

# **Establishing Cybersecurity Digital Forensics Laboratory at SIUC**

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## **Abstract**

In order to provide a more hands on experience for the existing course on digital forensics and our other cybersecurity courses, our first goal is to seek funds to build a laboratory with four contemporary forensically capable workstations. Using this workstation, we will be able to capture hard drive data and analyze them for evidence. Such a laboratory will be used to demonstrate digital forensic techniques covered in class. This is preferred to the current use of free software for hands on laboratory lessons. Often, free software fail to give the desired results and they can be difficult to use. Later, we plan to expand this laboratory with other equipment to handle mobile phones and network based forensic methods. Law enforcement agencies use similar equipment in their investigations. The second goal of this proposal to seek travel funding to expose our students to the broader community on forensics. An indirect goal will be to attract potential students to our department.

The main outcome of digital laboratory creation is enhanced quality of cybersecurity courses including the course on digital forensics. Students will gain experience in a significant aspect of cybersecurity. This laboratory is part of our planned programs on cybersecurity Master's degree programs. The outcome for conference participation is greater exposure and outreach to forensics relevant communities as well as to attract new students to our school of computing.