



The International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists

Basic Computer Forensic Examiner Program Description

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i. Program Overview

The Basic Computer Forensic Examiner (BCFE) Training Program - the cornerstone training provided by IACIS - is a 76-hour course of instruction that is offered over 2 consecutive weeks and is designed to provide students with a foundational knowledge of Computer Forensics to be able to enter into the IACIS Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE) certification process. This training involves a combination of lectures, instructor-led and independent hands-on practical exercises, and independent laboratory activities which help the student learn the underlying principles of computer forensic theory and examinations and how to apply them in practice.

While the name of the training does include the word “Basic”, over the years it has evolved into more than that. Students are expected to be familiar with the Windows Operating System; they should be able to maneuver their way around different settings in Windows like the Control Panel and Task Bar; and be familiar with terminology associated with Windows like “registry” and “hidden files”. This is a very fast-paced training and as such, having knowledge of rudimentary Windows functions and settings will help the student keep on pace with the material being presented.

This training event may seem like it is primarily for those who are beginners in the field of Computer Forensics, however, it is equally suited for those who are advanced students and experienced practitioners. IACIS and the BCFE program champions a forensic tool neutrality and an independent methodology approach to learning computer forensics. This enables IACIS to provide students with a deeper exploration of underlying principles than might be afforded in other programs, which are designed to teach students how to use a forensic tool to complete a task.

Approximately 90% of what is needed for students to successfully complete the BCFE program and the subsequent certification process is provided during course program lectures and practical exercises. For the CFCE process, students will be expected to do additional outside reading and perform additional independent research.

ii. Prerequisites

There are no forensic training prerequisites for this class. The BCFE training encompasses everything from search and seizure of digital devices to analysis of FAT and NTFS file systems; from forensic imaging to registry analysis. Students should have a decent understanding of Windows 10, its different settings and how to maneuver within Windows. Those that do not have this knowledge will find the BCFE program challenging.

Certainly, one who has more extensive experience will initially be more comfortable with some of the foundational course material, but as the program advances whatever “knowledge gap” there might be at the start of the program will quickly close. In the end, all students are considered at the same level and individual courses are constructed with this in mind.

iii. Software & Equipment

IACIS advocates a forensic tool-independent and forensic methodology-independent approach to teaching computer forensics. IACIS does not endorse nor support any forensic software tool, forensic hardware device, or any software program. Students are not required nor expected to have any knowledge of forensic software or automated tool suite; and there is no expectation that students in the BCFE program be familiar with or have any experience using any forensic hardware or software.

Students are not required to bring a computer with them to class. With participation in the BCFE training event, IACIS provides each student a laptop computer for their use during the event and to take home with them. Along with the laptop, students will also receive a write-blocker and other equipment. The BCFE Training manual consists of multiple printed manuals. Students should be aware that they will be returning home with more baggage than they came with and should plan for this.

The conference center does have a privately run UPS office on-site where you can mail your excess equipment/luggage back to your home or Agency. There may be cheaper options available off-site.

Students may bring a laptop computer or other digital device with them for personal use outside of the classroom. Students are not permitted to use their personal laptop computers, pad/tablet computing devices, cell phones, or other personal computing devices in the classroom.

v. Attendance & Conduct

The BCFE Training is a 76 hour program. Instruction takes place Monday-Friday from 0800-1700. There will be ample breaks during the day with an hour for lunch as shown in the schedule. Attendance for the entire 2 weeks is mandatory to meet the requirements of a successful BCFE training.

A Certificate of Course Completion is given to students who meet all the requirements of attendance. This is not the IACIS Certified Forensic Computer Examiner certificate. That is a process unto itself -- information for which will be addressed during the two weeks.

So that they are not rushed and have enough time to make return flights, students should not make flight arrangements before 1900 on the last day of training to account for traffic and airport security clearances.

Recording of any kind is not permitted during classes, activities or lab sessions. This includes audio, video, still photography or screen-recording of any kind.

The Dress Code for classroom events is "business casual". Students are expected to dress professionally and appropriately (collared shirts, slacks/5-11 style pants). Shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, sandals, flip-flops and similar casual apparel will not be permitted in the classroom at any time.

The BCFE classroom is a big, air-conditioned venue and the temperature is set lower than what you may be comfortable with at times due to the large number of computers and other devices that generate heat. It is advisable for you to bring a sweater or a light jacket to wear.

The training event takes place at the Caribe Royale Orlando, 8101 World Center Dr., Orlando, FL 32821. Phone 407-238-8000. The hotel is located about 18 miles from the Orlando International Airport (MCO). A taxi ride from MCO to the hotel can cost \$50.00 (US) and up, based on traffic congestion at the time. Closer to the start of the training event, you may be able to post to the IACIS Listserv to find cab-share for students.