CURS Reflection

Quinton Currier

This summer research project into Deleted File Recovery (DFR) tools was a great learning experience, both in the material my team researched, but also learning more about myself and how research works. This was my first exposure into how professionals go about the research process, first acquiring a grant to help fund the project; then creating a plan and executing the plan to documenting everything to later report and share results with others from students to professors, to the makers of software that we used. I learned a lot about my self as well with how much work I can handle and trying to balance everything with project management. During this summer I also had a full-time internship in Toledo where I had to balance meetings with my professor and teammate to make sure the work was getting accomplished on top of comparing my results to my teammates to make sure we were on the same page.

Furthermore, we did hit a couple snafus when going through the research portion of the project. We learned that one software needed more specific test cases, so they had to be recreated to better accompany that software. We were hoping to use a very expensive software with a trial license, but after reaching out to the company they do not have any trial licenses available at this time. We also ran into a few coordination issues were trying to match the schedules of 3 people up with different availabilities. Making sure we were all on the same page was a tricky, but overall I believe useful to learn for use in future projects outside of college. I also really enjoyed the fact that results from this project include helping a DFR workshop with content, able to create lessons plans usable by the CS department in future classes, and a paper with the potential to be published.

Overall, the CURS research project we did into DFR tools was very educational to me. While there were some challenges to overcome, I believe that this project helped my grow both in my field and professionally with skills I’ll use far into my future. Also, I am excited to see how far our results get out into the community and can help others learn