



INTRODUCTION

The Consortium of Digital Forensics (CDFFS) is the result of many years of grassroots work by digital forensic professionals to unite practitioners from all sectors of the industry to focus on such issues as standards, regulation, and ethics. The group came together to respond to improper licensing initiatives in several states in the United States. Over the course of time it became apparent that, like all other professions, the digital forensic industry needed an umbrella organization to help it advance. CDFFS was incorporated as a not-for-profit professional association in December of 2010. We are pleased to announce that in June, 2012, CDFFS earned 501(c)(6) tax exempt nonprofit status from the IRS.

CDFFS went live on August 4, 2011. CDFFS' launch and first year were a significant success. As a measure of this success, CDFFS was honored to accept the Digital Forensic Organization of the Year award as voted on by the digital forensic community and awarded by Forensic 4Cast in June of 2012.

ORGANIZATION

CDFFS is led by an interim Board of Directors, five officers, and several committee leaders. The leaders of CDFFS are prominent professionals from the myriad digital forensic industry sectors including academia, government, professional associations, certifying organizations, training entities, law enforcement, and product developers. The five current committees include the Standards Committee, Ethics Committee, Outreach Committee, Advocacy Committee, and Membership Committee. The Board of Directors convenes for teleconferences on a weekly basis. Committees meet for teleconferences as needed.

MEMBERSHIP

CDFFS had immediate success with digital forensic professionals. Our most important membership statistic is our global reach. CDFFS currently has individual members or organizational delegates from 29 countries on 6 continents. This maximizes our ability to reach additional digital forensic practitioners as well as to understand issues impacting professionals from all areas of the globe. CDFFS members communicate over a members-only listserv as well as several committee-specific mailing lists.

Members fall into one of two categories – individual or organizational. Our goal is to reach as many digital forensic practitioners as possible for membership for two reasons: First, our work product is best when it is the result of an informed discussion and debate. All digital forensic professionals should have a voice in the debate about our future. Second, our work commands the respect and consideration of those outside the industry when it is the product of so many subject matter experts.

In a brief period of time, CDFFS has approved more than 160 individual member applications. The number continues to grow. These individual members represent all industry sectors. CDFFS has 10 organizational members that are represented by more than 70 delegates. These organizational members include many prominent industry leaders. Our roster of organizational members include the High Tech Crime Consortium (Platinum Sponsor), International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS), High Technology Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA), Association of Digital Forensics Security and Law (ADFSL), Cybersecurity Malaysia, Forensic Computers Incorporated, Utica College, the Computer Forensics Advanced Technology Education program, Madison Area Technical College, and KPMG.

COMMITTEES

- **ETHICS** - The CDFFS Ethics Committee consists of several members working under the leadership of Committee Chair Dr. Gregg Gunsch from Defiance College in Ohio. Dr. Gunsch was the first of several committee chair appointments for the Board during its first year of operation. Under the direction of Dr. Gunsch, and with



significant contribution by members of the Committee, the Ethics Committee successfully drafted and released for comment the CDFS Code of Ethics. As of the writing of this Report, the Code is in its final editing phase with a planned release during the Fall of 2012. The Code will be released as a model for professional associations in the future. The Ethics Committee will be developing training and educational materials on the topic of ethics to supplement the release of the Code and assist with implementation.

- **OUTREACH** - The Board appointed Christa Miller to lead the Outreach Committee during the fall of 2011. The Outreach Committee keeps members, and the digital forensic community, apprised of CDFS' progress as well as issues germane to CDFS' interests. CDFS' main interface with the public is its website, launched in August of 2011 at www.cdfs.org. The Outreach Committee currently maintains updates to the website. CDFS also has a public blog, developed and launched in May of 2012 at <http://www.cdfs.org/blog/>. Members and the public can also stay apprised of CDFS activity by way of CDFS' active social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. CDFS has been featured in several blog posts, journal articles, and podcasts since launch.
- **ADVOCACY:** In May of 2012, the Board announced the appointment of Don Mason, Esq., Research Professor of Law and Assistant Director of the National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law at the University of Mississippi, to the position of Chair of the Advocacy Committee. CDFS' first year was a busy one for the members of the Advocacy Committee, which is tasked with researching and addressing regulatory issues that impact digital forensic practitioners. In December of 2011, CDFS announced an informal alliance with the American Bar Association's Section of Science and Technology on issues related to the digital forensic industry. CDFS had prior experience working with the Section on Resolution 301 in opposition to improper licensing initiatives in the United States. The Advocacy Committee will be working on additional educational initiatives and utilize partnerships like these for implementation in the future.

The Advocacy Committee also took an active role in working on research and communication with regulatory bodies on licensing initiatives in several states in the past year. CDFS' ongoing response to these initiatives will not change. Recent activity including work in Illinois and Alabama, as well as South Carolina and Tennessee where CDFS filed educational papers on the topic of licensing, with state regulators contemplating licensing. CDFS released this paper to its membership in February of 2012.

- **STANDARDS:** Dr. Pavel Gladyshev, Director of the Forensic Computing and Cybercrime Investigation program at the University College of Dublin, was appointed by the Board to lead the Standards Committee in March of 2012. Since that time, the Standards Committee has engaged in a gap analysis project to identify existing standards as well as ongoing standards initiatives across the globe that impact digital forensic practitioners. This includes a survey released to members, and digital forensic professionals, during the summer of 2012. Survey feedback, and other research, are being assembled to assist in the identification of standards needs moving forward. CDFS is currently working with the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission to establish a relationship for the development of digital forensic standards.

CDFS' FUTURE

CDFS has many plans for the immediate and more distant future. Several ongoing projects are described above. Building membership, and establishing relationships with other organizations will be key to the future success of CDFS' initiatives. These initiatives are critical in shaping the future of digital forensics. And CDFS' members and leaders are dedicated to the mission. To learn more about or to contact CDFS, please visit www.cdfs.org.