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In addition to the peer-reviewed academic papers presented in this volume, the conference featured a significant number of plenary contributions from recognized national and international leaders in digital forensic investigation.

Keynote speaker Andy Jones, head of security research at British Telecom, outlined the emerging challenges of investigation as new devices enter the market. These include the impact of solid-state memory, ultra-portable devices, and distributed storage – also known as cloud computing.

The plenary session on Digital Forensics Practice included Troy O’Malley, Queensland Police Service, who outlined the paperless case file system now in use in Queensland, noting that efficiency and efficacy gains in using the system have now meant that police can arrive at a suspect’s home before the suspect! Joseph Razik, representing Patrick Perrot of the Institut de Recherche Criminelle de la Gendarmerie Nationale, France, summarized research activities in speech, image, video and multimedia at the IRCGN.

The plenary session on The Interaction Between Technology and Law brought a legal perspective to the technological challenges of digital forensic investigation. Glenn Dardick put the case for anti-forensics training; Nigel Carson of Ferrier Hodgson presented the perspective of an experienced commercial investigator, and Anna Davey of Forensic Foundations provided a detailed understanding of the admissibility of digital evidence.

That the focus of this year’s conference had shifted to the legal, rather than the deeply technical, perspective was clear, enhanced in no small part by the incorporation of the International Workshop on e-Forensics Law in the program. Hon Jon Mansfield of the Federal Court of Australia presided over the workshop, which featured both plenary and peer-reviewed papers. Joe Cannataci, one of the architects of the Cybercrime Convention, presented his views on the convention and the direction of international law concerning crime and evidence in the digital domain. Gary Edmond raised some critical questions concerning evidence obtained from and through emerging technologies, and Michael Davis and Alice Sedsman raised some legal concerns around cloud computing. Glenn Dardick, presenting his workshop paper out of session, noted the effect of privacy and privilege on e-Discovery. The workshop academic session featured papers on digital identity, surveillance and data protection in virtual environments, and international legal compliance.

The 21 technical papers in this volume were presented in six technical sessions, including one poster session, covering voice and telephony, image source identification and authentication, investigative practice, and applications including surveillance.
The Brian Playford Memorial Award for Best Paper was presented to Irene Amerini and co-authors for her paper, “Distinguishing Between Camera and Scanned Images by Means of Frequency Analysis,” after consultation with the Technical Program Committee Chair, Chang-Tsun Li, and members of the conference Steering Committee. Brian was one of the quiet behind-the-scenes organizers of the conference in 2008 and 2009 who was killed under tragic circumstances while on holiday in October 2008 in Slovenia.

The conference closed with a lively panel discussion, chaired by Andy Jones, addressing strategic priorities in digital forensics research. From that discussion, it is clear that the increasing sophistication of technologies, and the users of those technologies, is leaving investigators, lawmakers and the legal system scrambling to keep up.

Matthew Sorell
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