



DIGITAL INFORMATION GATHERING & INVESTIGATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

# fingerprints

## CONSULTING SERVICES:

- Computer Forensics and Data Recovery
- Corporate Computer Investigations
- Litigation Support Services
- Network Security Advisory services
- General Computer Consulting services

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## Strategic Alliance – BrightPlanIT

In October, DIGITS and BrightPlanIT entered into a strategic alliance together. BrightPlanIT’s extensive experience with consulting and systems integration is an exceptional fit with the wide-ranging computer forensic and data recovery services offered by DIGITS. This alliance will allow both



companies to service additional industries and groups while still providing our individual products and

services at the highest level.



BrightPlanIT President & CEO, Alan “Skip” Gould is very excited about this new alliance. “The combined expertise of the two organizations should help bring additional value to our clients in the corporate and legal space. The balance of our clients should also find some comfort in recognizing that we have the extensive experience and knowledge possessed by

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## HTCIA Northeast Chapter 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Training Conference



DIGITS President, Michael G. McCartney, was recently elected President of the High Technology Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA).

HTCIA is an International association comprised of 44 chapters world-wide with 31 chapters in the United States. The North East Chapter is the third largest chapter within the organization with nearly 300 members. The members comprise public, private and academia focused on Infor-

mation Security, Cyber Crime and Computer Forensics.

The Northeast Chapter was established in 1990 making this year our Chapter’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Syracuse University has partnered with HTCIA to host the conference scheduled for May 18 –

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## Sometimes Users do the Stupidest Things...

**S**ometimes engagements require more than the standard level of service and expertise. It is no secret that anyone with sufficient room on a credit card can purchase forensic software and a computer to drive it. Unfortunately, it takes more than a suite of software or a high-powered computer to satisfy some situations. More often than not, some engagements rely heavily on experience with a broad range of software and hardware configurations and the cleverness of the examiner based on years of experience in order to see results.

Take for example the case of a client who dismissed a senior executive. This company allowed senior management users to use issued devices with very little oversight. In this case, the executive was using an Apple Macintosh laptop. The company had been watching various activities of this executive for a while, as they appeared to be suspicious and cause for concern. When the executive caught wind of the investigation, he decided to begin taking advantage of the Macintosh operating system's built in encryption and encrypted his entire home directory along with all records of his activities on the company owned laptop computer.

After the executive was terminated, the company decided to retain the services of a forensic consultant (not DIGITS), who promptly scanned



the laptop's hard drive with a standard forensic suite and obtained only one result. The examiner was not fluent in Macintosh computers, but recognized the encrypted directory and informed the company that no further results were possible.

The company decided the answer provided by their forensic consultant was not good enough and hired DIGITS. We were able to leverage our knowledge of the operating system to get enough relevant information on the software versions running on the laptop to realize some data might be available. Through much research on the algorithms used and sifting through raw, unstructured data, DIGITS was able to recover over 81,000 items from the encrypted drive including Microsoft Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PDF files, Internet History and Cache data, and two complete non-company related email boxes being used for communication with the company's direct competitors.

In the end, the company was pleased to be able to take action against their employee with proof in their possession provided by DIGITS. It was ultimately based on our experience and training that allowed DIGITS to be successful in recovering data from a piece of evidence that a user made affirmative steps to render unrecoverable.

Other forensic examiner – 1; DIGITS – 81,000

## Conference *continued from Page 1*

20, 2010. The Conference will feature high caliber speakers from various industries to share knowledge and the latest information facing today's organizations and enforcement efforts. For more information visit <http://www.ne-htcia.org> or contact Michael McCartney at [Michael.mccartney@dig-its.com](mailto:Michael.mccartney@dig-its.com)



Syracuse University's new Life Science Complex

## Strategic Alliance *continued from Page 1*



the DIGITS team available if they should need forensic recovery work done for any reason.”

Michael McCartney, DIGITS President & CEO, said "We look forward to being able to extend our services in the area of computer forensics, advanced data recovery, and litigation support services to the clients and customers of BrightPlanIT. DIGITS is a company focused on assisting businesses with tackling the complex hurdles associated with obtaining digital information required for litigation and legal disputes. By associating with BrightPlanIT, DIG-

ITS' services are now available to a much wider audience." Skip Gould added "Combining the level of service and professionalism brought to this alliance by BrightPlanIT and DIGITS significantly enhances our client's Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans as well as significantly mitigating employee dispute resolutions when they arise."

BrightPlanIT is a New York State Corporation offering consulting, systems integration, training, software development and security services to mid market and enterprise organizations. BrightPlanIT

has six offices in the United States located in New York, Arizona, Nevada, Virginia and seventh facility in the Toronto, Ontario area.

*"The combined expertise of the two organizations should help bring additional value to our clients in the corporate and legal space.*

**Alan "Skip" Gould**  
BrightPlanIT President & CEO

## DIGITS Practitioners Certified by International Forensic Board

The principals and staff at DIGITS have all received certification and/or re-certification by the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialist (IACIS). IACIS is an international volunteer non-profit corporation composed of law enforcement professionals dedicated to education in the field of forensic computer science. IACIS members represent Federal, State, Local and International Law Enforcement professionals.



IACIS prides itself on being the world's leading organization for computer forensics practitioners. In addition to providing the highest quality computer forensics training, IACIS strives to foster excellence in the field through a formal certification process. The Certified Computer Forensic Examiner (CFCE) has become the de-facto standard in certifications world-wide.

Computer forensics is the acquisition, authentication, reconstruction, examination, and analysis of data stored on electronic media. IACIS training addresses each of these key tasks; and the certification process which includes mandatory periodic recertification through proficiency testing, measures one's ability to perform these key tasks in accordance with established standards.

## A DIGITS Case Study In Data Recovery

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### The Situation:

DIGITS received a call from a client about a server that crashed and some data was lost. The client determined it was a hardware disk controller that stopped functioning and corrupted the file system on the RAID array. The corruption happened between backup windows but immediately after a major number of orders had been taken. The client needed to fulfill those

orders as soon as possible with a minimum of inconvenience to their customers.

They called DIGITS to see if we could help. And we did.

### The Solution:

DIGITS experts were able to obtain the disks in the drive array that were affected by the corruption. Using specialized hardware and software, the disks could be logically put back together in the proper format. The consolidated drive was then forensically imaged to working media. Using forensic data extraction techniques and some programs written for the task, the lost data was found intact on the forensic image. DIGITS' analysts were able to export the order data as well as several

log files recorded immediately prior to the hardware failure.

With the extracted order data provided by DIGITS, the client was able to fulfill the customer orders without any significant delay and without having to contact their customers to repeat the orders. Based on the additional information retrieved by DIGITS, the IT staff was able to trace the hardware failure to a failed driver update.



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