Cyber Forensics: The Need For An Official Governing Body

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Abstract

In this study we identified and addressed some of the key challenges in Digital Forensics. A review of previous studies related to major challenges identified was conducted. The findings proposed a solution and how having a standardized body that governs the digital forensics community could make a difference.

Current Issues Identified

Some of the issues identified within the Digital Forensics community include:

- Privacy Issues
- Lack of certifications and standardizations
- Lack of awareness between the general public and Law Enforcements
- Lack of standardized labs & tools
- Lack of standards in reporting digital evidence
- Error rates in evidence presentation
- Legal issues

Introducing Digital Forensic Authorities:

We propose the official digital forensic authorities that need to be implemented, to ensure stability within the digital forensic community. These authorities need to be implemented at the 3 different levels of government, which are: The Federal, State & Local levels. The chart below shows the authorities and the role each has to play to ensure that the issues are minimized.

The Federal Level:

- Create the standards & regulation that should be practiced within the digital forensic community
- Implement a generic ethics for professionals and experts
- Work with Federal Courts
- Professional and experts validation through certifications
- Digital forensic tools verification and qualification
- Student Opportunities (Internships)
- Trainings
- Lab standard verifications
- Private labs/investigators registrations
- Crime Scene Investigation

The State Level:

- Labs supervision
- Local Law Enforcement trainings
- Expert verifications
- Implementation of State Laws
- Private investigators licensing
- Expert witness verifications
- Student opportunities
- Crime Scene Investigation

The local Level:

- Community awareness
- Evidence collection
- Evidence compilations
- Crime scene investigation
- Student Opportunities
- Trainings
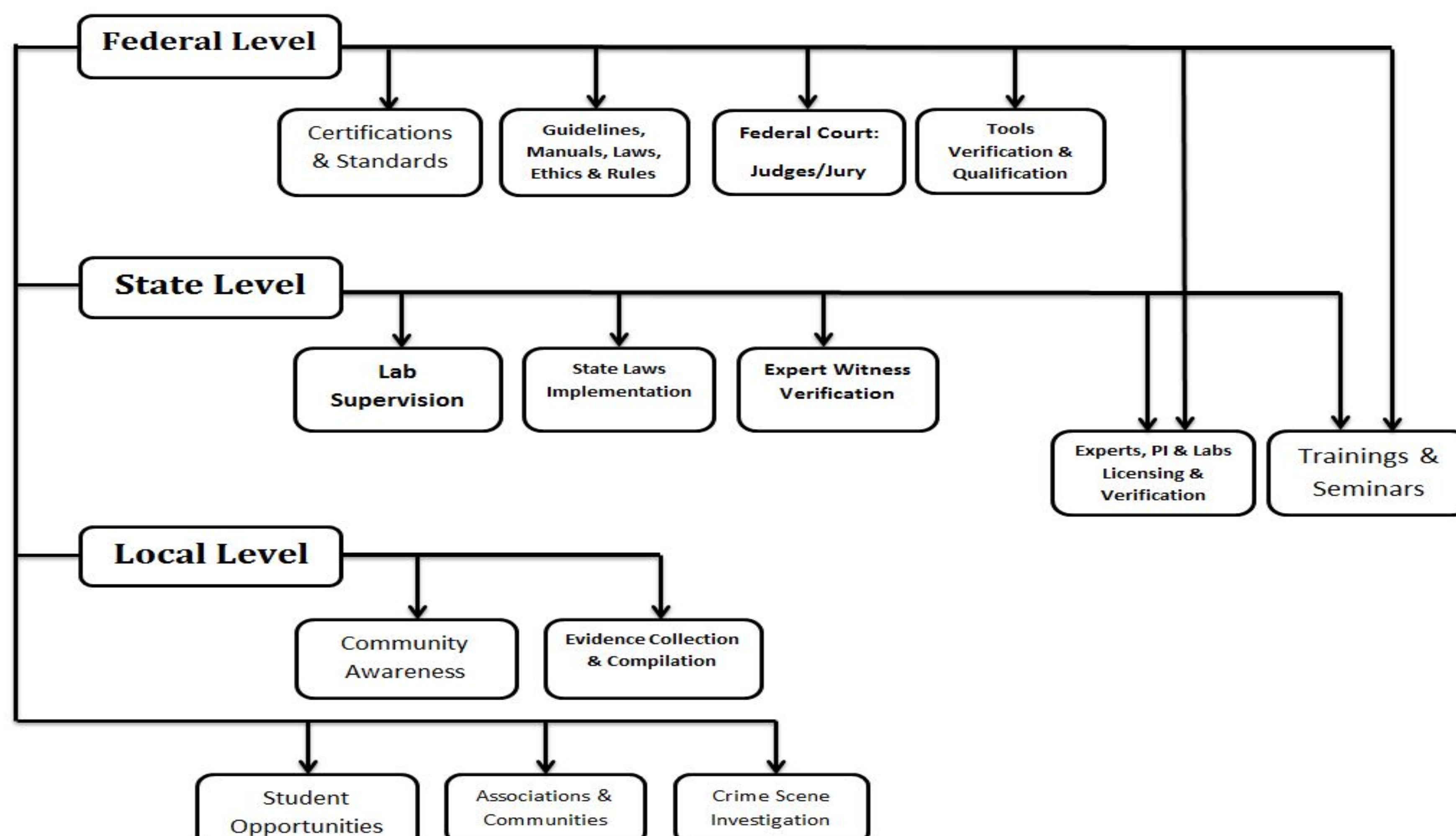
Conclusion:

Digital Crime continues to grow, in correlation with digital device usages. With this growth, there are numerous issues that are seen within the Digital Forensic community. These issues hinder transparency and justice with regards to evidence collection, judicial decision making etc. The lack of a defining body that set regulations leads to difficulties within the digital forensics community. This paper proposed an official governing body that could help solve some of the identified issues. The paper also outlined the responsibilities of these bodies at different levels.