Welcome to the proceedings of the Fourth International Workshop on Systematic Approaches to Digital Forensics Engineering (SADFE 2009). This was the second workshop held in conjunction with IEEE Security and Privacy. We were happy to once again publish the proceedings with IEEE. This year’s workshop was very successful, mainly a result of the work by the program chairs, Sean Peisert and Matt Bishop. They did an amazing job in organizing an exciting program. The program consisted of seven full papers with an acceptance rate of 32%. Additionally, there were three work-in-progress papers, two panels, and one keynote speaker.

SADFE promotes systematic approaches to computer investigations, by furthering the advancement of digital forensic engineering as a disciplined practice. This sequence of workshops emphasizes cyber crime investigations and welcomes papers on forensics that do not necessarily involve a crime: general attack analysis, insider threat, insurance and compliance investigations, and similar forms of retrospective analysis are all viable topics. Digital forensic engineering is characterized by the application of scientific and mathematical principles to the investigation and establishment of facts or evidence, either for use within a court of law or to aid in understanding past events on a computer system.

As a consequence of the focus of the workshop, effort is made to incorporate legal and practitioner discussions. Thus, past speakers and attendees of SADFE have included computer scientists, social scientists, forensic practitioners, law enforcement, lawyers, and judges. The synthesis of hard technology and science with social science and practice forms the foundation of this workshop. Papers focusing on any of the scientific, legal, or practical aspects of digital forensics are solicited. Thus, I urge individuals with potential contributions to consider submitting to future workshops.

This year’s keynote was given by Erin Murphy from the University of California, Boalt Hall School of Law. Her talk started off the workshop by bringing up current legal issues related to digital evidence and the validity of such evidence. Two of the work-in-progress papers followed along with this paradigm and discussed legal issues. The papers themselves covered a widely diverse range of topics from the realm of digital forensics, resulting in active discussions that made for an enjoyable atmosphere.

We greatly appreciate the assistance of the reviewers. Without their time and effort it would not be possible to organize a workshop of this quality. It is the community that makes such a workshop a success and we urge everyone to continue to submit their original works and ask for your continued support with the review process.

It is only through the hard work and dedication of our authors that this workshop continues to succeed, grow, and improve in quality. On that note, we hope you enjoy these proceedings and hope to see you at future workshops.

Sincerely,
Robert F. Erbacher
General Chair, SADFE 2009