



### C4 Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE) and Its Current Efforts in Digital Forensics and Forensic Audio — Part 1

*Mary F. Horvath, MFS\*, 10035 Via Colomba Circle, #203, Ft. Myers, FL 33966; Steven B. Watson, BA\*, VTO, 325 Interlocken Parkway, Bldg C, Broomfield, CO 80021-8042; Jeff M. Smith, MS\*, National Center for Media Forensics - CU Denver, 1150 10th Street, Arts Building, Suite 177, Denver, CO 80204; and Marla E. Carroll, BS\*, Forensic Video & Audio Associates, Inc, 6919 W Broward Boulevard, Ste 222, Plantation, FL 33317*

---

After attending this presentation, attendees will expand their general understanding of the mission and work of the Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE), with recent activities and updates in the sub-disciplines of digital forensics and forensic audio.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing an introduction to the SWGDE and their recent activities, with specific concentration on information relevant to best practices, guidelines, and standard developments in the digital evidence sub-disciplines of digital forensics and forensic audio.

This is the first of two presentations that will provide background on, and introduce the efforts of, the SWGDE. This Part 1 presentation will introduce the audience to SWGDE, its current organization, members, efforts, and will provide updates on the efforts of two of its five committees: the Forensics and Forensic Audio Committees.

SWGDE was formally established in 1998 to bring together organizations representing law enforcement, academia, legal, and commercial communities actively engaged in the field of digital and multimedia evidence to foster communication and cooperation. SWGDE's primary efforts include the development of cross-disciplinary guidelines and standards for the recovery, preservation, and examination of digital and multimedia evidence in order to ensure quality and consistency with the forensic community.

SWGDE provides guidance to the digital forensic community through the publication of standards, guidelines, and best practices with a concentration on public outreach and feedback acceptance. SWGDE also encourages a number of its published documents to be used by standard developing organizations in the creation of national and international standards for digital and multimedia evidence. SWGDE is often asked to address various issues from local and national bodies to form consensus feedback and position statements.

SWGDE is currently comprised of over 80 forensic examiners, scientists, and managers from more than two dozen federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as representatives from the academic, private, and research communities. The membership primarily concentrates its efforts addressing issues within five main technical sub-disciplines – Digital Forensics, Audio, Imaging, Video, and Photography.

This Part 1 presentation will provide informative updates from two of the five standing committees -- the Digital Forensics and Audio Committees. Committee representatives will provide updates regarding the current efforts of each committee, their work products, and the feedback that has been received during public comment periods. These two committees have the following mission statements and the presentations provided will discuss efforts specific to these missions:

**Audio Committee:** represents the forensic audio community by developing and promoting best practices related to the examination, analysis, comparison or evaluation of audio, evaluating current research, and assessing the forensic impact of new technology.

**Digital Forensics (formerly Computer Forensics) Committee:** addresses topics and issues facing digital forensics practitioners by developing forensically sound techniques through the assessment of current and emerging technologies. The committee supports the Digital Forensics community by the establishment of core competencies, best practices, forensic methodologies, and through participation in original research.

The opinions or assertions contained herein are the views of the SWGDE member participants and are not to be construed as official or as reflecting the views of the author's employer.

Names of commercial manufacturers or products included are incidental only, and inclusion does not imply endorsement by the authors, member participants, or their employer.

---

#### SWGDE, Digital Evidence, Audio