

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

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Winning the race with cybercrime in China

According to the Chinese Judicial Document Website, from 2013 to 2015, China had 8,000 reported digital forensics cases. More than half of all Chinese criminal cases in China now involve evidence from cell phones, emails, networks, and digital media. Today, less than one tenth of the digital evidence in these cases has been examined. The other cases will either have to be dropped or lost, in terms of digital evidence, unless China can develop the examiners and forensic methods and tools to process all this evidence in a timely fashion.

And the problem is growing

Cases requiring this expertise are still growing, with more and more cases each year. While many in the West may think that China is supporting its cyber-criminals, the simple truth is that China is overwhelmed just at every other country in the World. China cannot keep up, and they are falling further behind just as every other country is.

How can China fix it?

In simple terms, China alone cannot. Cybercrime is a global problem, and the whole world needs a global solution. But there are some niches where China on its own can make significant progress.

- As an example, pseudo-base-station fraud cases that are quite common in China. Conviction is based on how many SMS messages the pseudo base station has successfully sent. Forensic examiners need to retrieve the SMS message and IMEI numbers from databases and count the numbers from the various sources. If this process can be automatically in specially designed tools and products, most of the examiner's time will be saved, prosecutions will be rapid and cost effective, and crime will abate in this area.

How can we all fix it?

In the short run, automated tools and products for high volume cases should be developed; but we also need to bring the best solutions from around the World to bear everywhere.

- Cybercrime is a global issue, and like every other country, Chinese cases often involve evidence and actors from all over the World. Collaborative education, research, and investigation worldwide is necessary to build the capacity of China and every other country and to advance the science to meet the legal needs of today and the future.

Summary:

It's not just building the capacity of individual countries that is needed. Global problems call for global solutions. The recent collaboration between the US and China is a good example of a step in the right direction. But for it to work, it's necessary that we learn how to communicate effectively and share information necessary to hunt down global criminals with global law enforcement and global availability of products and services. While the countries of the World don't always get along well in other areas, fighting crime should be the global exception.