

From the Editors

We were gratified by the response to the last issue of IJDE. Not only did the number of visits to the website increase, but many of you sent us positive feedback on the articles. We hope that you will be as satisfied with this issue and find the articles useful in your work and research.

The Siegfried, et. al. article, *Examining the Encryption Threat*, discusses the difficulties that encrypted files present to digital forensic examiners. Metadata characteristics are considered as a way for examiners to identify the existence of encrypted files on a suspect computer. In *A Ten Step Process for Forensic Readiness*, Rowlingson takes a refreshingly proactive approach to forensics. He discusses a cost/benefit model and outlines how this proactive approach results in a win-win situation for both business and law enforcement. The Charles article, *Decoy Systems: A New Player in Network Security and Computer Incident Response*, also shows a proactive approach to network forensics. It discusses the merits of honey-pots as protective measures for networked systems. Alvarez investigates the metadata placed in pictures by digital cameras and considers its use as an indicator of authenticity of a picture in his article, *Using Extended File Information (EXIF) File Headers in Digital Evidence Analysis*. He also shows how some of the metadata can indicate that a picture has likely been edited.

We welcome two new members to the Editorial Board: Bart Stuu, Digital Information Specialist, Netherlands Competition Authority (NMa) and Cameron Malin, Esq., Special Agent, Cyber Division, FBI, Los Angeles Division. In addition, Judy Gordon has joined us as Assistant Editor.

Our Spring issue will depart from the previous ones. IJDE will partner with the Forensic Institute to publish a selection of the papers presented at the Forensic Institute Digital Evidence Symposium (FIDES04) to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 1st and 2nd.

Details of the symposium can be found at
<http://fides04.n-gate.net/index.php?page=incs/home>.

We are actively soliciting articles for the Summer 2004 issue. Articles must be submitted by June 30, 2004 to provide time for the peer review process.

Gary R. Gordon, Editor
Utica College

John J. Leeson, Editor
University of Central Florida