Employability from Computer Forensics Programmes

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Objectives

• Consider employability for computer forensics graduates in computer forensics and in other computing jobs
• Share case studies from graduates to indicate range of opportunities
• Discuss impact on curriculum
Why Consider Employability?

• As we move towards Sept 2012 indications are that students and potential students will be much more focussed on employment opportunities.

• Getting employability right will lead to a virtuous spiral with more students coming onto our programmes.
Potential Issues to Consider

• Are students in a position to work in computer forensics environment?
  – Curriculum coverage
  – Practical experience

• Security clearance

• Types of student jobs
  – Awareness

• “Different” expectations from employers

• Saturated job market
Other Employability Considerations

• Are there computer forensics jobs out there for graduates?
  – Large firms, SMEs, set up own company?

• Does it matter
  – Pragmatically?
  – Morally?

• Are computer forensics employers ready for graduates?

• Balance between education and experience

• Accreditation ??

• Are computer forensics students in a position to do other computing jobs?
Student 1 – Forensic Job

• Starting applying in Autumn of previous year for the ‘Milk Round’
• Working for Law Enforcement HTCU
Student 2 – Security Job

- Starting applying in Autumn of previous year for the ‘Milk Round’
- Working for Security Services
  - Should we even be sharing this information ??
  - Can we use in publicity ??
Student 3 – KTP Associate

- Graduate employed as associate for KTP
- Built on long standing relationship with employer
Student 4 – Further Study

• Applied in March for a funded place for further study
• Funded MSc
Student 5 – ‘Career Change’

• Applied in March for a funded place for further study
• Funded PGCE Place
• Now teaching
• Has asked about MSc study!
Student 6 – Widened the Search

• Didn’t apply at the right time for anything but decided to go for a general computing job
• PC Support at a school
Top reasons not to get a job/further study

• Not applying at the right time
• Not widening the search to encompass all computing jobs
• Not widening the search to encompass all jobs requiring “graduateness”
• Not understanding the application/testing/interview process
What have we done about it?

- Employability and Careers Service sessions on applications/testing/interviews
- Good Links with PGCE guys at CCCU
- MSc at CCCU
- Recommendations for other postgraduate study (findamasters.com and findaphd.com)
- Let me know about your own postgraduate programmes! 😊
Summary

• There are issues particular to computer forensics in identifying employment opportunities
• Need to work closely with computer forensics employers to allow for graduate pathway
  – In understanding job requirements
  – Getting employers to engage in curriculum design / delivery