



The International Councilor

Summer 2018

In this Issue

President's Message	1
2018 AGM Overview	1
From the Editor	2
2018 AGM Schedule of Events	3
AGM Seminars & Outings	4
AGM Sponsors	4
Election News & Candidates	5
Awards—IIOY & MSA	6
Upcoming Marketing Events	7
ACFE Recap	8
CNBC Wants You	8
Membership News	9 to 11
Watching the Detectives	11
AGM Hotel Registration	11
Feature Articles	12—17
Effects of the GDPR	
What is Blockchain Technology?	
Resource of the Month	
OSINT Toolbox	
Maurice Amres on the Board	16

The International Councilor

Editor

Lois Colley

Associate Editor

Lauren Colley-Sowers

Summer 2018

All Rights Reserved

President's

Message:

Brett

Mikkelson



First of all, Happy 4th of July to everyone from the USA. Having been in Panama for such a long time, I woke up this morning completely forgetting that this date was upon us. It has always had a special place in my heart, but this morning, my mind was on work and the up coming AGM in Hong Kong. I even sent out a task to our Executive Director, Steve Kirby who was happy to help, but also quick to point out that I'm making him work on a holiday! HA!!

Fellow members, the Annual General Meeting is just around the corner! To put it even more into perspective, as of July 4 we only have 55 days left until the opening day of the AGM! If you've never been to one, I think THIS is the AGM to go to. There's a lot of effort put in to each meeting, but with this one in particular, we even had Steve Kirby go over personally to ensure that everything was indeed on track. Our host, Jack Chu, his assistant Grace, member Philip Fung and many others have all come together to make this event very special and amazing. I've been to Hong Kong before at another conference, so I know first hand how amazing this country is.

Continued on page 10



2018

**AGM set for August 28
to September 1**

Plans are being finalized for what is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated AGMs in the recent past.

What's not to like.? Here are just some of the plans Jack Chu and his team , Grace, David and Hwan are putting into play:

- 8 educational seminars
- Networking opportunities
- Hospitality suite
- Tour of H.K. & Victoria Peak
- Cocktail cruise of Victoria Harbor
- Opening cocktail reception
- Spouse tour with dim sum lunch
- Awards Luncheon
- Gala Banquet
- Optional trip to Lantau Island
- Option to buy tailored suits
- And much, much more

To register today click here:

[2018 CII AGM Registration Form](#)

Editor's Message

by Lois Colley



When Technologies Backfire:

"A smart person learns from his mistakes. A wise person learns from someone else's" - Unknown

For as often as we cover technological issues in *The Councilor*, we don't much discuss those pesky little human failures that force technologies to backfire on us. Two recent examples in my world come to mind. In one instance, the legal representation involved in a case was challenged based on the lawyer's LinkedIn connections. We now live in an age where a single click of "Accept" on LinkedIn can complicate your ability to present yourself as free of conflict in a legal matter. On a related note, I recently learned of an individual who had "pocket dialed" his ex-wife from an important meeting. His conversation contained revelations that I'm sure his lawyer wouldn't have recommended he provide to his ex.

For every new technological tool, we multiply the ways for things to backfire. And they *will* backfire. It's the little conveniences that make us relent control. For instance, I wonder if the lawyer I mentioned above makes the mistake of allowing a subordinate to manage his social media accounts? I wonder if the man who accidentally called his ex-wife had enabled his phone to respond to spoken input ("Hey Siri!" or "O.K. Google"). For every step we "save" ourselves with our technology, we sacrifice a bit of certainty.

Becoming more casual users of the technologies that once may have seemed so revolutionary, we can expect that their bigger application to our lives will only amount to bigger and costlier mistakes, as well as litigation. In 2015, a Cincinnati, Ohio, appeals court ruled in favor of a woman who listened in on a 91 minute "pocket dial" call from her boss and another higher-up. The judge ruled that a pocket dial is a preventable incident, so she wasn't violating any laws by listening in. [To

further complicate matters, the call was placed from the bosses while on a trip to Italy.] The court clarified that the boss "likely *intended* his statements to be private" but that he failed to *exhibit* an expectation of privacy. The court further ruled that "Exposure need not be deliberate and instead can be the inadvertent product of neglect." The court cited the "plain-view doctrine": if a homeowner neglects to cover a window with drapes, he would lose his reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to a viewer looking into the window from outside his property."

I see this ruling as entirely applicable to our modern lives: many *intend* to have privacy but fail to *exhibit* that expectation via interactions with technologies. Many of the people we come into contact with as investigators are people who forgot to put the proverbial drapes on the windows, and *recovering* privacy is likely to become a big trend in our industry, similar to reputational recovery.

As investigators, we most often start with a batch of someone else's errors. The good news is that the reward for being on the frontlines of everyone else's mistakes is that we (hopefully) gain some wisdom in the process.

Speaking of wisdom, be sure to note that this issue of *The Councilor* contains many dates to calendar for opportunities to learn from your fellow CII members. Also in this issue, Lauren Sowers presents a basic understanding of blockchain technology, so that you'll at least be fluent in the terminologies before the topic arises at your next dinner party or conference. We also hope you'll review our *Resource of the Month*: an explanation of how to become Incognito on Instagram. Finally, there is a follow up article of importance on the GDPR by Anne Styren.

Wishing you continued success in 2018,

Lois Colley

2018 C.I.I. Annual General Meeting Provisional Schedule

August 28 through September 1, 2018

Regal Kowloon Hotel Hong Kong



Tuesday 28 August 2018

- 9 AM – 5 PM – Registration
- 9 AM – 12 Noon – Committee meetings
- 12 Noon – 2 PM – Board luncheon
- 2 PM – 5 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Cocktail reception with hors d' oeuvres
- 9 PM – 12 mid – Hospitality Suite



Wednesday 29 August 2018

- 9 AM – 10 AM – Opening ceremony
- 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Coffee Break
- 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM – Spouse/Partner shopping tour w/ luncheon
- 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Seminars
- 12:30 PM – 2 PM – Lunch
- 2 PM – 4 PM – Seminars
- 8 PM – 12 mid – Hospitality Suite

Thursday 30 August 2018

- 9 AM – 12 Noon – Annual General Meeting
- 12 Noon – 2 PM – Awards Luncheon
- 2 PM - 10 PM – Hong Kong Tour including Victoria Peak
Victoria Harbor Cruise and dinner (Charity auction)
- 10 PM – 12 mid – Hospitality Suite



Friday 31 August 2018

- 9 AM – 11:00 AM – Seminars
- 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Coffee break
- 11:30 AM – 1 PM – Seminar
- 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Free time to tour
- 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM – Board Meeting
- 7 PM – 12 Midnight – Cocktail reception and Gala Banquet



Saturday 1 September 2018

Conference officially over –optional tour date to Lantau Island



2018 AGM SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Mick Symons— *Interviewing Techniques of the PEACE Method*

David Chu – *The BRI and What it Means to the Security and Investigative Profession*

Phillip Layton – *The Nuances of Investigating in China*

Hwan Chu – *Investigating Counterfeit Products in the PRC*

Cyri Yu – *Cyber Forensics*

Mona Bhidi, Esq. – *Due Diligence in Asia*

GDPR Panel – *The Impact of the GDPR on International Investigations*

Women of CII — *A panel discussion of issues involving women investigators and how they succeed*

2018 AGM DAILY NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES / OUTINGS

Tuesday, August 28th, Opening Cocktail Reception

Wednesday, August 29th, Spouse / Partner tour

Thursday, August 30th, Awards Luncheon

Thursday, August 30th, City Tour including Victoria Peak; Harbor Cruise; Sumptuous Dinner

Friday, August 31st, Cocktail reception; Gala banquet

Saturday, September 1, Lantau Island & Monastery tour.

All nights—Hospitality Suite

Even if you can't make this year's AGM you can participate

Sponsorships and ads available

Even if for some unexplained reason you can't come to Hong Kong this year you can still make your presence known by taking ad out or becoming a sponsor for the AGM. Here is what is available:

Gold: - Delegate fees for 4; 2 full page ads; adverts in Councilor and website; exclusive banner acknowledgment—\$5,000

Silver: - Delegate fees for 2; full page ad; adverts in Councilor and website; banner acknowledgment—\$2,500

Bronze: - Delegate fee for 1; full page ad; banner acknowledgment—\$1,000

Patron: - 1/2 page ad; banner acknowledgement—\$500

Partner: - 1/4 page ad; banner acknowledgement—\$250

Friend: - Business card size ad; acknowledgement—\$125

To help the cause go to the registration form

[2018 CII AGM Registration Form](#)

Or contact Steve Kirby at skirby@cii2.org

Current Sponsors

Gold: Sachit Kumar

Silver: Norm Willox; Sanjay Kaushik

Bronze: David Linkletter; Yosh Wong

Patron: Chris Nielsen; Bob Fenech; John Withers; Steve Kirby

Partner: Suhail Buddha; Brett Mikkelson
Maurice Amres

Friend: Anne Styren; Joan Beach; David MacLeod

Elections 2018

Well, the nominations are in and so it is that time of year when it's up to you to vote for the person(s) you want to run the Council for the next year as President and for the next three years as Board Member.

There are two well qualified candidates eager to serve as President of the CII. They are current president, **Brett Mikkelson** and **David MacLeod**, current Vice President. Both men have served on the Board for several years. There are four candidates for three spots on the Board: **Nancy Barber** of California USA; **Melissa Kelly-Hilton** of New York, USA; **Howie Griffiths** of South Africa; and **Bernarda Skrabar** of Slovenia.

Ballots are currently on the CII website and can only be accessed through the Member's Only Page. You must log in with your User Name and Password. If you don't remember those codes, contact the CII office. Your User Name is usually (but not always) your email address.

Votes can be cast electronically through the website until August 29th at 11:59PM Hong Kong time. Anyone who attends the AGM and has not cast an electronic ballot will be afforded the opportunity to cast a ballot at the AGM. Ballots will be counted at the AGM general meeting, Thursday, August 30th and the results will be announced at that time.

Below are the candidates for President and the Board. More information can be found on the website regarding the candidates' history with CII and their goals and aims for the Council.

It's your association and now it's up to you!

[2018_CII_Election_Ballot](#)

Candidates for President

Brett Mikkelson
BM Investigations
Panama



David MacLeod
Macil Group
Australia



Candidates for Executive Board

Nancy Barber
Glass Key Investigations
California USA



Melissa Kelly-Hilton
Bishops Services, Inc.
New York, NY USA



Howie Griffiths
SSC Legacy
Bramley So. Africa



Bernarda Skrabar
Detective & Security Agency
Ljubljana Slovenia



AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

Nominations for the Council's most prestigious honor, The International Investigator of the Year (IIOTY) award are still open until July 15th.

At the Council's Annual Meeting held in Edinburgh, Scotland in October, 1976, the President of The Association of British Investigators at the time, Zena Scott Archer, personally delivered a silver loving cup to the Council with the request by the A.B.I. that it be presented each year to a Council member who has conducted an outstanding investigation or rendered an exceptional service to a client.

Nominations may be made by any person during the year and election is by a majority vote taken during the annual general meeting, after the reading of the nominations and supporting documentation.

Last year's honoree, **Sam Zonensein** of Israel was awarded the loving cup in recognition of his expectational work in recovering a stolen piece of artwork known as "Basket Weavers" by Max Lieberman. This valuable piece was stolen during Nazi occupation. Sam went undercover to find the art, recover it, and return it to its rightful owner after 70 years.

So, if you know of any member who had distinguished themselves as Sam did, please forward your nomination, in writing to the CII office with a copy to Sam.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE JULY 15 !



Meritorious Service Award

Since 2002, the Council has awarded the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) to a member who has gone above and beyond in providing help or some service to the security and/or investigative industry, or to the community in general. The MSA Award may be given annually to any member of the Council in order to recognize outstanding achievement and/or contribution.

The first Council MSA award was presented in 2002, posthumously to Robert M. Peterson who served the Council tirelessly in many ways and is credited with always reminding the Council to be "An Organization of Laws and Not of Men."

Last year's honoree was **Ryan Colley**, who was awarded the MSA for his tireless efforts in working to establish a synergy with the ABL and Integra for the benefit of all CII members.

If you know someone who you feel has earned this recognition, please send your nomination, in writing to the CII office.



Last year's honoree, Ryan Colley accepts the MSA from 2016 co-winner Anne Styren of Sweden

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE JULY 15 !

**Best wishes from Honorary Member
Peggy Houghton for a great AGM...**

I wish all CII members the best of all AGM's. I am so grateful that I attended so many wonderful meetings with Bert.

Have a wonderful conference in Hong Kong.

Peggy

Upcoming Events

Regional Meeting with ABL and Integra October 17—20, 2018 Florence Italy Hotel Garibaldi Blu

CII members have been invited to join our friends and colleagues from the Alliance of Business Lawyers (ABL) and Integra (auditors and accountants) in Florence Italy for an opportunity to network with business lawyers, accountants, and auditors from around the world in the fascinating city of Florence. Networking opportunities will include a cocktail reception with both groups, lunches and outings.

CII member **Jack Devine** has committed to speaking at the ABL seminars on his fascinating career as a leading CIA operative and his well informed take on world events today. CII also be hosting two to three seminars on issues and topics germane to our profession.

Registration information and other details will be sent out over the listserv in the next few weeks but, in the meantime, mark your calendar and set aside these dates for an opportunity to market your services to potential clients.

CII recruiting and presenting at the National Investigators' Super Conference November 8-11 New York NY Hotel Pennsylvania

CII is supporting this educational endeavor that is expected to draw over 500 private investigators, primarily from the US but also from several other countries. Three members of the Council are presenting seminars at this conference: **Steven Rambam**; **Fernando Fernandez**,; and **Steve Kirby**. CII will also be participating at a round table discussion of international investigations.

Aside from having CII members speaking at this event, CII will also be hosting a booth to acquaint potential qualified members to our organization.

Anyone interested in learning more about this conference can click on the below link:

<http://www.2018investigators.com>

SUBMISSIONS WANTED

For Educational Website and the Councilor

If you have a video presentation or an educational article you would like to post on the CII educational website or in the Councilor please contact **Steve Kirby** at skirby@cii2.org

CII promotes our members talents at the ACFE International Conference

For the third consecutive year, CII has promoted itself as an organization and its members as top professionals at the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners International Conference at the Mandalay Hotel in Las Vegas. With over 3,000 attendees, including fraud auditors, security directors, private investigators, and others in the fraud detection field this was a grand opportunity to promote CII and its members. Over 300 individuals stopped by the CII booth to discuss international investigations. One security director from a large retailer in the US stated that he first learned of CII last year at the ACFE conference and since then has used CII members on three separate cases. When asked how they did, he replied, “On all three cases they came through like a champ.” Good news indeed.

“In the last year I used CII members on three occasions and each time they came through like a champ.”

Security director at the ACFE conference commenting on his success using CII members

We also introduced ourselves to several dozen private investigators, each who stated that they would be interested in membership. Follow up emails were sent to each of these individuals.

CII members **Marc Reed, Keith Elliott, Mick Symons, John Redmond,** and **Bill Breen** also spent time at the booth helping the cause.

Special thanks to Marc Reed of Toronto, whose firm Reed Research helped underwrite this initiative, and who spent time at the booth promoting CII.

CNBC television looking for to air your story

While at the ACFE conference, we were approached by **Scott Zamost**, Senior Investigative Producer, who said that he would be very interested in hearing from any CII members who have an interesting case history regarding a fraud investigation, which could be aired on CNBC television. If you think you have a great caper to share contact Scott at scott.zamost@nbcuni.com or call him at + 01-201-735-3124.

64th Annual AGM

Hong Kong

August 28—Sept 1

Still time to register

[2018 CII AGM Registration Form](#)

[2018 CII Provisional Schedule](#)



CII continues to grow

22 new members accepted since January 1
95% renewal rate in 2018

The Council continues to thrive with a healthy growth of new members from a diverse number of countries. Most recently we added a member from Lebanon, bringing our total coverage “on the ground” of 68 countries. We expect to be over 400 qualified members by the end of the year. Equally impressive is that for the past 5 years our membership renewal rate each year has averaged over 94%, which is considered exceptional for any association.

Current Membership Numbers

Certified	323	Affiliate	9
Qualified	26	Honorary	7
Associate	1	Emeritus	4
Senior	21	Applicants	3

Total Membership 391

Countries Represented—68

Continents Represented—6

PENDING APPLICANTS

Eliot McKenzie

EMK Consultants
Glasgow Scotland, UK

Juan Duran

Defion Internacional
Lima Peru

Efren Lavina, Jr.

Expert Link Absolute Security Services
Paranaque (Manila) Philippines

More information about the applicants can be found on the CII website. Anyone with knowledge of these applicant’s qualifications can contact Galen Clements at galen.clements@cii2.org

(Remember no posting about applicants on the listserv)

Most recent new members 2018

Omid Aria, CII

AIS Investigation Services
North Sydney NSW Australia

Bryan W. Campbell, ACM

Amoco Federal Credit Union
Texas City, Texas USA

Bernard Cantin, QII

TRAK Investigations
St. Hubert, Quebec Canada

James Ellis, CII

JKE Texas Private Investigations
Irving, (Dallas) Texas

Sharon (Ron) Glaser, CII

S.O.G. Investigations
Bern, Switzerland

Marc Hurwitz, CII

Crossroads investigations
Miami FL USA

Nadim Issa, CII

Risk Mena
Aley, Lebanon

Colman Lo, QII

Risk Consulting HK Ltd.
Hong Kong, China

Kenneth (Kenny) Long, QII

Super Recongnizers International Ltd.
London UK

Srdjan Spasenovic, QII

DD&C Consulting
Belgrade, Serbia

Daniel Vassallo, QII

Corporate Resolutions, Inc.
New York, NY USA

Welcome

Riding off into the sunset

The following individuals have either fully or semi-retired from active investigations and therefore have resigned from active membership in the Council.

Julius “Buddy” Bombet
George Michael Newman
MJ Parker
Frank Ritter
Jonathan Turner
Tim Wilcox
Beth Townsend

We wish them the best in all future endeavors and thank them for their contributions to the Council of International Investigators and to the profession.

From the desk of Beth Townsend

After much consideration and deliberation, I have decided to retire this year. This year commemorates 40 years that I have worked closely in my business, Hanover Security, Inc. It is time.

It has been a great honor to be part of the Council of International Investigators. I consider it one of the leading investigative associations internationally. Please accept my resignation from membership, but please know that I do so with some sadness. Though some decisions are inevitable, it is still difficult, and I apologize that I have vacillated a bit. Thank you for looking after my membership. I am very proud of relationships I have had with other CII members. I am very proud to have attended a number of the annual meetings and been associated with some of the finest investigators in the world. Steve, you and Jim have led the organization honorably as have many others who have become my good friends. CII people are noble and elegant, grace-filled individuals, all around the globe. These qualities pervade the space when everyone comes together.

Thank you CII for welcoming me into this prestigious assemblage.

I will be seeing everyone down the road...

*Sincerely,
Beth*

President’s Message

Continued from page 1

The dynamics of the city, the fluid infrastructure which defies its overwhelming population, English Pubs (where most of the CII folk will be hanging out at), exotic cuisine and everyone trying to help even if they don’t understand your language. I remember trying to pick out a traditional Chinese outfit; shopping was never more fun than getting 7 people laughing uncontrollably as we try to understand each other.

Rumor has it also that ALL FOUR KUMARS will be attending this conference simultaneously. This event in itself is noteworthy and a priceless advantage that cannot be missed! If that doesn’t convince you, the Ritz-Carlton has a bar called “Ozone” which is on the 118th floor and is by far the highest bar in all of Asia. Of course by “highest” I mean vertically!! I think we could get the Kumars to do some local karaoke at Ozone; I can just imagine our more recent past president Sachit singing to the likes of Abba or Elvis!!

Whenever we do these events, we always need the attending support of the members. But let’s face it, we also need a lot of money. Without our sponsors, we would either have to charge \$800 in registration per member or take a tremendous chunk out of the CII coffers and financially speaking, that’s just not a possible model to maintain. I would always prefer that our members go to the AGM, but whether you can or cannot go, I humbly ask the membership to put an add in the conference agenda or to donate a suggested amount to the benefit of the AGM. Your support is greatly appreciated. (Ed note: A list of current sponsors can be found page 4)

I hope to see so many of you there. I will keep updating you during the next 55 days, but in the meantime, have a great week!

My best,

Brett Mikkelson
President

Watching the Detectives Submitted by Steve Kirby



The CII members must be keeping a pretty low profile as there has been very little to report over the past 3 months...**Jim Kirby** is traveling Europe these days, first with a recent quick trip to Ireland where he discussed matters of great importance with CII members **Derek Nally**, **Jimmy Gahan**, and **Michael Bennett**. Reports also surfaced that copious amounts of Jamison's and Guinness were also consumed...Now Kirby is in Italy with his lovely wife Jill touring the vineyards....Speaking of travelers, **Brian King** is hiking through the mountains of Nepal but unlike Jim Kirby, Brian is there on a mission to bring justice to some victims...Speaking of Kings, word is that **Jeremy King** is totally grounded in the province of Ontario as he and the always vivacious **Kalie Cuffe** are planning the wedding to end all weddings in September...**Bob Fenech** and **Leona Wong** recently went on an East Coast US tour of several Major League Baseball parks in Baltimore, Washington, New York, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. For those of you who don't know, Bob's baseball lineage goes back to his youth when he was a batboy for the San Francisco Giants. Rumor has it that he used to fetch Babe Ruth beers and hotdogs during the games back in the 1920's...**Joan Reistetter** nee Beach took time off from renovating a historic guest house to celebrate her birthday on July 2nd with her husband Emery. Joan has some type of magic we all could use as she looks (and acts) 25 years younger than she claims to be...We noticed that **Tom** and **Helen Davies** have registered for the CII AGM in Hong Kong. Tom and Helen have to hold the record for most AGM's attended and we are always thrilled to enjoy their company....Hope to see all of you at the AGM in Hong Kong.

2018 AGM in the Heart of Kowloon

Fantastic rates at the Regal Kowloon

ROOM BOOK CLOSING JULY 26TH! ACT TODAY

[Regal Kowloon Hotel registration form for 2018 CII AGM](#) ,



We're not sure how Jack Chu and his crew did it but we are sure appreciative that they did. There was concern that the hotel rates in Hong Kong would be cost prohibitive, but Jack negotiated an unbelievable rate of HK\$1100 single or HK\$1200 double, which is equivalent to US\$140 single and US\$152 double and 113 Euro single and 123 Euro double. The phenomenal rate includes a sumptuous breakfast buffet; free wi-fi; and complimentary transportation to and from the airport. The spacious accommodations are located in the heart of the Kowloon district, known for its nightlife, restaurants, and shops. The hotel a short two block walk to Victoria Harbor. There is also a large park, directly adjacent to the hotel, to relax outside.



The hotel is holding this room block until July 26 so it is imperative that you book as soon as possible. To download the hotel registration form, click here [Regal Kowloon Hotel registration form for 2018 CII AGM](#) , You will then need to fill it out and fax or email the form to Chanel Li at the Regal Kowloon.

The Regal Kowloon scores a 4.5 out of a possible 5 on Trip Advisor, based on over 12,000 reviews!

Featured Article

What are the effects of the GDPR (European General Data Protection Regulation)?

Submitted by Anne Styren

CII Regional Director Continental Europe



Business as usual perhaps?

I'd answer yes to that question because it is, indeed, business as usual. Requests haven't stopped coming in!

But there are some changes in our procedures, or rather a sharpening of them. Before going into that I should perhaps mention that my business is strictly B2B so we have no private individuals as clients and the projects are therefore strictly business oriented. Secondly 95% of my clients are returning so I know them well after years of business co-operation and we have contracts and NDS's of various kinds in place.

Someone with private clients or a lot of new and one-time clients, will have a different set of experiences with the GDPR routines and other issues to manage. The description below is based on my experiences alone and therefore not a guide or example for all – and of course, not legal advice in any way or form.

So – back to business.

We've always asked our clients the reason for their question and how the material found will be used. I'm sure it is standard practise for us all to make sure we work in the right direction, access relevant sources and can satisfy expectations and needs (and as a result be paid in full in a timely manner and have returning clients.)

While we were concerned about the client's needs and expectations as we sought to help them in any way we could using publicly available sources and human intelligence, we now need to add the GDPR perspective in some areas of our cases; is the gathering of personal data relevant and balanced?

Continued next page

Globe Detective Agency, India

The Pioneer and the Leader.



Trusted
Since 1961



Global
Network



20
Offices



Over 100,000
Cases & Counting

What are the effects of the GDPR ?

Continued from previous page

Now - the first thing to do is to determine that we have a lawful basis for processing personal data. (Remember the 6 lawful bases? Consent, contract, legal obligation, protect someone's life, public task, legitimate interest) So, does our client, on whose behalf we're collecting the data, have lawful basis? Mostly the answer is Yes, they do – for example a DD with consent, or they need to fulfil a contract (KYC) or there is a legitimate interest (such as a pre-investment DD).

But now it becomes interesting as we need to balance the retrieved information with privacy and one added twist for us is publicly available information.

Let's backtrack a little – or all the way back to 1766

Sweden, where I'm based, has the oldest freedom of information law in the world. Our "Public access to Information" law date back to 1766. The basis is that anyone has the right to access any documents available within all government agencies, to see what our rulers have decided and done. The fact is that all Nordic countries are considered to be historic pioneers in the field of FOI.

I use the Wikipedia explanation for Sweden:

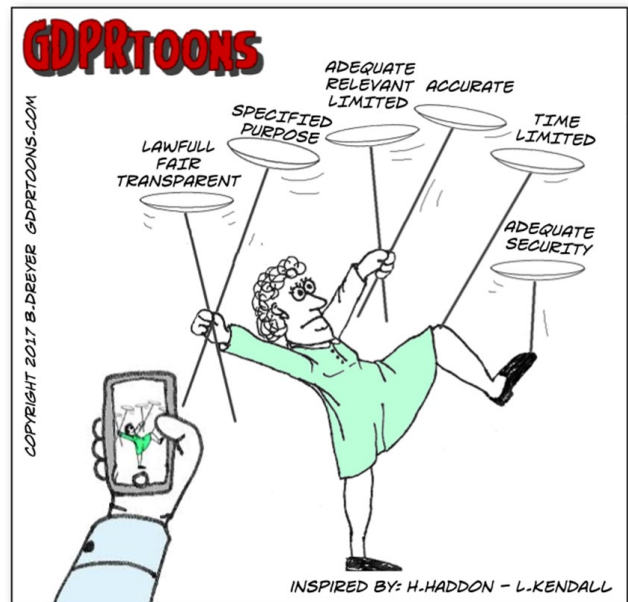
In Sweden, the Freedom of the Press Act grants public access to official documents and is included in the Constitution of Sweden. Dating back to 1766, it is the first freedom of information legislation in the modern sense. In modern times the right has become known as the Principle of Public Access (Swedish: offentlighetsprincipen).

The Principle of Public Access means that the general public is guaranteed insight into activities pursued by government agencies. All official documents handled by government agencies are public unless they contain information specified as secret under the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act. Each request to take part of official documents or information as secret is subject to appeal. The constitution also grants the right for government employees to pass on information without risk of criminal charges or repercussions and the right to attend court proceedings and meetings of legislative assemblies like the Riksdag.

Offentlighetsprincipen actually means, in daily life, that tax records, income statements, court rulings, debt information, car possession, ownership of land or property and

much more, is public information available to all as the facts are found within government agencies. But note that right to see and easy access to information are not the same, private use of public information is not the same as offering the same as a business – and finally that while the Nordic countries share a historic FOI act basis, the current state of FOI affairs differs between Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.

But back to Sweden and current day; while we have the possibility to privately "spy" on our neighbours; checking their income, or if the new car is really theirs or if the bragging about the newly bought summerhouse is correct, there are limitations. For example; there is no public national database for court rulings or income. The fact that the information is public, doesn't mean it's easy to access! Just as with everything else; you need to know where the information is, and how to ask for it – if you do, it's there



to publicly access. But you need to call the right authority with the correctly put question.

Looking for information as a private person is one thing as stated above and GDPR doesn't come into play at all, but I'm professionally accessing information and providing this as a service for hire – GDPR applies.

Back to the GDPR twist to our business operations

Having verified a lawful basis and a legitimate interest, our client might assume that this means we can access and deliver everything publicly available to us. But – alas – no. This is where the new consideration of privacy and balance comes into play. Just because it's public and available, doesn't mean it's lawful to gather, process and deliver it.

Continued next page

GDPR

Continued from previous page

We need to balance an individual's right to privacy with the "need to know"; the relevance to the matter at

hand. That someone owns a car, or a summerhouse, will probably not be deemed balanced information in a business-related DD process. That they write about their kids on Facebook will probably also be considered private information.

Our Swedish Data Protection Agency recently said in relation to researching court rulings to prevent fraud and/or money laundering that the fact of someone having, or not having, a financial fraud court ruling from earlier years, is no guarantee of fraud not being committed in the future – hence that information cannot be said to be crucial and the GDPR prohibition should stay in place and no special rules be made.

I'm sure you know that the GDPR is very strict especially on protecting judiciary matters – they are basically 100% off limits.

Personally I think that the value of knowing the facts is there, the authorities has another view – at least for now. But the debate and lobbying for change continues.

Now what?

Again – I'm not giving legal advice, not saying I know the ultimate GDPR truth, I'm writing from my personal perspective based on the information I have today. But the above conflict of public information that is there, legally accessible versus "but you cannot use it" has always been a tricky business for us. Now, as GDPR is so specific, we can lean on that to balance our projects to include relevant information and not trespass without limit, into private areas.

We can for sure read social media and tell "there are no red flags there" – but we cannot and will not (for a regular B2B matter) transcribe and tell all that is written. We will not access information on private matters just because we can, only if it is relevant and balanced – because we want to be compliant with the GDPR.

All done, clear and no doubts?

Absolutely not I'm afraid. The debate about how GDPR affects companies in industries such as ours is raging. In some European countries industries suggest that small companies with less than x number of employees be except of GDPR rules, in other countries there are demands that certain industries have special rules. Some countries already have much stricter privacy laws than GDPR, oth-

ers have licenses for PI professionals that affects GDPR implications. There are so many questions and issues still needing clarification.

But one thing is clear; as professional investigators we need to do our very best to be compliant and to make sure our clients know what this compliancy means, both in a good way and as a restriction.

We need to be clear about the secure handling of reports and material (passwords on word documents comes in handy if you haven't used it before), the secure storing (Tresorit and Dropbox are examples of such tools), erasing things we don't use, balancing reports. All these things are good in some way or another and can be used as a marketing tool and stamp of quality.

Where to go from here?

The easy answer is: Hong Kong! Yes, at the AGM in Hong Kong we'll have a GDPR session. That'll be an excellent opportunity to discuss the GDPR from an European and International angle. I'm sure it'll be very interesting!



Background Checks

Corporate Investigations

Due Diligence

Cyber Security

Brand Protection

Security Analysis

Fraud Risk Management



Serving India and the world

+91 124 288 3000

info@netricka.in

Feature Article

WHAT IS BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY?

By Lauren Sowers



If you're like most people, you've probably heard the buzz about blockchain technology, but you'd be hard pressed to offer an explanation of what it is and how it might be used. Here's a quick rundown. As the basis of all cryptocurrencies, and as an anonymous and open system, Blockchain presents a number of interesting things for any investigator to ponder regarding how information sharing and record keeping might be changed in coming years.

Blockchain is, simply put, a fancy new kind of database. It consists of a network of computers, all of which add details to the database's record in real time, and all of the computers involved are notified in the event of an error. The computers exist in a network that has no centralized "hub" or "master." Rather than a spider web with an organized central point, with all systems eventually reporting to the center, a Blockchain network would look more like the constellations of the night sky- connections can be drawn in any direction, and all points report to one another.

It all starts with records. Any sort of transaction (i.e. Bitcoin) or deal generates a *record*. Records are then bundled together into a group, thus creating a database known as a *block*. The block is then added to other blocks, and *any two blocks will always be bound with the use of a unique code called cryptographic hashing*, also known as a *hash*. A hash is a unique string of letters and numbers, created by a math function.

The hash for each block *also includes the hash of the previous block*, so that it can be verified that each group of records is bound in the right order. And here's the important part: *any change within a block will alter the hash*. That's basically the built-in fraud alert that makes people so excited about Blockchain technology. If you changed so much as one decimal point in a 10,000 page financial transaction record on an existing block, the hash for that block would *instantly* change. Which means that

the *subsequent hash would change as well* (because, as we learned each hash contains a record of the previous hash). And as the changes ripple out across the chain, the chain would essentially "break," becoming invalid, and all computers associated with creating the records in the database would be notified of an alteration to an existing record (thus a possible fraud).

So if a hacker wanted to alter a financial transaction, the hacker's alteration of any single element would break the block's link to the next block via the *hash*. The hacker would then have to alter *each successive hash*, which, depending on the length of the chain, would be an impossible or at least *exceptionally* difficult computing problem, considering that each and every computer in the network would be notified of each and every change. To breach the security of a blockchain, a hacker would have to have control of a majority of the *nodes*, or computer systems involved in a network. This would require an extremely large number of parties to be involved, and would essentially be a coup of an entire network.

Here's another important element: Blockchains are *anonymous* and *open to anyone* with the computing power to join. For instance, in cryptocurrency blockchains, the ledger of transactions is publicly accessible through APIs and torrent sites (databases are cryptographically secured). Since there's no centralization of control in the network (remember, the networks are structured less like spider webs and more like constellations), the issue of trust arises. Blockchains have tests for entry, so that any computer wanting to participate in the network has to prove itself. It is possible to either mine or buy tokens. Mining involves using lots of computing power to solve complex puzzles.

The financial world may be the first (beyond cryptocurrencies) to adopt and implement Blockchain technologies

Continued on page 16

What is Blockchain Technology

Continued from page 13

successfully and improve upon the security of their records. An October 2017 report from CompTIA found that nearly a quarter of companies surveyed were exploring Blockchain technology, while 22% were already developing tools using blockchain, and 16% of companies had already purchased blockchain-enabled tools. A staggering 51% of those currently using blockchain had applied it to issues of digital identity.

Other industries seeing success in using blockchain technology are fashion (supply chain records), food suppliers (large companies such as Walmart have plans to implement it for tracing contaminated foods), and minerals (companies such as Brilliant Earth have used it for tracing the origin of diamonds to prove their products are conflict-free). From healthcare to voting, the applications for the technology seem endless.

Advertise on the website or in the Councilor!

The Councilor is offering members only the opportunity to advertise their services on the website or in the Councilor. Rates are affordable but space is limited. The website advertising runs for three months period and is a very affordable \$250. It includes a banner ad / logo and link to your website. The next available time block is January 15—April 15. The Councilor is also accepting ads at rates of:

1/2 Page—\$125 per issue

1/4 Page—\$75 per issue

Bus Card—\$50 per issue

To place your ad simply go to:

[Website / Councilor advertising form](#)

Or contact Steve Kirby at skirby@cii2.org

Maurice Amres Appointed to the Executive Board

In accordance with the CII bylaws, the Executive Board appointed Maurice Amres of Guyana to complete the unfilled open slot on the Board of Directors, until 2019. Maurice is a long time member of the Council and has previously served on the Board. He is active in Council affairs, serving as South and Central America Co-Director (along with Seth Derish) and has attended numerous AGMs with his wife Chandra.



Maurice is owner and CEO of GEB Security Services Inc. and has well over 30 years of security related experience. GEB's services include provision of guards for Embassies etc. cash escorts, executive VIP protection, marine river patrols, electronic alarm & CCTV installations with monitoring, local and foreign investigations including insurance frauds, back ground checks etc.

CII Executive Board 2017—2018

Officers

Brett Mikkelsen— Panama—President
David MacLeod— Australia —Vice President
Toine Goorts—Netherlands—Secretary
Sachit Kumar— India—Treasurer

Board Members

Sant Kaur Jayaram—Singapore
Ryan Colley—USA
Bob Fenech—USA
Marc Reed—Canada
Chris Nielsen—Canada
Maurice Amres—Guyana

Executive Regional Director

Galen Clements—USA

Featured Article

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Also by Lauren Sowers

Incognito on Instagram: How to View and Download an IG “Story” Anonymously

As with LinkedIn and many other social sites, Instagram provides details to a user regarding who has viewed his/her content. “Instagram Stories” was originally launched as a means of imitating/ catching up with Snapchat - but now, per a 2017 article in Business Insider, Instagram has surpassed Snapchat in daily users, with more than 250 million users creating stories every day on Instagram (compared with Snapchat’s 166 million daily users). With stickers, filters, tags, location information, and photo messages that disappear, Instagram Stories is the main Snapchat competitor.

The main difference between the Instagram Stories and Snapchat is that Instagram auto-plays stories (meaning that it will continuously roll through the content of everyone you’ve connected with via your profile). All an Instagram user has to do to determine who has viewed his/her story is simply to swipe up while in their story. This means that the target of an investigation can easily see that you’ve viewed their content, with minimal effort on their part.

That’s why one of my favorite tools is this Instagram Story Downloader, created by Alec Garcia. It’s available as a plugin on the Google Chrome Browser, meaning it shows up as a little icon within your browser bar. You can see it below, the small rainbow colored Instagram icon second from right in mine:



This handy tool allows you to go incognito when viewing a user’s stories. The little eye below indicates you’ve gone incognito. And you can download the stories within the plugin.



Chrome IG Story
by Alec Garcia



Download it here:

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/ig-story-downloader/hgoahjfiijnieehhbmegbfgblldcaeca>

Here’s another option/ version by a different creator (I haven’t tried this one):

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/chrome-ig-story/boigeigifondahckoahkilneffhmf>

OSINT TOOLKIT

If you find yourself needing to preserve digital evidence, chances are you’ll be interested in the timestamp for the item. Check out this UNIX Timestamp Converter:

<http://coderstoolbox.net/unixtimestamp/>