

IJDE and JDI

This was jointly written by the Co-Editors of the IJDE, Gary Gordon, and John Leeson, and Eoghan Casey, the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Digital Investigation. A similar piece recently appeared in the Journal of Digital Investigation (www.digitalinvestigation.net). The purpose of this collaborative effort is to clarify the commonalities and differences between these publications, and to encourage community support for both initiatives.

Over the years, several individuals and organizations have discussed the growing need for refereed journals in the digital forensics space. In 2002, the International Journal of Digital Evidence (IJDE) was established with generous support from the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Economic Crime Institute of Utica College. The IJDE, the first dedicated journal in digital forensics, was established to provide a forum for the discussion of theory, research, policy, and practice in the rapidly changing field of digital evidence. It is a quarterly online peer reviewed journal that is subscription free. The response to this journal has been overwhelming, with hits from 175 countries and 177,000 downloads as of November 2004.

Members of the community felt there was also a need for a print peer-reviewed journal, resulting in the launch of the Journal of Digital Investigation (JDI) in 2004. The JDI is the first dedicated professionally published journal in digital forensics, which indicates the progress that the field is making in gaining recognition as an important discipline. In its first year, the journal published 38 substantial articles covering a wide range of topics. Each issue of this quarterly journal contains research papers and practitioner oriented articles, which are also available online in PDF format to paid subscribers, as well as sections summarizing noteworthy news and events. Select articles are published on the JDI Web site for free download, and the journal is being made available at a reduced price to groups with limited resources.

Peer-reviewed publications play an important role in establishing generally accepted principles and methodologies in forensic disciplines. Courts look to journals, among other things, to assess individuals' qualifications and the validity of scientific evidence. Journals also help harmonize the practices and procedures of forensic examiners throughout the world. In addition, publications inform members of the community of new developments and pressing problems. In a field such as digital forensics, with its rapid rate of change and many areas of specialization, a reliable source of up-to-date information is invaluable.

Both journals were established to enable knowledge sharing and to advance the field as a forensic science discipline. Interest in these journals continues to grow and we are receiving an increasing number of submissions covering promising research, pressing legal issues, and innovative methods and procedures. The

diversity of research relating to digital forensics is astounding, as is the ongoing innovation of tools and techniques to assist digital investigators.

The focus of the International Journal of Digital Evidence (IJDE) is on research findings, advancement of new theories, discussions of evolving standards, validation methods, and certification processes based on scientific methods, presentations of key legal and legislative issues, reports on significant advances in technology, and analyses of innovative policies and practices in the digital evidence field. A review of the first ten issues shows that there have been articles in all of the above areas with a particular emphasis on academic and research focused pieces. The editors have made an effort to publish papers that proposed promising, not fully developed concepts in an attempt to promote discourse in the field.

The IJDE editors publish the best articles submitted. They do not focus each issue on a specific area. In order to advance this emerging field, the editors solicit and publish articles on legal and practitioner standards, certifications, and the processes and terminology which will help the field develop as a science. Articles that encourage additional research, are proactive in nature, propose innovative concepts that provoke further discussion, and add to the growing knowledge of the field are encouraged and welcome.

The Journal of Digital Investigation (JDI) will continue to serve the diverse groups in our community and encourage knowledge exchange between investigators, researchers, and attorneys in a variety of environments, including corporate, law enforcement, and military organizations. The JDI strongly encourages articles and research papers that bridge the gap between theory and practice by presenting research in a form that is useful to practitioners, and presenting investigative challenges that call for new research. In addition to providing a respected platform for research, the JDI editors intend to focus more on the applied and legal aspects of digital forensics. Specifically, they aim to address the need expressed by practitioners for more technical articles to help them deal with operating systems such as MacOS X, and applications such as AOL and Outlook. In addition, practitioners are calling for objective reviews of new forensic tools for processing new technologies such as mobile telephones, and for fusing and analyzing large amounts of data from multiple sources. In the legal arena, the JDI editors intend to cover legal issues relevant to digital investigators in different jurisdictions and in both criminal and corporate contexts. We are also actively seeking case studies that demonstrate important lessons, useful techniques, and emerging challenges for digital investigations.

It is challenging to cover all of these areas in each issue of the JDI while maintaining the necessary quality of papers. Rather than succumb to the temptation of accepting papers that do not meet our high standards, we are escalating our efforts to reach out to practitioners, lawyers, universities and conferences to encourage more submissions.

We hope that our readers will continue to support both journals, both by reading them and submitting articles for review.

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