Chapter Website:
www.acfe-pgh.org

Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter

August 2023
Newsletter

August 9, 2023 – ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter presents – Virtual Meeting

"If You're On Time, You're Five Minutes Late: A Contract Fraud Case Study in Data Analytics"

Speaker: Colin Arbes, Special Agent, United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General

Location: Virtual Event (Zoom)

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm: Presentation

Please register here.

Registration deadline: August 8th at 3:00 pm

Cost: Members & Associates of the Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter: $10
All others: $20

CPE: Qualifies for 1 credit hour of continuing professional education. Attendance certificates will be emailed after the event.

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Call for Speakers!

We are looking for speakers to present for our upcoming 2022-2023 year which begins in August. Do you know an engaging speaker who may be interested in delivering a presentation relevant to the ACFE membership? If so, please send name and contact information to Nick Leone at nleone@schneiderdowns.com and copy Bernie Rafferty at brafferty@schneiderdowns.com.

Our Sponsors:

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"If You're On Time, You're Five Minutes Late: A Contract Fraud Case Study in Data Analytics"

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The Inspector General community is responsible for combating fraud, waste, and abuse in government programs. The Office of the Inspector General for the United States Postal Service oversees integrity and efficiency of the nation's postal system, with a dedicated division for investigating contract and procurement fraud. The Postal Service manages billions of dollars in contracts every year and the huge dollar value provides ample opportunities for contractors to defraud the agency and the American public. This session will present a case study on how some of the largest and most recognized companies can defraud the government and how investigators can utilize data analytics to detect issues and calculate damages.

Colin has been a Special Agent with the Postal Service, Office of Inspector General since 2004, responsible for leading complex criminal and civil investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse by government employees and against government programs. This includes the investigation of public corruption, violations of antitrust law, procurement fraud, and major fraud against the government. To date, the results of his investigations have recouped over $100 million in fines, penalties, and restitution.

Colin has also served as a Fellow with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency and detailed to the Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General Data Analytics Team to lead a group of data scientists in the design and development of statistical tools. He also served as a member of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee advising on criminal investigations of fraud and is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Please join us for this interesting and relevant presentation.

Register here!

Cybersecurity Survey

Chapter member Cathy Eck is doing research for her Ph.D. dissertation focusing on U.S. organizations' cybersecurity practices. Cybersecurity research often focuses on cybersecurity practices in place at large businesses, those with 500 or more employees. Additionally, cybersecurity best practices frameworks are viewed as being too complex or expensive for small businesses, those with less than 500 employees. Existing research indicates that many small businesses are at significant risk of having their information systems compromised due to a lack of information technology and a lack of resources to hire that knowledge. These small businesses represent over 99 percent of all U.S. businesses. However, little is known about the actual cybersecurity measures that these businesses have in place.

Below is the link to a survey on U.S. organizations' cybersecurity practices. No prior cybersecurity or information technology experience is needed to take this survey. This anonymous survey seeks participants currently employed at both small and large U.S. businesses to obtain a deeper understanding of the differences and similarities in how United States businesses prevent and detect cyber-attacks. The survey can be completed in less than 10 minutes. The survey link can be forwarded to anyone that is willing to participate. The survey will close on August 7, 2023.

<u>https://rmu.questionpro.com/t/AXd4XZy3rR</u>

Two Sample Fraud Scenarios From Equifax

Scenario 1: A credit card issuer experiences fraud losses when fraudsters use fabricated account information, usually with a real SSN. This may occur if the card issuer offers credit cards via an online channel, and fraudsters, taking advantage of a potentially loose credit policy, fabricate bogus identities. To uncover synthetic identities, credit card issuers should screen each identity component, including name, address, Social Security number and telephone number.

Scenario 2: Criminals use stolen identities to open new accounts via a lender's online or call center channel. Relying on the anonymity of a lender's online services, a fraudster uses stolen personal information to apply for an account in the victim's name. However, using a combination of authentication and modeling techniques, fraudulent applications can be spotted.

For more information on these fraud scenarios, read the Equifax Insights Blog post here.

AI Scam Artists Impersonate Familiar Voices to Scam the Rest of Us
More Pennsylvanians than ever are getting telephone calls from people with remarkably familiar voices. Read More

70-Year-Old Pittsburgh Woman Accused of Social Security Fraud Using Her Dead Mother's Bank Account
A Pittsburgh woman has been indicted by a federal grand jury, accused of a charge relating to Social Security fraud. Read More

AARP Sounding the Alarm on Fraud
Scams and fraud are significant problems in America, and AARP, in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), has continued to sound the alarm. Read More

Pittsburgh Woman and Detroit Man Indicted on Fraud Conspiracy and Bank Fraud Charges
A resident of Pittsburgh and a resident of Detroit, Michigan, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Pittsburgh on charges of Fraud Conspiracy and Bank Fraud, United States Attorney Eric G. Olshan announced. Read More

Freedom From Fraud: Protecting Your Identity and Finances
Constance Etude had a close encounter with fraud in 2020, but her instinct saved her. Read More

After Mental Health Hearing, Ex-Credit Union Manager in Monessen Charged in $340,000 Theft Admits Guilt
After a psychiatrist said Patty Lynn Mavrakis doesn't have any mental diseases that would prevent her from knowing what she's doing, she pleaded guilty to wire fraud in stealing $340,000 from the credit union where she worked. Read More

White Oak Man Charged with Home Improvement Fraud
A White Oak man is facing home improvement fraud charges. Read More

U.S. Postal Service Warning Users Against Sending Checks Through the Mail
There is a new warning from the U.S. Postal Service: Do not send checks through the mail. Read More

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About the ACFE

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 90,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. Visit www.acfe.com for more details.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – Meeting
- Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – Meeting
- Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – Meeting
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023 – Meeting
- Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – Meeting
- Wednesday, February 14, 2024 – Meeting
- Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – Meeting
- Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – Meeting
- Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – Meeting
- May 2024 – Fraud and Corruption Awareness Seminar (Co-Sponsored with the IIA and Schneider Downs)
- Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – Meeting
- June 2024 – Officer and Director Elections

Watch for more information on upcoming events!