BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Computer Crime*

The questioned document examiner as well as the rest of the citizenry have been thrust into the computer age—whether we like it or not. As consumers, we are on the receiving end of the computer. The machine juggles payrolls, adjusts charge accounts, makes reservations, and performs other essential services for us. When the periodic snafus occur, hopefully we catch them and then find a way to correct the error. Document examiners, however, are now being asked to examine materials involved in civil and criminal matters involving computers and computer-generated documents.

For a questioned document examiner to examine cases involving computers, he must bring to bear on the problem a technical understanding of computer operations, a keen appreciation of his technical limitations, and a background knowledge of the legal and investigatory problems involved in computer matters. It is to this last aspect that *Computer Crime* makes a distinct contribution. The author covers such topics as computer security, federal laws relating to computers, the role of the various federal agencies in investigating computer crimes, the problem of the hearsay rule in relation to computer records, getting around the hearsay rule in both federal and state court, "best evidence" rule problems, and computer litigation. For background information, a document examiner couldn't do better. If one ignores some of the superfluous wordage, there is a solid core worth reading. Since the book was written by a lawyer, rather than a computer programmer or designer, the book deals primarily with the effects of the computer rather than details of the operation of the machines.

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