

NON-OBVIOUS LINKS IN ONLINE FRAUDS

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The first part of this presentation describes the Digital Forensic specialization of the School of Criminal Justice of the University of Lausanne, and the main topics that are under research. One areas of research will be presented in more detail. The aim of this research is to explore new and existing techniques and methods from forensic science, crime intelligence and computer science, to find non-exact or non-obvious similarities between online frauds. Perpetrators can easily switch to different online accounts or platforms, effectively changing their digital identity and the traces of their activities. As a result, exact comparison of digital traces is a limitation for link discovery in online fraud investigations. To overcome this limitation and to avoid linkage blindness, it is necessary to use near similarity comparison of distinctive characteristics of online frauds, including digital traces, context (spatio-temporal information), and actions taken by authors (modus operandi). The first step of this research, presented here, is to determine the methods and techniques that can be used to compute near similarity between digital traces. Another part of this work is to study the decision making process of evaluating the links found using near similarity computations.

Keywords: Digital forensic, online frauds, non-obvious links, crime intelligence, link analysis
