Report : Automated Social Media OSINT Aggregation Pipeline

Name: Anjali Mishra
RollNo: 10471
Class: TE Comps B

1. Introduction

What is OSINT?

OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) is the practice of gathering information from publicly available sources such as social media platforms, blogs, forums, news websites, and other online platforms. Unlike traditional intelligence methods, OSINT relies solely on open and legally accessible information. This type of intelligence is widely used by researchers, security analysts, journalists, marketers, and law enforcement agencies to monitor trends, study public opinions, track emerging issues, and make informed decisions.

Lab Objective:

The objective of this project is to develop a fully automated OSINT pipeline that collects posts from multiple social media platforms, cleans and normalizes the text, performs sentiment analysis, and stores the structured data in a database for easy access and analysis. By doing so, researchers and analysts can quickly understand trends, measure public sentiment, and extract actionable insights without manually browsing through hundreds or thousands of posts.

This pipeline also serves as a learning exercise in integrating APIs, handling unstructured social media data, managing databases, and visualizing results. Overall, it demonstrates the potential of OSINT tools to make large-scale social media monitoring efficient, structured, and insightful.

2. Methodology

Platforms Integrated:

- Twitter
- Reddit
- Instagram
- Telegram
- Discord
- GitHub

Tools & Libraries Used:

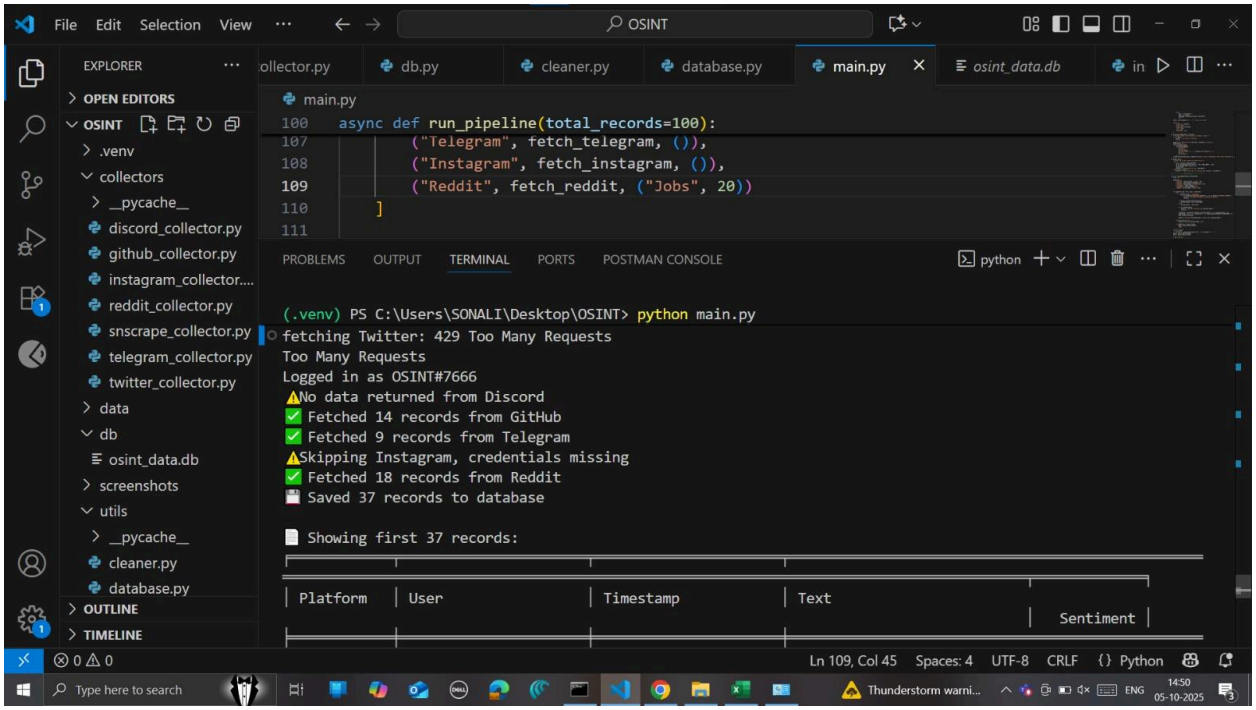
- Python – Main programming language.
- SQLite – To store collected data.
- TextBlob – To perform sentiment analysis.
- snscrape / PRAW / Telethon / API calls – For fetching posts from respective platforms.
- Matplotlib / Pandas – For creating charts and data analysis.
- dotenv – For storing API keys securely in a `.env` file.

Workflow:

1. Fetch posts from social media using APIs or scraping libraries.
2. Normalize and clean the data (remove URLs, emojis, and unwanted symbols).
3. Filter posts by language (English).
4. Analyze sentiment (positive, negative, neutral).
5. Save all structured data to a SQLite database.
6. Generate charts to visualize sentiment distribution.

3. Result:

Data Collection: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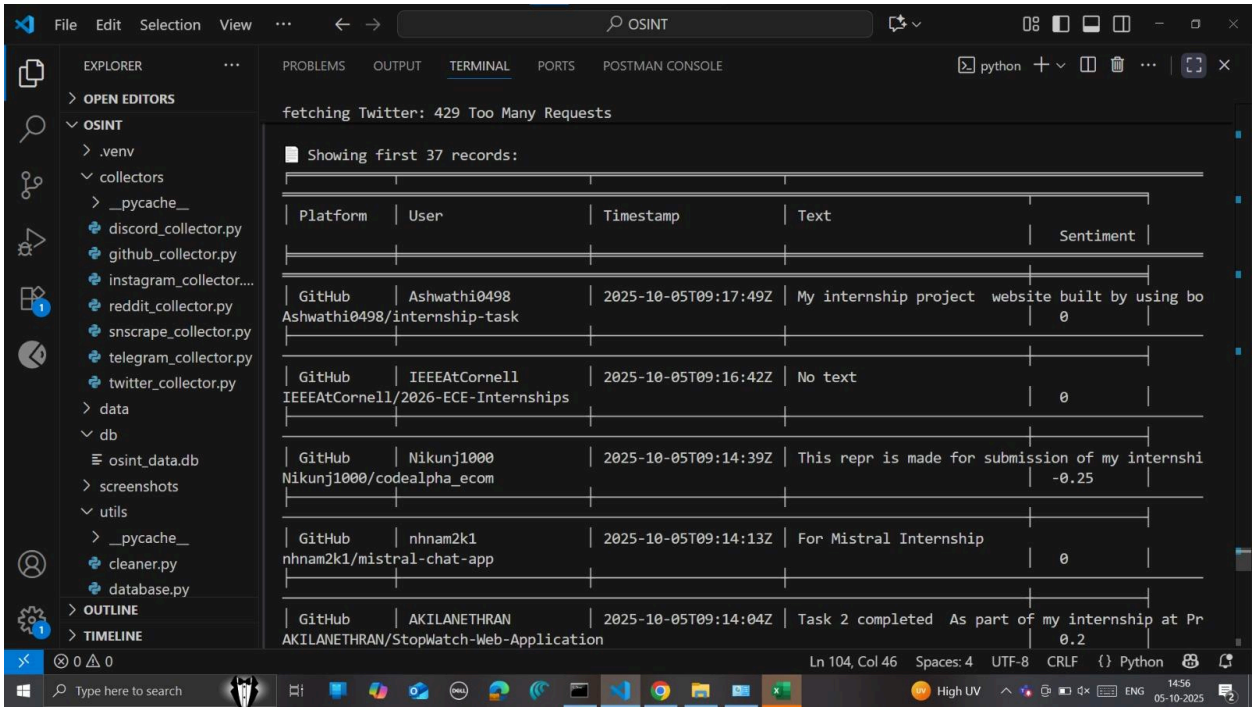
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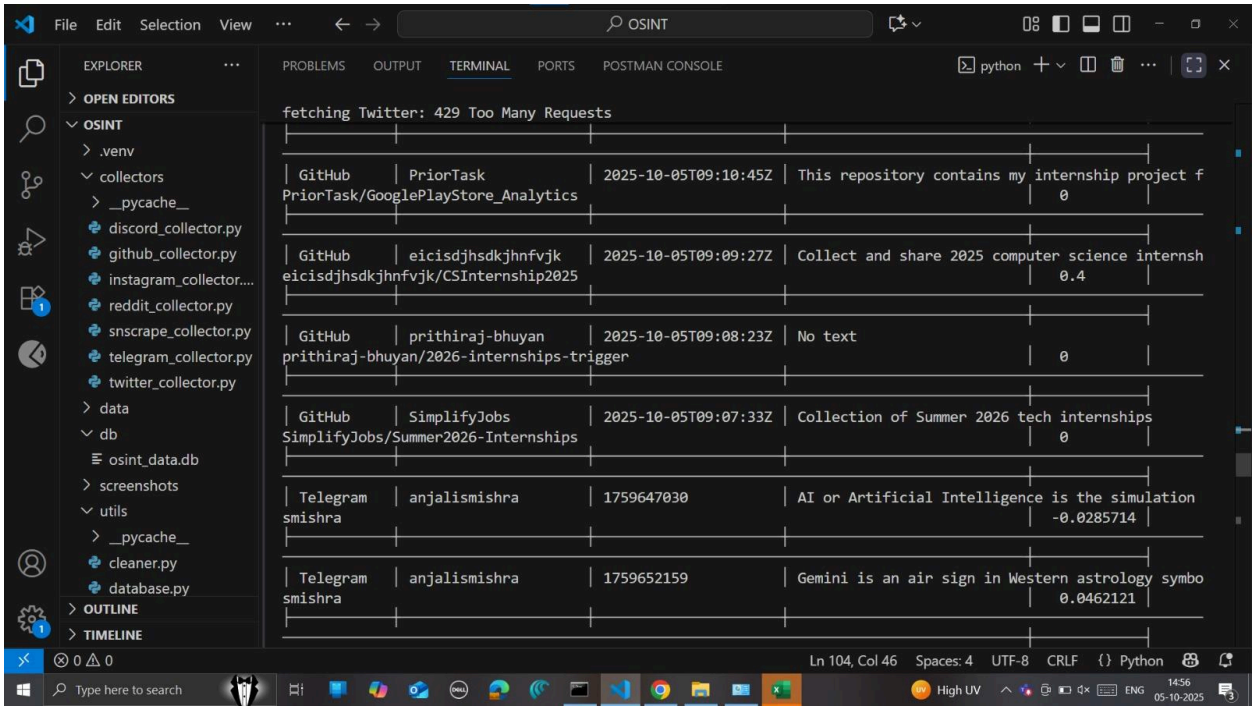
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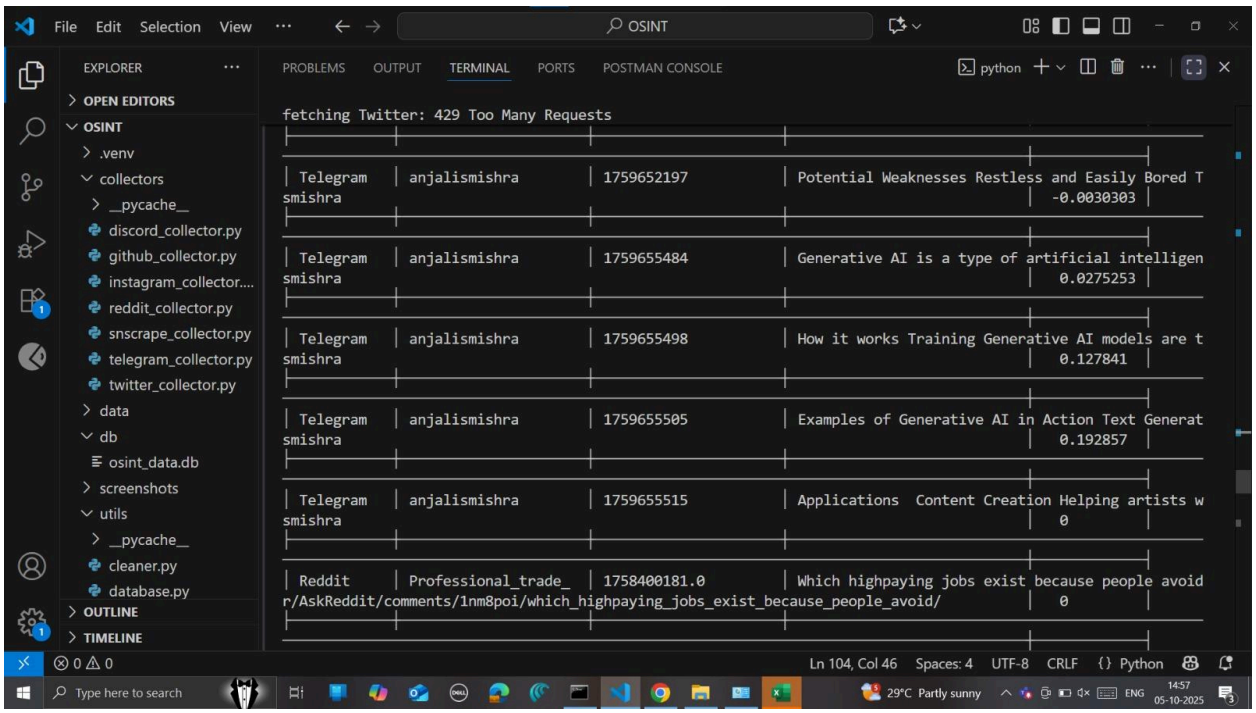
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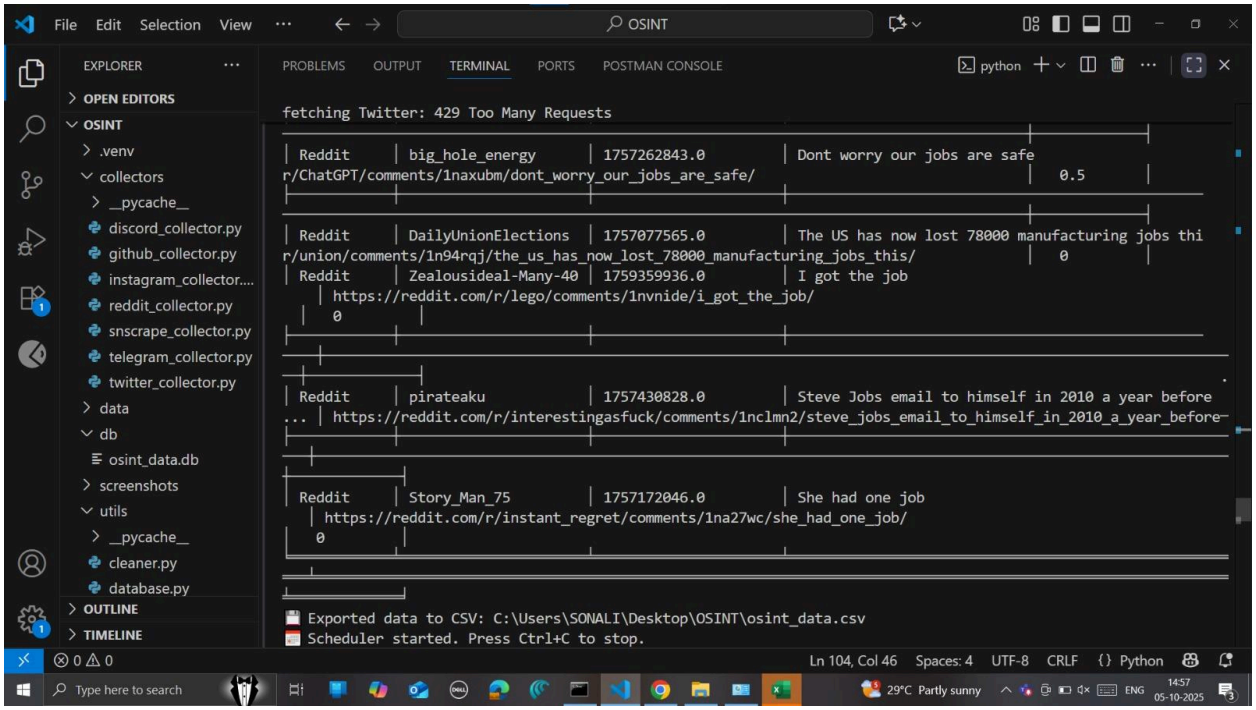
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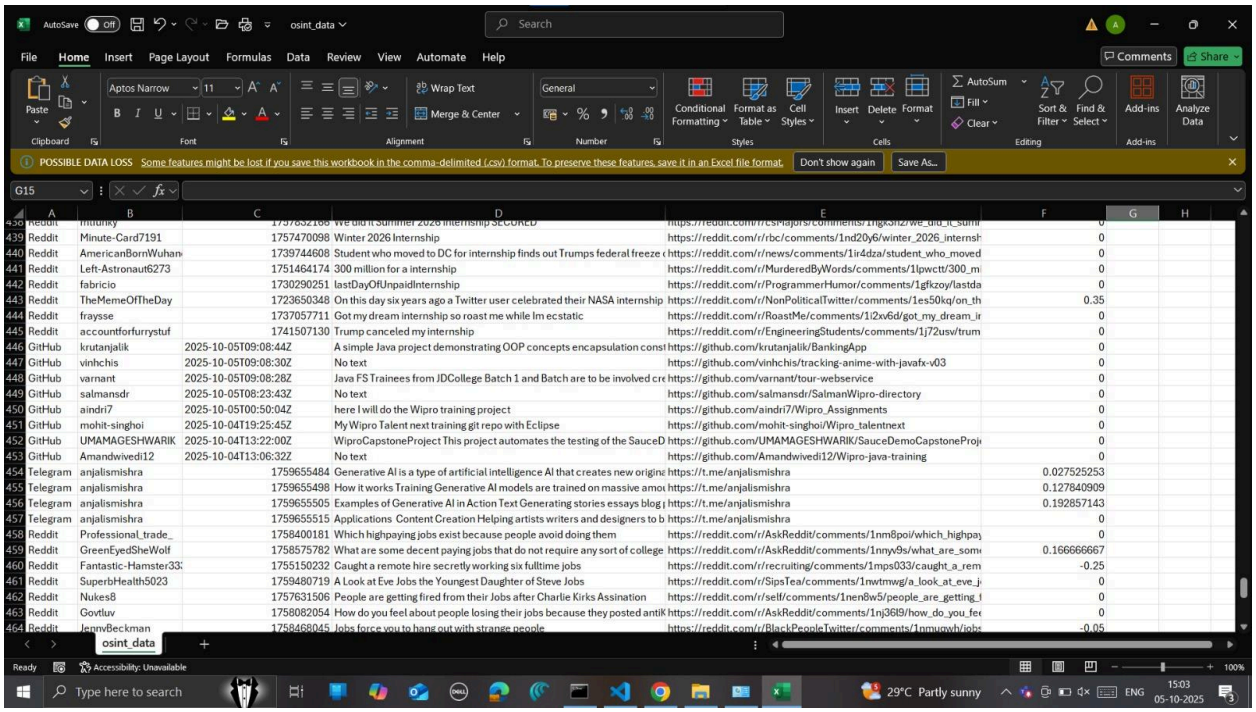
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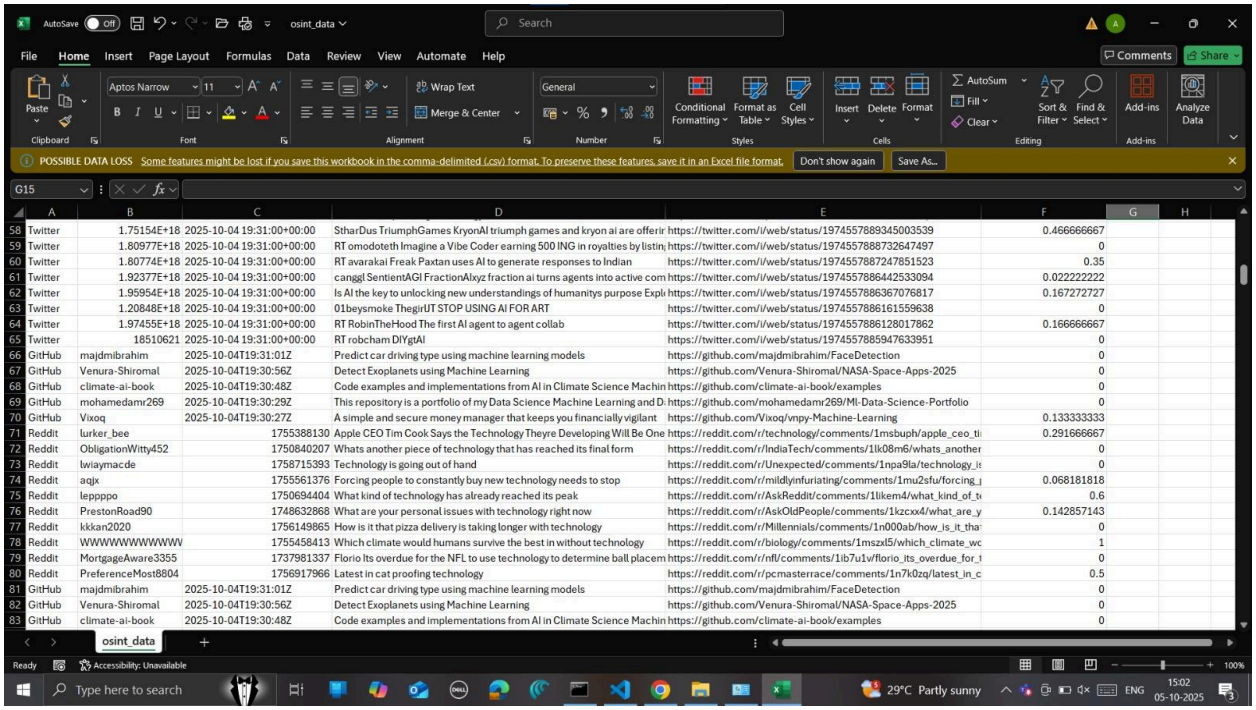

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83	GitHub	climate-ai-book	2025-10-04T19:30:48Z	Code examples and implementations from AI in Climate Science Machin	https://github.com/climate-ai-book/examples	0		

4. Challenges

1. API Limits: Twitter and Reddit limit the number of requests per hour. Had to reduce fetch count and handle rate-limiting.

2. Authentication: Some platforms require API keys or tokens. Managing them securely was necessary.

3. Data Cleaning: Social media text often has emojis, symbols, and URLs that needed to be removed.

4. Errors & Exceptions: Occasionally some platforms returned empty data or network errors. Had to implement error handling.

5. Conclusion:

- The pipeline successfully collected and analyzed data from multiple platforms.
- Sentiment analysis provides a quick overview of public opinion on topics.
- The database structure allows easy querying and further analysis.

Future Improvements:

- Add more platforms like TikTok, Facebook, Mastodon.
- Enhance sentiment analysis using advanced models (like transformers).
- Add real-time alerts for trending topics.
- Implement better visualization dashboards for easier insights.