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Career Professional Paper

For my future career, I hope to be a Computer Forensics Investigator. Computer Forensics is defined as using elements of law and computer sciences to help provide evidence for court or investigations. Investigators collect and analyze data from computer systems, networks, wireless communications, and storage devices to try and help solve crimes. These crimes can range from smaller, more personal crimes to nationwide protection from much larger crimes. Their work with studying technology helps both put away criminals and defend innocent people every day. It includes aspects of both criminal justice and cybersecurity, and knowledge in both subjects is required to successfully do this job. Investigators depend on social science research in relation to new technological advances made in analyzing DNA scans. Social scientists study the human impact new technology has on the criminal justice force and determines whether it is helpful or not. In an article on the correlation between social sciences and forensic sciences, Katherine Browning writes, "...the introduction of new technologies and techniques alone does not tell us whether they are effective in improving criminal justice outcomes. Social science research can shed light on changes in those outcomes" (Browning, 6). Social scientists help benefit computer forensic investigators and law enforcement by ensuring the technology used has a positive impact on those using it, strengthening the legal system overall. Similarly, they also use social science principles in cases where they are gathering digital evidence to defend a

client. In the last few years, social scientists have developed new methods that can be useful in defending a client by studying the way the legal system rules in cases depending on who is on trial. They consider race, gender, psychological factors, legal methods, etc. In a journal by Eve Primus, she brings up the fact that much of the legal system relies heavily on social sciences, claiming, "Evidence rules, criminal law, and criminal procedure are filled with concepts informed by social science." (Primus, 1) Understanding the correlation between social sciences and the criminal justice system helps forensic investigators do their job better. The daily routines of cybersecurity professionals and the focus on software, hardware, human behavior, and the interactions between social settings and in laboratories relates closely to routines of a computer forensic investigator. Concepts that I have taken away from this class and that apply to my future career are relativism, determinism, the strategies and motives behind hacking/cybercrime, and the neutralization theory. I feel like if I achieved my goal and possible future career these terms and concepts would play a role in my job because of my prior knowledge and background. Computer Forensic Investigators cater to those who have been wrongly arrested, by helping them gather online evidence that can clear their name. They also relate to the legal system, by assisting them in cases through using developing technology to help find evidence that standard forensic investigators don't look for. They also help protect society in general by working on cases that regard the public. In an article by Mary Blowers on computer forensic analysis, she discusses how they cover a wide variety of cases and not just personal ones. She states, "These professionals apply advanced data retrieval and incident analysis skills to cases involving espionage, organized cybercrime, hacking, fraud, terrorism, and the storage and distribution of illegal content." (Blowers, 2) Cases such as terrorism and organized

cybercrime are crimes that affect the entire country, and the work these investigators do help's protect society every day.

Sources Cited

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