Introduction

Digital forensics is the application of science and engineering to the recovery of digital evidence in a legally acceptable method. Digital Forensics Examiners use digital investigation and analysis techniques to determine potential legal evidence by applying their skills on a variety of electronic devices, software programs, operating systems, removable media, and technologies.

A Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL) is a digital forensics laboratory and training center devoted to the examination of digital evidence in support of criminal investigations and to the detection and prevention of terrorist acts. The first RCFL was established in San Diego, California, in 1999, and began as a cooperative effort between the FBI and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to address digital evidence. The RCFL Program is based on this model of partnership between the FBI and other law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and local levels within a geographic area.

The RCFL Network

In addition to the San Diego RCFL, RCFLs are operating in Albquerque, New Mexico; Boston, Massachusetts; Buffalo, New York; Centennial, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Hamilton, New Jersey; Huntsville, Alabama; Houston, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky; Menlo Park, California; Orange, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Portland, Oregon; and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Key Goals

The key goals of the RCFL program are to—

♦ Provide timely, professional and technically advanced digital forensics services to the law enforcement agencies in an RCFL's service area.

♦ Fully utilize applied science and engineering capabilities to support digital forensics examinations.

♦ Increase the confidence of investigators, prosecutors, and judges in the digital forensics examination discipline through standardized training and forensic protocols.

♦ Provide responsive and flexible services in support of diverse investigative programs.

♦ Meet legal and administrative requirements of diverse judicial systems.

For more information, email the RCFL National Program Office at RCFL-NPO@fbi.gov.