Foreword

The advances and convergence of computational hardware, multimedia techniques and information and communication technology (ICT) have brought about unprecedented opportunities for the world economy. Information can be exchanged in various forms of media through interconnected networks while multimedia processing techniques facilitate efficient manipulation and fusion of media with stunning effects, which have already made a profound impact on the ways we communicate, learn and entertain. However, these advanced technologies could also be exploited for malicious purposes such as phishing, document forgery, copyright piracy and anti-forensics, to name a few. To prevent abuses of these technologies, the research of computational forensics, digital crime and investigation has emerged in recent years as a new interdisciplinary area, aiming at improving information security, preventing digital crime, and facilitating digital forensics and investigations.

The past few years have seen an exciting development of interests in the techniques revolving around the issues of digital crime and forensic investigation. Although a number of quality books have been published in the literature, the ever-advancing technology in this field entails a constant renewal of systematic and comprehensive accounts of the latest researches and developments. Aiming at serving this purpose, this book contains a collection of informative and stimulating chapters written by knowledgeable experts and covers a wide spectrum of the state-of-the-art techniques for tackling the issues of digital crime and forensic investigation. Each chapter is a self-contained treatment on one aspect of the broad subject, allowing the readers to follow any order of their liking. The chapters are selected to suit readers of different levels with various interests, making this book an invaluable reference for beginners as well as experts alike.

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