Matching Education With Industry

Finding qualified individuals in the Digital Forensics & CyberSecurity industry is a challenge because the industry is still in its infancy. On the flip-side, there are a number of organizations offering Digital Forensic and CyberSecurity Services, however, a fair number of them are one or two person shops and are difficult to place a college graduate with.

Vestige Digital Investigations is one of the larger Digital Forensic & CyberSecurity service providers and as such we are always on the lookout for qualified individuals. Working with colleges and universities provides a mutually beneficial relationship.

Accommodating Differing Requirements

Over the years, we've found that each college or university program has different requirements — in terms of length of service and how they use the internship requirement.

- For example, we have one school that uses their internship requirement as a capstone class and it's much more formal, lasts 120 hours, has reporting back from the intern as well as from us, etc.

- On the other hand, we've had other institutions that require and/or highly advise an internship, but also look at it more of a short-term (i.e. three-week) "try before you buy" type of arrangement – just trying to give some real-world, hands-on experience for the graduate with the potential to hire-on at Vestige.

- Still other interns have come to us completely on their own without any formal requirement, but want some hands-on experience.

We're setup to accommodate any and all of those.

Depending on the length of the internship and the interest of the student, we try to find a small project that they should be able to tackle with the knowledge that they are learning while in the program in college. It is typically a project that benefits our Analyst Group as well – oftentimes it's a specific artifact or class of artifacts, or a particular application that is on our horizon, but just hasn't been attacked yet because staff hasn't had the opportunity to do so. Because it is something that helps us as well, our Analyst Group is very invested in the process and is willing to assist the student. The internship closes with the intern presenting their finding to our Analyst Group. It gives the student a real-world project with the commensurate experience, allows them to practice their organizational and communication skills, gives them some good feedback and allows us to see how well the student is likely going to do in this industry and as a Vestige team member.

Project Examples

- Database of wiping and anti-forensic utilities complete with signatures of installation and use
- Dropbox Forensics
- USB, LNK File and Jumplist Analysis
- Windows 8 Artifacts (Windows 8 had been released, but not in general use yet)
- Windows 10 Artifacts (when Windows 10 had just been introduced – or maybe even as just a pre-release candidate)
- Password Cracking and the use of Amazon Web Services cloud environment to crack passwords
- Forensic Lab Evidence Inventory and Data Handling
- Keylogger Research – Identifying and Examining Systems where a Keylogger is Suspected

The Vestige Internship Program

The Vestige internship program is paid and offers quite a bit of flexibility. It began with a number of requests from several schools. Recognizing the need and the value in being able to offer a program of value, we took it a step further than most companies when bringing an intern in by providing training, mentoring and providing a real-world prject to focus on with an opportunity to learn, document and present these findings.

Positive feedback from individuals that have completed the program confirms that we are doing things right. Feedback includes:

- There's a formalized structure in terms of basic things that students will learn and get exposure to

- We assign a mentor who assists with training and their project

- With their input, we select a project that is of mutual interest to them

- Part of their day is spent in training, some in shadowing an analyst as they perform their work and part of the day is spent moving their project along

- Finally, at the conclusion of their internship, we have them report out to the analyst group on their project. It's a stand-up presentation that most use PowerPoint or at least the computer to walk through what they've learned.

Interns Will Learn

- Forensic Imaging of workstations, mobile devices and potentially servers
- Basic overview of a processing framework
- Encase Basic and Intermediate topics
- Internet History Overview, including carving for Internet History
- LNK File, Jump List and Shellbag analysis
- Introductory Mobile Device Analysis
- Introductory SQL Database work
- Other timely and relevant topics

Vestige provides timely and trusted investigations of any digital devices to resolve disputes and litigate claims including: Non-compete / Intellectual Property (IP) Theft, Data Breaches, White Collar Crime and more. We serve small, mid-size and large Fortune 500 corporations both nationally and internationally helping professionals in the administrative, finance, fraud examination, HR, IT, insurance, law enforcement, legal and risk management fields make educated and informed decisions about access and preservation of digital information and its security.

As Experts, Vestige offers a comprehensive knowledge of both the technical and legal aspects of Digital Forensics and CyberSecurity. We are respected for confidential, objective, and knowledgeable investigations and reporting.

Contact Vestige today for complete details on the Internship Program.

Vestige Digital Investigations
TURNING DIGITAL EVIDENCE INTO INTELLIGENCE™