The second e-Forensics conference met again in Adelaide, South Australia, bringing together over 70 digital forensics researchers and practitioners, and lawyers with an interest in the impact of digital evidence. Twenty technical papers were presented on a diverse range of technical topics including Voice and Telephony, Image Analysis, Investigative Tools and Practice, and Legal Considerations. The program also featured a diverse range of invited practitioners who provided a deep insight into the contemporary challenges of digital evidence.

Dr. Andy Jones, head of Security Research at British Telecom, challenged the attendees with his view of the challenges which lie ahead as digital technology evolves. Troy O’Malley (Queensland Police) and Joseph Razik (Telecom Paris-Tech) presented advances in digital forensics practice, while Dr Glenn Dardick (Longwood University), Dr. Nigel Carson (Ferrier-Hodgson) and Anna Daveys (Forensic Foundations) presented a range of views on the interaction of technology and the law.

Digital evidence and the law was a significant theme this year. The e-Forensics Law Workshop featured three invited speakers—Professor Joe Cannataci (University of Central Lancashire), Dr. Glenn Dardick (Longwood University) and Associate Professor Gary Edmond (University of New South Wales); and three peer-reviewed papers with a diverse range of views on digital evidence, electronic discovery, and challenges including jurisdictional matters. The Workshop, organised by Nigel Wilson (Bar Chambers), was chaired by Hon John Mansfield, Judge, Federal Court of Australia.

The articles in this special edition reflect both technical and legal contemporary challenges in digital evidence.

In “A DFT-Based Analysis to Discern between Camera and Scanned Images,” Caldelli et al. exploit the differences in images scanned by flat-bed scanner versus captured by the sensing array of a digital still camera. This article was presented with the Brian Playford Memorial Award for Best Paper.

Niall McGrath et al. discuss the opportunities for investigating aspects of encrypted (and implicitly un-decryptable) files, particularly related to the originator and receiver of such
files, in “Cryptopometry as a Methodology for Investigating Encrypted Material.”

In the invited article, “Grey Areas? The Legal Dimensions of Cloud Computing,” Michael Davis and Alice Sedsman discuss the emerging legal risks associated with cloud computing, including privacy and jurisdiction.

Gary Edmond’s plenary article from the e-Forensics Law Workshop, “Suspect Sciences? Evidentiary Problems with Emerging Technologies,” questions the on-going admissibility of digital evidence based on the opinion of an expert, when what is becoming increasingly urgent is a sound scientific foundation for admissibility.

The e-Forensics website is www.e-forensics.eu

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International Journal on Digital Crime and Forensics