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OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **UM's Office of Information Technology to Create a Virtual Digital Forensics Lab**

COLLEGE PARK, MD (May 15, 2008) – The University of Maryland's Office of Information Technology (OIT) received \$109,514 in funding from the CyberWATCH consortium to establish a regional Digital Forensics Lab (DFL) through a grant from the National Science Foundation. The DFL will be a "virtual lab" that will serve as a resource in the teaching of digital forensics at CyberWATCH universities and community colleges as well as serve as a resource for performing digital forensic investigations in the future. Also, it will offer sample curricula and curriculum materials, including forensic case studies, for use by CyberWATCH member institutions throughout the Washington, D.C. region in developing their own forensics courses.

An important part of the project involves making available computing power and software appropriate for the forensic examination of both network activity and digital media. The virtual lab will consist of virtual machines running on hardware hosted at the University of Maryland, College Park that will function as forensic workstations. These machines will be used by the member institutions to offer courses in forensic examination of digital media and network activity.

"The University of Maryland has been a part of the CyberWATCH consortium for many years, and we are excited to host this shared Digital Forensics Lab that will be used to provide hands-on experience and education to the next generation of information security professionals in the region," said Dr. Jeffrey Huskamp, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, University of Maryland.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the CyberWATCH consortium is composed of higher education institutions, businesses, and government agencies from across the region focused on improving cybersecurity and safety through education.

OIT expects to officially launch the DFL at the 2008 C3 (Cyberethics, Cybersafety, and Cybersecurity) Conference in October during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The first full semester the DFL will be available for use in courses will be spring 2009.

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### **About the University of Maryland**

The University of Maryland is the state's flagship university and one of the nation's preeminent public research universities. Ranked No. 18 among public universities by U.S. News & World Report, it has 29 academic programs in the U.S News Top 10 and 90 in the Top 25. The Institute of Higher Education (Jiao Tong University, Shanghai), which ranks the world's top universities based on research, puts Maryland at No. 37 in the world and No. 8 among U.S. Flagship universities. The faculty includes three Nobel Laureates, seven Pulitzer Prize winners, 40 members of the National Academies of Science, and scores of Fulbright scholars. The university is also recognized for its diversity, with one-third of the student population being students of color. For more information about the University of Maryland, visit [www.umd.edu](http://www.umd.edu).

### **About CyberWATCH**

CyberWATCH: Washington Area Technician and Consortium Headquarters is a consortium of higher education institutions, businesses, and government agencies in the Washington D.C./Maryland/Virginia region that is focused on building and maintaining a stronger information security/assurance workforce. In addition, CyberWATCH is committed to improving the quality and increasing the awareness of information security/assurance in the education and business communities. For more information about CyberWATCH, visit [www.cyberwatchcenter.org](http://www.cyberwatchcenter.org).

### **About the National Science Foundation**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering, with an annual budget of \$5.92 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to over 1,700 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives about 42,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes over 10,000 new funding awards. The NSF also awards over \$400 million in professional and service contracts yearly. For more information about NSF, visit <http://www.nsf.gov>.

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