

LET'S TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF EVIDENCE TALKS LTD

June 2007

Unique solutions in

Digital Forensics

THIS ISSUE



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Staff Profile — P2 & 3



Managing director Andrew Sheldon pictured with our Remote Forensics solution

DEAL TAKES RF INTO THE USA

EVIDENCE TALKS has signed a ground-breaking deal to distribute our Remote Forensics solution across continental America.

Strategic Partner ICG (Internet Crimes Group) will be responsible for the entire sales and support operation coast to coast.

The deal is the latest development in a long-standing and successful relationship between Evidence Talks and ICG — we have been distributing their suite of e-crime investigation tools in the UK for several years.

Announcing the agreement, managing director Andrew

Sheldon said: "This is a hugely exciting deal for us at Evidence Talks.

"We have already had massive interest in Remote Forensics after demonstrating it live at the E-Congress in London recently.

"The United States is a huge marketplace with thousands of corporations and organisations that fit our sales profile — they have multiple sites and risk locations across what is a very large continent.

"We are confident that by harnessing the talents and experience of our strategic partners at ICG, Remote Forensics

can go on to become one of the big success stories of the digital forensic scene in Europe, America and worldwide.

"We are looking forward to a very long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationship."

Jeff Bedser, president of ICG, said: "The Internet Crimes Group is excited to take a leading role in the distribution and sales of Remote Forensics in the North American market.

"This is a practical and effective solution for those in the legal industry as well as those that handle critical incident responses in the IT arena."



These are very busy times at Evidence Talks.

But even though we are in the middle of a flurry of building work which will double our size, the show must go on.

Three shows actually...

Last month we were in Scotland for the SASIG (Security Awareness Special Interest Group) event.

From there we flew straight to Zagreb where I explained to an international audience of computer security professionals the 10 Steps How Not To Damage the Evidence.

And our international travels continue this month when we will be exhibiting at the intellectual property IP-Congress in Belgium.

While we're there we will also be running educational seminars on how technology can help detect, investigate and prosecute IP thieves and counterfeiters.

We'll let you know how we got on in the next newsletter. Bye for now!

Andrew

Editor
Andrew Sheldon MSc

Writer
Kevin Allen

Design
Silverstone Media

At the Peake of his career

Name: Dick Peake

Age: 50

Status: Married with three children – two at university

Job title: Senior Forensic Analyst

Typical day at Evidence Talks

First, I check the forensic workstations to see what they've achieved for me overnight. I try to make sure they're crunching work that doesn't need me in front of the screens. Then I'll set them off on the next task. Every hour or so I force myself away from the screen and take a brief walk around, outside if it's sunny. Computer forensic work requires intense concentration for extended periods and it's good to get away from the screen and reset your head, particularly if you are examining material from the more unsavoury side of life

What do you love most about it?

Getting the result the client hoped for but didn't really believe I could! You can batter away at zillions of computer files and then a little golden nugget pops out and it's a 'gotcha' moment!

And what do you hate?

That's easy – nothing! It's a great job, challenging and, at my advanced years, just as good as Sudoku at keeping my grey matter functioning!



The most unusual project worked on?

Two weeks in a derelict and bankrupt Central Asian country earlier this year making forensic copies of around 50 computers in one of their few big firms. The work was routine, but the environment was, erm... interesting. From the flight in and out of the country in a rickety Russian plane to the allegedly five star hotel, eating some 'challenging' food and policemen openly demanding bribes, it was most definitely an 'experience'!

What did you do before you worked as a forensic analyst?

I was police officer, 'retiring' after 30 years. I am the only 'pensioner' in the company!

What was the most memorable thing that happened in the force?

The man in a wheelchair whose wife phoned to say he was fighting a giant rabbit he'd caught (it was an escaped wallaby!). There was Sweaty Betty, a prostitute on my patch who, fancying a drink one morning, picked up a barrel of lager from a dray lorry and walked off with it on her shoulder. And the man who shot off his testicles while trying (unsuccessfully) to end his life. He made a lot of fuss over it at the time but duly lived to a good age.

What made you decide to become a forensic analyst?

I didn't. Back in the mid-1980s computer evidence recovery was in its infancy and my Inspector sent me on a course to find out about it. Of course I was immediately the expert in my force and it gradually evolved from there. When I retired at the ripe old age of 49, it seemed a logical step to move into the private sector, and put my investigative skills to good use.

A lot of re-training?

No. It's a constant process of self-training and keeping abreast of developments, plus completing appropriate courses as and when they arise.

What will you do when you retire

Retire!

Hobbies?

Motorcycling. I've never been without a bike since I was 19. I tour all over Europe every year (I'm off to Switzerland and Northern Italy in a few weeks) and next year I plan to tackle the Rockies, starting in Denver.

Favourite holiday destination?

Lanzarote. My wife speaks fluent Spanish (I'm illiterate in several languages) so we are able to keep well away from the tourists and enjoy the locals and their music. If you make the effort, they are warm and welcoming. It's relaxing.

Favourite music?

Clapton, John Mayall, Black Sabbath. Then chuck in Shostakovich and Steeleye Span, plus the Gypsy Kings and Andre from El Campasino in Lanzarote.

Favourite drink?

Proper, hand-pulled beer.

Sport?

Rowing. I retired from competitive rowing once I was 50 as the pain of fighting off the youngsters was getting a bit much. I'm currently training as a regatta umpire.

Best night out?

In the village. It's always within walking distance of my house and spent in the company of good friends with lots of laughter.

No space for sex offenders

MySPACE has made a dramatic U-turn over its decision not to hand over details of sex offenders to law enforcement officials.

Faced with subpoenas, the social networking site – which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp – has now agreed to reveal the names and other details of 7,000 profiles linked to people convicted of sex crimes.

MySpace had earlier refused to hand over the data because officials had not followed the required legal process.

There is growing pressure in the States to do more to protect underage members from predatory paedophiles.

Banks turn up heat to Maxx

FASHION retailer TJ Maxx is feeling the heat after thieves stole more than 45 million customers' credit and debit card numbers from its parent company last month.

The case – which made headlines around the world – has sparked a mass of claims from more than 300 United States banks who say they have been forced to issue new cards and cover fraudulent purchases.

One disgruntled Chief Executive Officer said: "If we're successful against TJX, the nation's major retailers will finally wake up to the fact that not protecting consumer data is an unfair trade practice."

Concerns over online voting

THE recent local government elections might have been a shot in the arm for the Conservatives, but there were concerns in IT circles that internet votes could have been rigged.

One expert told The Guardian security measures at some online voting systems being trialled were "catastrophically weak".

APPOINTMENTS

Two new faces join our team

TWO new faces have recently joined our rapidly expanding team here at Evidence Talks.

Developers Keith Humphrey and Sebastian Smith add considerable skills to our development team.

Keith is putting the finishing touches to mETL, while Seb is contributing heavily to our flagship Remote Forensics solution.

Keith, 39, joins us after five years with Milton Keynes-based Logicom. Not content with a maths degree, he returned to university some years later and scored a Masters in computing. Keith enjoys travelling and



Sebastian Smith

languages, with a particular emphasis on Europe and is a keen chess player.

Sebastian, who has "played with computers since I was a wee lad", is a big fan of Liverpool FC.



Keith Humphrey

Aged 21, he has two daughters, Ana and Eva, and has just joined his village cricket team.

We wish Keith and Sebastian every success in their exciting new roles at Evidence Talks.

LOGISTICS



Building on the go

WORK is now well under way to double the size of our premises after we signed a deal to take over the lease on our adjoining business unit.

Builders are creating a state-of-the-art, fully-secure, forensic laboratory for up to six analysts.

The plans also include a secure storage area for evidence, exhibits and customer data, an enlarged training facility and a new product evaluation area for customers.

Work is expected to be completed by the end of June.



V-ishious intentions

I'VE heard a lot about 'phishing' but recently a colleague said I should be more concerned about 'sms-ishing' and 'v-ishing'. Is she right and what are they?

Mr JS, Bishop's Stortford

EDITOR REPLIES: Criminals are always looking for new ways to scam people.

'sms-ishing' uses SMS messages to convince users to click on a link to a fake website. 'v-ishing' is when a voice message is sent to a VoIP phone to get users to reveal personal information.

Always treat unsolicited messages with caution — whatever the medium.

'Phishing' alert as sales rocket

SHOPPERS will spend an astonishing £42 billion online this year, matching the entire turnover of retail giant Tesco.

The figure is more than 40 times the amount spent in the year 2000, at the height of the first dotcom boom.

But with so much financial activity on the internet, consumers are being warned to be even more vigilant against so-called 'phishing' expeditions, where fraudsters send emails purporting to be from stores and banks.

Customers are reminded never to reveal account numbers and passwords when replying to emails.

Is it the end of television sets?

ITV addicts will soon be able to get their fix without going anywhere near a TV set.

ITV has announced it is making 20,000 hours of classic programmes available online in a bid to outdo rival BBC service iPlayer.

Viewers will also be able to watch chart-topping shows such as Coronation Street free of charge for up to 30 days after they have been transmitted.

Gadgets never leave their box

ONE in five gadgets never leave their box because technophobes are too scared to use them, says Scooter Computer.

A billion pounds worth of IPODS, sat-navs and software remain unopened every year.

ISSUES

KEEPING AN EYE ON IPOD THREAT

EVERYONE loves the iPod... It's the cute, cool, fashion statement which has revolutionised the way we organise and listen to our music.

But it also has a dark side.

In the wrong hands, Apple's iconic music player can cause devastation to the unwary business.

How? Because it is really a portable hard drive...which just happens to play music.

Nobody would blink if an employee had one sitting on their desk during the lunch break.

But in seconds a scheming or disgruntled worker could plug it in to their computer and 'slurp' up everything from confidential price lists to your complete customer database.

It's a problem all too familiar to Evidence Talks.

We are seeing growing numbers of cases of systematic



Dangerous...MP3 Players

fraud at companies using the most innocuous-looking equipment, such as memory sticks, iPods, MP3 players and even digital cameras.

People are astonished to find out but, yes, even digital cameras are portable storage devices. They store digital information and they don't care whether it is a picture, a Word file or an Excel database.

That is why it is vital companies' human resources departments have a policy in place to handle

the presence of these devices in the office.

IT security is the biggest single issue facing businesses in 2007, but it is not just the enemy within you need to be wary of.

As larger corporations have reacted to the threat from organised crime by 'locking down' their systems, criminals are increasingly looking at small to medium-sized companies, which they see as a soft target.

That's why it is vital companies draw up an acceptable-use policy for computers, which must be signed by all employees.

This should be backed up by a strategy for preventing misuse and, finally, a system for the effective investigation of any offenders who slip through the net.

Preventative measures can include such things as denying portable memory devices access to networks and workstations.

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