Editorial

Change and diversity

This editorial announces several changes to FSI's Digital Investigation journal and presents our commitment to diversity.

Leadership change

Due to Elsevier’s policy limiting the Editor-in-Chief role to a maximum of ten years, Eoghan Casey has decided to hand over the position to new leadership. Eoghan has been the driving force behind Digital Investigation since he helped establish it in 2004. His work to promote the journal in the digital forensics community has created a reputation of trust, quality and integrity. During his time leading the journal, Eoghan has provided both professional and personal guidance to authors, offering advice and encouragement. He also valued the input from the board and the community for decision making and influencing the direction of the journal. This has resulted in the journal’s ability to adapt to changes in digital forensics, without losing the fundamental focus on forensic evidence.

The long term success and strategic direction of the journal was also important to Eoghan during his tenure. This is reflected in the rising impact factor over the years, and the significant step in moving the journal into the Forensic Science International (FSI) family of journals. His success negotiating the transition to FSI has helped change the perception of digital forensics. The digital forensics community is now clearly recognized as a formal scientific discipline, an equal among the traditional forensic sciences.

Eoghan's personal priority and focus has always been on the field of digital forensics. This can be seen in his work to bring together people, projects, and conferences like DFRWS. Digital Investigation journal has benefited from this effort to connect the larger digital forensics community. On behalf of the journal, we offer our sincerest thanks to Eoghan Casey for his outstanding work over the past decade and a half.

The role of Editor-in-Chief will be filled by Bruce Nikkel and Zeno Geradts acting as co-Editors-in-Chief of FSI Digital Investigation. Zeno and Bruce have worked as the journal’s handling editors for a number of years and are a logical choice to continue leading the journal. The handling editor roles will be filled by Mark Scanlon and Raymond Choo. Raymond and Mark have been involved with FSI Digital Investigation in various capacities for many years. This new leadership team have accepted their new roles with great enthusiasm. We are confident that the integrity and quality of the journal will be preserved, and will continue as a knowledge pillar in the digital forensics community.

Diversity

In addition to the change in leadership, we want to commit to a renewed focus on diversity. The new leadership team is currently developing a plan to increase diversity, both on the journal’s board, and with the journal’s authorship. Currently the journal board is less than 10% female. We hope to increase this to 20% over the next 12 months. In addition, we want to add a female handling editor to the leadership team. We are asking the digital forensics community to encourage diversity in our community, and also to strengthen the diversity of the journal’s leadership. To initiate this effort, we would like to announce our pledge: https://www.journals.elsevier.com/forensic-science-international-digital-investigation/news/diversity-inclusion-pledge-forensic-science-international.

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