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Welcoming remarks from the IJCIC Honorary Editor

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Welcoming remarks from the IJCIC Honorary Editor, Dr. Peter Grabosky

Dear Readers,

It is an honour as well as a pleasure for me to welcome you to IJCIC and to this inaugural issue. As recently as two decades ago, when I first began publishing in the field of cybercrime, there were few if any journals devoted to the topic. Although studies in information systems security were becoming common, they lay beyond the gaze of most socio-legal scholars. A few articles began to appear in law reviews, and even fewer in sociological and criminological publications.

One of the pioneers in the field, Donn B. Parker, published *Crime by Computer* in 1976. Around this time, as automated data processing became a growing fact of life, Bernard Madoff used it to conceal fraudulent transactions. A young Kevin Mitnick soon began making uninvited visits to other people's information systems. Five books published at the end of the 20th century provide a flavour of what life was like in the "good old days" *The Cuckoo's Egg* (Clifford Stoll 1989); *Cyberpunk* (Hafner and Markoff 1991); *The Hacker Crackdown* (Bruce Sterling 1992); *The Cyberthief and the Samurai* (Jeff Goodell 1996); *Underground* (Suelette Dreyfus 1997).

But things have moved on. The advent of the Internet, the World Wide Web, cloud computing, and Big Data have broadened the horizons of cybercrime to the extent that was barely foreseeable. The cyberespionage described in *The Cuckoo's Egg* appears positively quaint by today's standards, as do the intrusions and thefts of intellectual property in the days when they were still regarded by many as just a bit of fun. The commercialization of the digital world has been accompanied by the commercialization of cybercrime; the theft this year of US\$500 million Bitcoin is grimly illustrative. But there is more than money at stake: the remote disruption of Iranian nuclear enrichment facilities sent a shiver down the spines of custodians of critical infrastructure across the world. The application of digital technology to surveillance has altered governance in a manner which George Orwell would instantly recognize. The increasing pervasiveness and interconnectivity of digital technologies have transformed children's toys into potential listening devices. Mining of data produced by fitness trackers can reveal the location of secret military installations. Mobile phones have become personal tracking devices.

Every new technology and every new application is vulnerable to exploitation by criminals, whether individual, corporate, or governmental. It is difficult to predict where these developments will lead us, but one thing is certain: the arrival of a journal such as IJCIC is an event to be celebrated. I congratulate the Editors, and wish them every future success. I wish the journal's readers a stimulating and enlightened future.

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