

LANsultants Times

Your official Source for LANsultants News

Vol. 7 No. 10

215-546-3124

October 2005

NOW OFFERING COMPUTER FORENSICS SERVICES

LANsultants is proud to announce the addition of computer forensics to the family of services offered to our clients. In October, senior network consultant Fritz Blanchette was certified in the use of AccessData's Ultimate Toolkit, a leading computer forensics solution used by government agencies, law enforcement, and corporate security at Departments worldwide.

AccessData's Ultimate Toolkit includes a host of applications and utilities designed to work with many popular forms of digital media, including hard disks, CDs and DVDs, USB thumb drives, and floppy disks. It can recover deleted and hidden files, crack passwords and data encryption, and present actionable evidence in a clean, comprehensive report.

LANsultants new computer forensics services are ideal not only for assisting you in you in handling cases involving digital evidence, but also in securing your own network. Insure that you computer system is being used in compliance with the policies that you've set forth.

PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE!

If you receive digital evidence, such as a computer or a hard drive, do not turn it on or attempt to examine it. Any such attempt will compromise the integrity and possible admissibility of the evidence. LANsultants employs special hardware to extract information in a fashion consistent with standard computer forensics "best practices".



LANsultants has initiated implementation of our automated network monitoring program, which we are calling Digital Watchtower. As implemented, this service can be a simple passive monitoring service with support provided on a "as needed" basis, or fully integrated, with scheduled preventive maintenance of servers and workstations. A full description of this service will be posted to our web site next week.

If you would like to be removed from our email newsletter subscription, please send an e-mail to shirlean@lansultants.com

WHAT IS COMPUTER FORENSICS?

Computer forensics is the process of investigating data storage devices and data processing equipment typically a home computer, laptop, server, office workstation, or removable media such as compact discs, to determine if the equipment has been used for illegal, unauthorized, or unusual activities.

The term "Computer Forensics" was coined back in 1991 in the first training session held by the International Association of Computer Specialists (IACIS) in Portland, Oregon. Since then, computer forensics has become a popular topic in computer security circles and in the legal community. Computer forensics has also been described as the autopsy of a computer hard disk drive because specialized software tools and techniques are required to analyze the various levels at which computer data is stored after the fact.

ARE YOUR CYBER WARE ?

The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), a public-private partnership between the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Trade Commission, and many private-sector corporations, and organizations provides information, tools, and resources necessary to protect your business from hackers, virus threats, Internet scams, and identity theft.

Their web site provides the valuable information you need to safeguard your systems, including a self-guided cyber security test, educational materials and other Internet resources, and valuable information from partnering organizations. Visit this, and these additional websites, to learn how you can improve your security practices:

* **NCSA's Stay Safe Online Website:**

<http://www.staysafeonline.org>

* **OnGuardOnline (FTC Website):**

<http://onguardonline.gov>

* **National Cyber Security Partnership (tools for home users and small businesses):**

<http://www.cyberpartnership.org/init-aware.html>

We encourage you to learn more to guard against network attacks, secure your important business assets, and protect your data.