Resources, Tools, & Techniques OSINT Exercise 2

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Utilizing the environment from the previous OSINT assignment enables a formal, yet brief investigation of the following questions: 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 17 to 20. The resources, tools, and techniques from Section II of the textbook (the tools from *IntelTechniques.com*), will encourage a deeper Dive into creating comprehensive online personas to perform OSINT in numerous platforms/social media.

Questions 2, 4, & 5

Question 2

Rumors from sites like *macworld.com* say that the next release date for the new iPhone (iPhone 17) will be September of this year. However, this is just a quick search, therefore, I used the communities search tool to search the keyword "iPhone 17 release date" in the Reddit section, which, as the textbook shows, uses the "Old" view to uncover more information per page, as mentioned. After some investigation using this search tool, I founded Quaner Liu and Wayne Ma, both authors from Hong Kong, they state the following: "The slimmer iPhone could be released concurrently with the iPhone 17, expected in September 2025, **according to the three people with direct knowledge** and two others familiar with the project" (Liu & Ma, 2024). Though I'm not a hundred percent certain of the legitimacy of the information, throughout the community, it is said that India and China are the main manufacturing entities of this product, which adds validity to this claim and matches the information from the quick search, giving me about 90 percent confidence level.

Question 4

While investigating which was the biggest cybersecurity firm, I decided to choose the one that is headquartered in Colorado, although there are sources such as *builtincolorado.com* that

state the top Colorado cybersecurity company is *PwC* due to their sheer numbers of employees

and expansion across the globe, yet this company was founded in London, England. According

to *globalcybersecuritynetwork.com* (a fairly accurate website), the cybersecurity firm based in

Colorado with the most employees is *Optiv*. Using the LinkedIn search tool from

IntelTechniques, I verified characteristics like followers, employees, jobs postings, etc, to

compare against competitors and set an approximation of the size of different firms in Colorado

like Red Canary (another well-known firm). Even though I prefer to choose organizational or

governmental sites over commercial ones, analyzing the information with actual current profiles

in LinkedIn matches the same information and gives me an 80 percent confidence level that

Optiv is probably the cybersecurity firm with the greatest reach in Colorado as of today.

Nevertheless, *Optiv*'s position is being taken by some of the other firms according to users' and

security enthusiasts' experiences as a result of bad decision-making and poor working conditions

([r/cybersecurity](#) on Reddit).

Question 5

      To find the website using the IP address 54.239.28.85, *IntelTechniques* includes

numerous sites such as *viewdns.info*, *ip-lookup.org*, or *ipaddress.com* in the IP address search

tool. Using the WHOIS lookup and reverse IP lookup, I concluded that the IP Address points to

Amazon's servers for cloud services (EC2) in Virginia, and hence the website is *Amazon.com*,

even though the results returned 97 domain names to this IP address. As for MSU Denver's

website, the Domain search tool will also include some of the same tools found in the IP address

search tool: WHOIS and Reverse IP Lookup. The IP address for MSU Denver's website will

often appear as 141.193.213.20 and 141.193.213.21 using the *Inteltechniques* tools, but [MSU

Denver's Information Technology Services](#) will officially point users only to 141.193.213.20

when configuring DNS settings. As for the student hub, that is just the path in but it is resolved

using the same IP address. This information is quite accurate and I get the same results as in the

search tools with my Linux and Windows machine using nslookup, dig, and the WHOIS client.

Questions 10, 11, 13

Question 10

Without including surrounding areas and suburbs in Denver, colleges and universities,

private and public, that have a physical location according to the research of *Franklin University*,

based on their detailed list, are about 8 after matching only those in Denver. For question 10, I

did not use any of *IntelTechnique*'s search tools, instead, I simply viewed *Google Maps* to see the

area that Denver covers precisely. I have a 98 percent confidence in the accuracy of this

information as I manually examined each of the institutions listed below.

List of Colleges and Universities With Physical Location in Denver.

1. University of Denver

2. Denver College of Nursing

3. Regis University

4. The Art Institute of Colorado

5. CollegeAmerica-Denver

6. Metropolitan State University of Denver

7. Colorado State University Global

8. Community College of Denver

Question 11

Doing a quick search in Reddit for true conspiracy theories, I chose one that noted Apple

made their devices deliberately slower for consumers back in 2017. This is one I've heard

before, and people would consider this to be a conspiracy since they were just rumors; thus, to

verify, I used the Documents search tool to find PDF files with the keywords "Apple Slowing

Devices". As a result, the *Office of the District Attorney, County of San Diego,* from

www.sdcda.org, released the $24 million settlement from Apple Inc., where it states the

following: "iPhone software it instructed consumers to download intentionally slowed down the

performance in older iPhones" (*SDCDA*, 2020). The confidence level for this information is 100

percent, not only organizational websites support this claim, but also educational institutions, by

demonstrating how certain software tweaks reduced Apple's products' performance.

Question 13

The concern that China is supplying Russia escalated around 2022 and 2023 (when the

Ukraine invasion exponentially increased), many of the reports and investigations by government

sites found using *IntelTechnique*'s Business & Government search tool, as well as the Documents

search tool, resolve back to those particular years. China started to do trading and exports of

several kinds of goods with Russia; "China exports to Russia machinery and electronics ($28.8

billion), followed by base metals ($5.7 billion), textiles and apparel ($5.4 billion), and vehicles,

ships, and aircraft ($5.0 billion)" (Sutherland & Sutter, 2022). Although it is not explicitly stated

that China has been importing weapons to Russia and denies such claims today, these supplies

evidently are for the manufacturing of missiles/nuclear weapons. All of this information comes

from governmental and organizational sites making it fairly reliable.

Questions 17 to 20

Question 17

The crime rate in Colorado compared to other states was easy to find,

commonsenseinstituteus.org has a research from November 10th, 2023, where Colorado ranked

4th nationally with the most committed crimes being against properties and the least being

crimes for auto theft. As for assault, murder, violence, or sexual assault, Colorado rated 20th in

2023, but *denvergov.org* provides copious details such as the 3-year average for crimes like

sexual assault with a total of 137.

Question 18

Utilizing the same resource (*denvergov.org*) and the interactive map from *arcgis.com,* the

area with the biggest crime rate is Central Park, and the most common crimes are larceny, theft

from motor vehicles, followed by all other crimes according to the *Denver Police Crime Data*

site. Although there is no precise information about how often these areas are being monitored,

District 5 (in charge of this area) suggests that there is a lack of police patrolling due to the long

district.

Question 19

Implementing the same approach (arcgis.com crime map), Auraria's most common

crimes are public disorder and theft from motor vehicles. A strategy that I've seen as a student

has been the campus landline phones located in several locations for emergencies and police

patrolling around the campus. The administration building also has a lot of police presence, and

it is where officers are dispatched from. There are many resources, phone numbers, and overall

communication through text messages and emails that many students receive if an emergency

has occurred around the area and a dangerous situation has come up.

Question 20

Through a simple search of *denvergov.org* in the government segment, the condition of

incarceration will include programs for rehabilitation, visits, or even accommodations for meals

that include religious diets and medical diets. The Denver Sheriff Department program provides

religious counseling, education assistance, mental health therapy, etc. For other surrounding

areas like Lakewood that fall under Jefferson County, the conditions might differ. For instance,

Jefferson County Jail was once sued by numerous inmates due to overcrowding, denied access to

religious activities, and even "deprived of exercise and fresh air for weeks at a time" (Dresser,

2023). This is formal research, and I'm confident the information is accurate from the sources

mentioned for questions 17 to 20.

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