Title of Project: Digital Forensics Lab - facilitating understanding of computer forensics & cybercrime

Project Reference: CTF12/11

Project Leader: Dr Richard E Overill

Lead Department: Informatics

Other contributors/Departments: n/a

PROJECT DETAILED

Outputs: What has been produced?

A Digital Forensics Teaching Lab with 10 EnCase 7 software licences and 3 write-blockers has been successfully established in S5.33. Supported by this infrastructure, an induction to digital forensics practice teaching scheme has been produced by two Informatics PhD student TAs. This was trialled on two MSc individual project students in May 2013, and will be used (in revised form) for

Outcomes/Impact: To what extent have you achieved the original aims of the project? Please include examples where possible.

Two MSc individual project students have been trained in using EnCase by two Informatics PhD student TAs in May 2013 in preparation for their project internships at the Met Police Digital Electronics & Forensics Service (DEFS) in June-August 2103.

Supportive factors: What were the main factors that contributed to the successful outcomes of the project?

Financial provision by CTF for acquisition of requisite hardware & software plus a great deal of administrative & technical input from members the Systems Support Group in Informatics.

Challenges: Have you experienced any barriers or challenges in developing your project? What could be done to support innovation in the curriculum?

Concluding the EnCase educational software licences deal with Guidance Software took over 6 months, during which time it emerged that the licence was for a fixed term of 3 years. Quotations for the write blockers did not include import tax from US which caused the anticipated budget to be slightly exceeded. The software installation and configuration was not technically straightforward which meant that the 2012/3 module cohort for 7CCSMCFC could not be inducted into EnCase during semester 2 as originally planned.

Recommendations: Based on your study, what recommendations would you make for improving the curriculum and student experience generally? Are there any wider implications of your project for the College/University undergraduate and/or postgraduate curriculum? In particular what would be the implications of introducing your innovation on a large scale across a range of disciplines?

Academic Year 2013/4 semester 2 will see the first full cohort of MSc students make use of the lab. However, the feedback from the 2 MSc individual project students using the facility in May 2013 onwards is favourable.
As a result of misinformation supplied over the telephone regarding the 3-year limitation on the EnCase licences, it is appropriate to state here that if, after appropriate reviewing of its effectiveness, the project is to be continued beyond 3 years duration, it will be necessary to seek additional funding for software licences.

**Dissemination: How has the project been shared with colleagues within and beyond the institution?**

Outside KCL, via cyberforensics workshop presentations. Within KCL, via contacts within the Department of Forensic Science & Drug Control, and through them with Met Police DEFS also.