



D28 The Future of Professionalism in Digital Forensics

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The goal of this presentation is to give the historical development of professionalism, explain where the profession is now, and explain where we need to be.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by describing the professional organizations for digital forensic practitioners and individual certification are two cornerstones of professionalism.

When new types of tasks come into the work place and require technical skills, rapid growth groups of individuals with the appropriate talents focus on acquiring positions to do these specialized tasks can be seen. As the technology grows, the general population's need for the technology grows, and specialties within the technology begin to develop. People begin to focus their tasks in the given specialty and experts begin to develop. As experts develop they begin to be very independent. As time goes forward, they will make a mistake that draws attention from the community. At this point the community can decide to control these experts by investigations and litigations or the experts themselves decide to become self-regulating.

Today we are at the leading edge of self-regulating in the digital forensic areas through professional organizations, laboratory accreditation and developing professional certification boards for the various subspecialties in digital evidence.

In the future, the community will come together through these paths and will become very organized. So much so that they will develop forensic processes before the latest gadget is sold. At last we keep pace with the criminals!

Digital Forensics, Professionalism, Certification