Trent Whitbourn

Partner in Sydney

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Trent is a certified Computer Examiner and a forensic and technology specialist with more than 14 years of experience specialising in digital forensics, cyber security and information risk, end-to-end electronic discovery and data analytics.

Trent has extensive experience in delivering complex and large scale technical projects in a wide array of contexts, from digital forensics investigations and eDiscovery matters to cyber incident response and data breaches. He assists clients with understanding and meeting their obligations for Royal Commissions, Notifiable Data Breaches and responding to regulators.

His work has spanned across different jurisdictions, government projects and projects involving local and US regulators.

Trent has managed projects across a wide range of industry sectors including construction, financial services, government, insurance, legal services, manufacturing, mining and resources, aged care, health and pharmaceuticals, retail, technology and utilities.

Trent has acted as an Independent Computer Expert.

Engagement Experience —

Digital Forensics and Incident Response

- Acted as an Independent Computer Expert in relation to the preservation of websites for a commercial dispute.

- Acted as an Independent Computer Expert in relation to the recovery and preservation of deleted data from cloud systems, including Microsoft 365 for a commercial dispute.

- Acted as an Independent Computer Expert in relation to ERP systems for an underpayment dispute.

- Acted as an Independent Computer Expert in relation to a contract dispute and involving the forensic acquisition and analysis from an enterprise IT environment.

- Acted as an Independent Computer Expert in relation to an IP theft-related dispute involving the application Dropbox.

- Acted as an Independent Computer Expert in relation to deletion recovery, internet history and artefact analysis for an unfair dismissal-related claim.

- Assisted an Expert in relation to WeChat recovery and analysis and document metadata analysis for a commercial dispute.

Qualifications & Memberships —

- Certified Computer Examiner (CCE), International Society of Forensic Computer Examiners

- Member, International Association of Privacy Practitioners (IAPP)

- Member, Australian Information Security Association (AISA)

- Member, Australian Legal Services Managers (ALSM)

- Bachelor of Arts (History and Philosophy), University of New South Wales

- Diploma of Education (History and Drama), University of New South Wales

McGrathNicol

Trent Whitbourn Partner in Sydney

- Performed forensic collection and analysis, and drafted findings and expert reports for submission to court on dozens of disputes, assisting a Computer Expert.

- Prepared and delivered client briefings and mediated requests between parties in the context of Independent Computer Expert engagements for employment disputes.

- Performed forensic collection and analysis in a time critical investigation by a sporting body into a member club including assisting investigators in performing financial and communications analysis, and the preparation and delivery of findings.

- Assisted Victorian Police with a time critical investigation by performing forensic collection and analysis.

- Assisted with a response to an APRA investigation of a senior executive, including forensic collection and analysis, and assisting with the draft findings.

- Incident response for an Australian bank including forensic collection and malware analysis of end-point devices, and contributing to the drafting of an independent report for the client.

eDiscovery, Royal Commission and Regulator response

- Managed seven engagements across the Financial Services, Aged Care and Disability Royal Commissions including document collection, processing, review and production, and the provision of proactive guidance to ensure each client understood and complied with collection and production requirements.

- Managed five large document productions end-to-end for three NSW Government agencies including around-the-clock support from initial engagement up until production in Parliament.

- Managed dozens of engagements for the production of records to Australian Regulators.

- Oversaw the production of over two million documents in a multi-jurisdictional dispute relating to defective medical devices which included liaising with overseas counterparts to coordinate the discovery and review process.

Notifiable data breaches

- Managed or contributed to the delivery of privacy-related engagements, including an OAIC enforceable undertaking and Notifiable Data Breach engagements across a variety of industries.

- Developed a database interface and reporting application to assist clients in quantifying and qualifying personally identifiable information for reporting a Notifiable Data Breach.

Forensic analytics

- Performed analytics of student enrolment and engagement based on data extraction from multiple sources, including VET FEE-HELP providers and the Department of Education.

- Coordinated large scale data collection and developed custom software to ingest bespoke structured data for a construction firm which included extracting and analysing 500 million rows of data to identify sources of potentially relevant information.

- Developed custom software to extract documents from a proprietary document management system employed to house both the defendant and plaintiff's correspondence and project material.

- Developed software to process and analyse text chat in the context of a regulator investigation.