolved and, therefore, will continue to offer our readership quality articles on a quarterly basis.

The four articles in this issue explore various theoretical and practical aspects of digital forensics, all adding to our growing knowledge of this emerging field. The Carrier and Spofford article, *Getting Physical with the Digital Investigation Process*, presents a very important model, making a formal distinction between physical and digital crime scenes while emphasizing their similarities. It clarifies processes and terminology in a way that could help this field develop as a science. In *Modeling of Post-Incident Root Cause Analysis*, Stephenson discusses a formal approach to digital post-mortem investigations to understand the underlying root causes that permitted the incident to be successful and to develop countermeasures to prevent its reoccurrence. The Seward article, *The Debtor's Digital Reckonings*, provides an interesting application for digital forensic investigations. Given the widespread use of computers and other digital devices in business today, he proposes that a trustee who is investigating a debtor and attempting to recover assets for the creditors must consider conducting a digital forensic accounting investigation. The Bailey and Curran article, *An Evaluation of Image Based Steganography Methods*, provides an overview of steganography and extensive comparison of popular steganography processes.

We are actively soliciting articles for the Winter 2004 issue. Articles must be submitted by December 31, 2003 to provide time for the peer review process.

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