

Roundtable Discussion: Challenges of Computer and Digital Forensics Training and Education

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The field of computer and digital forensics is changing rapidly and our dependence on computers and network is increasing. Techniques from computer and digital forensics are being used not only for investigating crime, but also for auditing systems as well as for recovery of lost data. Computer and digital forensics involves data not only from computers, but also from servers, networks, and mobile devices. The needs of the public sector workforce are growing as the demand for such expertise increases within existing IT departments and new forensics divisions are created in agencies. However, they are competing with the private sector, which often lure prospective employees with better salaries. Knowledge of computer and digital forensics has become a necessary component of any IT specialist, but due to the changing environment, it is also important to adapt by continuing to learn new tools and techniques.

In this roundtable, the panel will discuss the challenges faced by educators/trainers, law enforcement, and prosecution in terms of training, retraining, and retaining a computer and digital forensics capable workforce. It will also cover novel ways to ensure continuous training to security and forensics professionals. The three panelists at the roundtable bring different perspectives to the discussion. Fabio R. Auffant II is a forensics expert in the Computer Crime Unit of the NYS Police, Sean Smith is a technical resource attorney from the NY Prosecutors Training Institute, and Christian Balan is the director of the Computer and Digital Forensics Program at Champlain College.