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Julie Sikora, Marketing Manager
800-354-1420, ext. 267
julie.sikora@taylorandfrancis.com

Online Fraud Addressed in Journal's Special Editions

(Philadelphia, PA, USA) According to the FBI, each year, tens of millions of Americans are targets of bogus e-mails, web pages, and pop-ups seeking personal financial data, making "phishing" one of the fastest growing cyber crimes around. When combined with other data-theft crimes, the cost to United States consumers and businesses is estimated at over \$50 billion each year.

In response to this growing threat, and in conjunction with an inaugural research-oriented conference, the *Journal of Digital Forensic Practice* will publish two special issues on "Anti-Phishing and Online Fraud." The conference, held in Orlando, Florida (November 16–17, 2006), was co-hosted by the Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG), the Florida Computer Crime Center (FC3) at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, together with the Florida State University (FSU) and the University of Central Florida (UCF).

According to the Guest Editor of these special issues, Judie Mulholland of the Anti-Cybercrime Research, Education and Training (ACRET) Institute, "It is our hope that with this initial offering of papers we will spur an interest on the part of practitioners working in the field to continue publishing and sharing their expertise so we can educate and inform our readership about innovations and investigative techniques being developed to combat the problem of phishing and online fraud."

"The fact that we were able to get papers from "pioneers" working in the field points to the value and timeliness of the information being presented," commented Mulholland.

Marc Rogers, Ph.D., CISSP, CCCI has recently been named Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Digital Forensic Practice*. Dr. Rogers is the Chair of the Cyber Forensics Program in the Department of Computer and Information Technology at Purdue University. He is an Associate Professor and also a research faculty member at the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS).

"These special issues represent an important milestone in bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners. As the criminal element becomes more sophisticated in its criminal tradecraft, so too must we become more sophisticated and begin a real dialogue between the various communities looking at, and investigating these types of crime," commented Dr. Rogers.

“Judie Mulholland, our Guest Editor, has done a superb job of getting us one step closer to this much needed sharing of information and ideas. I would strongly advise anyone working in this field to have a look at either issue, as I am positive it will spur discussion and collaboration.”

Articles that can be found in the special issues include:

REGAP: A Tool for Unicode-Based Web Identity Fraud Detection

PhishScope: Tracking Phish Server Clusters

Badvertisements: Stealthy Click-Fraud with Unwitting Accessories

Uncharted Waters: Prosecuting Phishing and Online Fraud Cases

To learn more about *Journal of Digital Forensic Practice* or to view a FREE online sample copy of the special issues, go to www.informaworld.com/15567281.

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