

Preface by Prof. Dr. Asaf Varol, General Coordinator of ISDFS 2026
14th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security, Boston, MA, USA,
Endicott College, March 19-20, 2026

PREFACE

Dear Participants of ISDFS 2026,

Since its inception in 2013, the *International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS)* has grown into a well-recognized international platform that brings together researchers, practitioners, and industry experts working in digital forensics, cybersecurity, information assurance, and emerging security technologies. Hosted by several distinguished universities in the United States, Türkiye, Romania, and Portugal, ISDFS reflects strong international collaboration and academic impact. The symposium provides an interdisciplinary environment where scholars present innovative research findings, discuss emerging cyber threats, and explore new methodologies and technologies aimed at strengthening digital security infrastructures. Through keynote speeches, technical sessions, and collaborative discussions, ISDFS continues to contribute to the advancement of digital forensics and cybersecurity research worldwide. It is therefore our great pleasure to celebrate the successful completion of the **14th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2026)**. For more than a decade, this symposium has been organized without interruption, and even the global challenges caused by the **COVID-19 pandemic** did not break this tradition, demonstrating the resilience and dedication of the ISDFS community.

Over the years, the ISDFS conference has grown steadily in terms of academic quality, number of submissions, and international participation. Between **2016 and 2022**, the conference received technical sponsorship from different IEEE sections. During these years, ISDFS was successfully organized in several countries including **Türkiye, Romania, Portugal, Lebanon, and the United States**.

During the **last four years (since 2023)**, the symposium has been organized consecutively in different states across the **United States**, hosted by various universities under the umbrella of the **IEEE Education Society**. This collaboration has significantly strengthened the scientific visibility and global reputation of the conference.

The countries, host institutions, and dates of ISDFS conferences organized since 2013 are summarized in **Table 1**.

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Table 1. Chronological Overview of the International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS)

Year	Symposium	Location	Date
2026	14th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2026)	Endicott College, Boston, MA, USA	March 19–20, 2026
2025	13th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2025)	Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, MA, USA	April 24–25, 2025
2024	12th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2024)	Trinity University, Texas, USA	April 29–30, 2024
2023	11th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2023)	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA	May 11–12, 2023
2022	10th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2022)	Maltepe University, İstanbul, Türkiye	June 6-7, 2022
2021	9th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2021)	Firat University, Elazığ, Türkiye	June 28–29, 2021
2020	8th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2020)	Arab Open University, Beirut, Lebanon	June 1–2, 2020
2019	7th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2019)	Instituto Politecnico do Cavado e do ave, Barcelos, Portugal	June 10-12, 2019
2018	6th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2018)	Firat University, Antalya, Türkiye	March 22–25, 2018
2017	5th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2017)	The University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Tirgu Mures, Mures, Romania	April 26–28, 2017
2016	4th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2016)	University of Arkansas at Little Rock, USA	April 25–27, 2016
2015	3rd International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2015)	Gazi University, Ankara, Türkiye	May 11–12, 2015
2014	2nd International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2014)	Sam Houston State University, Texas, USA	May 12–13, 2014
2013	1st International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (ISDFS 2013)	Firat University, Elazığ, Türkiye	May 20–21, 2013

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The **technical sponsorship of the IEEE Education Society** has provided significant strength and international visibility for the conference. In this regard, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to **Prof. Dr. Arnold Pears, President of the IEEE Education Society (2025–2027)**, and **Prof. Dr. Diana Andone**, Conference Chair, for their valuable support and encouragement.

One of the distinctive characteristics of the ISDFS conference is that it is governed and organized by an **international consortium** of universities and institutions. The consortium members for **ISDFS 2026** include:

- Association of Software and Cyber Security of Türkiye
- Istanbul Technical University (Türkiye)
- Maltepe University (Türkiye)
- Fırat University (Türkiye)
- Gazi University (Türkiye)
- IEEE Education Society (USA)
- Endicott College (USA)
- Wentworth Institute of Technology (USA)
- Trinity University (USA)
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (USA)
- Sam Houston State University (USA)
- University of Tartu (Estonia)
- Polytechnic Institute of Cavado and Ave (Portugal)
- Singidunum University (Serbia)
- TELUQ University (Canada)

The consortium membership is periodically updated. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all consortium members for their invaluable contributions and continuous support of the ISDFS conference.

All submitted papers undergo a **rigorous peer-review process**. Each submission is evaluated by **at least two independent reviewers**. Following the reviewers' recommendations, the **ISDFS Executive Committee** performs a final evaluation of the manuscripts. Papers that comply with the **IEEE publication standards and formatting requirements** are submitted for approval to IEEE and subsequently published in the **IEEE Xplore Digital Library**, one of the largest scientific digital libraries in the world. Through this process, the research presented at ISDFS becomes accessible to researchers and practitioners worldwide. Furthermore, the indexing of ISDFS by **Scopus** significantly enhances the international recognition and academic impact of the conference.

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14th International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security, Boston, MA, USA,
Endicott College, March 19-20, 2026

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to **Dr. Sara Quay, Provost of Endicott College**, and **Dr. Mark Herlihy, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Communication, and Humanities**, for approving the organization of **ISDFS 2026 at Endicott College**. Special thanks are also extended to **Dr. KC (Kyungseok) Choo**, Associate Dean and Professor at Endicott College and Director of the Homeland Security Graduate Program, who served as the **Local Organizing Chair** and led the local organizing team with great dedication.

We are also grateful to the distinguished members of the **Honorary Committee**, including:

- **Dr. Lori Mann Bruce**, President of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- **Dr. Jerold Hale**, Provost of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- **Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi**, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science
- **Dr. Edibe Sözen Çetintaş**, Rector of Maltepe University
- **Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Gökteş**, Rector of Firat University

The **Microsoft CMT service** was used for managing the peer-review process for this conference. This service was provided free of charge by Microsoft, including all expenses related to **Azure cloud services, software development, and technical support**. Without this support, managing the **498 papers submitted to ISDFS 2026 through the CMT system** would not have been possible with such efficiency. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to **Microsoft** for this valuable contribution.

Out of the **498 submitted papers, 185 papers** were accepted for presentation, resulting in an **acceptance rate of approximately 37%** for ISDFS 2026.

Organizing an international conference is a demanding and complex process that requires the dedicated efforts of many individuals. The successful completion of ISDFS 2026 is the result of the collaborative work of numerous researchers, reviewers, students, and staff members working behind the scenes. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all authors and participants who contributed to the success of this conference.

ISDFS 2026 is honored to host two distinguished **Keynote Speakers**. Our first keynote speaker, **Christophe Landries** from the **Belgian Federal Police / Directorate of International Police Cooperation / Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT)**, delivered the keynote titled:

“AI-Powered Crime, Immersive Platforms, and the future of Criminal Investigations”

Our second keynote speaker, **Supervisory Special Agent Peter Gomez** from the **New England Regional Computer Forensics Lab (NERCFL)**, delivered the keynote titled:

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“The FBI Role in Global Cybercrime Disruption: Partnerships, Capacity Building, and Enforcement.”

We sincerely thank both keynote speakers for their valuable contributions.

Finally, I would like to express my special appreciation to **Dr. Murat Karabatak from Firat University** and **Dr. Cihan Varol from Sam Houston State University**, who have been actively involved in the organization of ISDFS since its establishment in 2013. Their dedication, tireless efforts, and continuous support have played a crucial role in the sustained success and international growth of the ISDFS symposium.

Once again, I would like to thank all participants and contributors and wish everyone a productive and inspiring conference.

March 19, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Asaf Varol". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Dr. Asaf Varol

General Coordinator, ISDFS