



The Digital Forensics Certification Board

Presented by  
Carrie M. Whitcomb  
Director, NCFS

Digital Forensics Certification Board



### Roundtable Consensus 2004

**Question 1**  
Should there be some form of certification for forensic practitioners?  
The unanimous conclusion of the roundtable participants was that the need for certification is imperative.

**Question 2**  
Will a single certification work for all practitioners?  
There are many roles in the forensic process and while each role requires education or training, not all will require certification. It was recognized that a single certification process is possible. However, there will need to be some number of specialized sub-certifications based on common bodies of knowledge.

### Mission

The Digital Forensics Certification Board exists to promote:

- Professionalism
- Trust
- Confidence in the digital forensics profession
- By providing professional certifications

### History Past and Today

- "Digital Forensics Professional Certification" is funded by a Grant for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to the National Center for Forensic Science (NCFS) at the University of Central Florida (UCF)
- 2004 Roundtable Discussion with Professional Groups, Federal & State Agencies
- 2005 European Network of Forensic Institutes (ENFSI)
- 2006-08 Numerous volunteers from academia, business, industry, federal, state and local law enforcement and forensic scientists have made this professional certification possible.
- From March 2, 2009 through August 31, 2009 the DFCB accepted applications for Digital Forensic Certified Practitioner (DFCP) and Digital Forensic Certified Associate (DFCA).

### Officers of the DFCB

The Digital Forensics Certification Board (DFCB) was finalized in 2008

- Sam Guttman, retired Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, US Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, Washington, D.C. served as the President of the DFCB
- Mark Pollitt, former Chief of the FBI's, Computer Analysis and Response Team, serves as Vice President
- Howard Ommert, former USSS Agent, now working for Bank of America, serves as Secretary
- Jeff Cable, retired from the San Diego RCFL, serves as Treasurer
- Carrie Whitcomb, Program Leader for the DFCB project
- Gaylon Thompson, Department of Defense (DC3), Technical Leader

### DFCB Committee Chairs

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- Certification Testing: Marc Rogers, Purdue University
- Communication & Marketing: Warren Kruse, CISSP, CFCE, Vice President, Data Forensics and Analytics
- Ethics and Discipline: TBD
- Credentials & Applications: Ken Privette, US Postal Service, Office of Inspector General
- Recertification: Eric Walton, UCF Police, Mgr. of DE Lab

### Types of Certifications

- Internal certification programs
- Vendor certifications that are tool-specific
- Restrictive professional associations
- "Certificates" offered without an assessment

### Why DFCB Certification?

- The DFCB's product will be certifications
- Focused on benefits for the professionals, not profit
- The DFCB provides an inclusive professional body to promote collaboration
- We will seek independent accreditation for our certification through the FSAB
- We will have opportunities for scholarships

### DFCB Concept

- To promote trust and confidence in the digital forensics profession
- To enhance the reputation and capabilities of the digital forensics profession
- To produce a quality professional certification for a reasonable price
- To provide a standard of excellence for use by courts, employers, and practitioners themselves

## DFCB Concept

- To provide an objective certification process in digital forensics which will help the maturation of digital forensics as a science
- To encourage the sharing of information, methods and processes among members of the profession
- To establish and enforce a Code of Ethics and a Standard of Professional Conduct

## Types of Certification

### The Digital Forensic Certification Board offers:

- Digital Forensic Certified Practitioner (DFCP) Based on Current Activities and Experience
- Digital Forensic Certified Associate (DFCA) Based on Experience

## Benefits

- Public
  - Practitioners are held accountable to a high standard of excellence
- Employers
  - Hire certified practitioners that meet objective and independent standards
- Overall
  - Provide weight to the opinions and findings obtained by the practitioner and acted upon by the employer and the public.

## DFCB Advantages

- **Objective and independent**
- **Community-based**
- **Core competencies**
- **Ethics driven Standards of Professional Conduct**

*Professional Certification*

## What DFCB is Not

- We don't provide training
- We don't sell software
- We don't do case work
- We don't sell membership
- We hope to develop a study guide

## Communities Served

- Public and private sectors
- Criminal and civil courts
- Business and industry
- Regulatory and administrative bodies
- Academia

## Current Status

- DFCB is a NIJ Project at NCFS/UCF and operating as a non profit organization
- Our Directors and Officers are leaders in the forensic community
- "Founders" applications were offered from March 2 through August 31, 2009
- 147 applicants applied for the "Founders" certification
- The costs were \$300 and then \$350

## Accomplishments

- Founders is a 3-Part Process
- Part-1
  - Download PDF form fill documents from [www.dfcb.org](http://www.dfcb.org)
  - Complete and submit scoring sheet
  - Complete and submit application with signature page
  - Make \$350 fee payment on website
  - Background screening performed
- Part-2
  - Submit all supporting documents for application
  - Prepare and submit (15) test questions
  - Application and questions are evaluated by committee
- Part-3
  - Sit for non-scored sampling of questions to validated the questions
  - Receive Certification (each year pay maintenance fee and enter CPEs)

## Assessments for Founders 1

### "Founders" Assessments: Scoring Sheet

- Applicants are able to score their own application to see if their assessments have enough points
- Work Experience: 40 points maximum
  - Education: 20 points maximum
  - Training Related to Digital Evidence: 40 points maximum
  - Professional Designations & Certifications: 15 points max.
  - Other Professional Experience: 40 points maximum

Total points must equal or exceed 100 points

## Assessments for Founders 2

"Founders" Applicant Agrees to:

- Uphold Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct
- Background Check by a Third Party\*

\*Law Enforcement Officers and those with Secret Clearances are exempt from background checks  
Paperwork to back up the points are essential

## Assessments for Founders 3

Each "Founder" Develops 15 Questions:

- Founder select their Domain of Knowledge, as listed on website
- Utilize and record references
- Develop 1 correct answer and 4 incorrect answers
- To pass, they must have 10 out of 15 questions and answers that are acceptable
- The Founders will sit for a non-scored certification test to help determine the validation scores of the various questions.

## What Next?

Go for Canadian Background Checks and include them?  
United Kingdom possibly, we have been approached.

Extend "Founders" while we validate questions?

Other Digital Forensics sub-disciplines and/or new domains

## Founders Process Overview

- Download the application, assessment and ethics forms
- Complete forms and gather supporting documentation
- Send documents to DFCB and make payment via website
- Obtain online ID and KSA for questions
- Go to background site
- Submit questions to DFCB
- All products assessed by DFCB
- Schedule applicant to sit for test
- Applicant issued certification
- Each year compliance with continuing education and experience

## Thanks!



Carrie Whitcomb  
Director, NCFE

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**NU**