Intelligence in the age of Digital Communities

**Summary:** IRC, Hexchat, XChat, and more recently: Discord, Matrix, Element, … have been an integral part of interconnecting people from around the world on various topics of interest, and thus, have become an integral component in the creation of digital communities.

Building a community online, however, is much like sending a message to everyone in your town that you live at a specific address, and also inviting every one of them over for dinner at the same time: inevitably, less charitable or law-abiding people will show up, and some of them may try to take advantage of the situation.

In being a member of and managing a few digital communities, I have personally had to respond to incidents when such a threat emerges.

As such, I wanted to discuss various processes in managing communities, potentially underlined with examples, such as:

* how to identify, catalog and possibly respond to threats to the wellbeing of a community
* how OSINT and knowledge of law and law enforcement can help in the resolution of incidents
* how exchanging intelligence about threats between communities presents opportunities and risk
* how webs of trust can wrench in complications and facilitate the reduction of vigilance in terms of Operations Security (OPSEC)
* how community guidelines exist as a framework with which staff members can intimate a sentiment of interest and vigilance

**Target Audience**: Internet community members, OSINT enthusiasts

**What will attendees learn?** The dynamics of digital communities, from a member’s perspective and from a staff perspective, and how their management can easily require a greater diversity of than just managerial or social skills, but also technical and intelligence skills.