



Digital Wyzdom launches Apple Forensics Practice

June 25, 2012 - TORONTO, ON – Digital Wyzdom, one of the largest boutique computer forensic firms in Canada, today launched its Apple Forensics Practice.

“We are dedicating specialists, forensic software, and tools to establish Canada’s first Apple Forensics Practice,” says Daniel Tobok, president of Digital Wyzdom Computer Forensics.

“We now have the dedicated expertise to examine forensically Apple computers, iPads, and iPhones and even iPods. In the last three years, we have seen a rise in the popularity of Apple’s devices in Canadian offices,” says Tobok.

Maurice Ragogna will lead Digital Wyzdom’s Apple Forensics Practice. Ragogna currently heads up the overall Forensics Practice at the digital forensic and security firm. Ragogna has 37 years of experience with the Toronto Police Service, 10 years of which was in the Intelligence Division - Technological Crime Unit. He founded the High Tech Crime Investigative Association – Ontario Chapter (HTCIA) in 1998 and is its founding president. He served as the Chapter President for the fourth time in 2011.

Hackers, criminals, and others are now paying more attention to Apple.

“Apple computers are not easy to crack, but hackers are trying harder these days,” says Tobok, pointing out that hackers are also writing virus code for Apple machines, again due to the shift of Apple products from niche players to mass consumers and mainstream business.

When it comes to digital forensic analysis on smartphones, Tobok says that the split is about 70 per cent RIM smartphones and 30 per cent iPhones, but that’s changing, too.

And Androids are becoming more popular in business.

Tobok cites the ease of use of Apple’s consumer products such as the iPhone and the iPad combined with the 500,000 apps available worldwide for iOS devices as reasons for their popularity with business users. These two factors make Apple’s iOS devices a rich source of potential forensic evidence.

The problem Digital Wyzdom is tackling is that the Mac OS operating system has been notoriously closed. Getting data off an iPhone is a challenge because even turning the phone on can alter critical data needed to perform forensic analysis.

“When we’re doing digital forensics on Apple products, the things we’re looking for are not in the same place as in Windows and they are in different formats. Apple has a different operating system and a different filing system,” says Ragogna.

A number of manufacturers now make forensic tools for Apple’s iOS machines including Encase, and Access Data, but the companies that are totally dedicated to Apple’s suite of products are BlackBag Technologies, Subrosasoft MacForensicLab, and Katana Forensics–Lantern2.

Devices are getting smaller, faster, and yet they contain more memory than ever before, explains Ragogna.

“Sometimes, we even see thieves take away proprietary information on iPods rather than thumb drives,” says Tobok.

With the much anticipated release of the Apple iPhone 5 as well as iOS 6 coming out in fall 2012, the demand for iPhones will be greater than ever, says Tobok. That means that the need for forensic examinations of Apple products will grow in tandem.

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