

# Mineração de Dados

Data Sources & Data  
Collection (OSINT)

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# About me

## Education

**2016** Bachelor in Biomedical Engineering

**2019** MSc in Biomedical Engineering – Medical Informatics

**2024** PhD in Biomedical Engineering

## Experience

**2020 – 2025** Teaching at UMINHO (Databases, Knowledge Discovery, Neural Networks, Big Data)

**2019** Teaching Mobile Applications at IPCA

**2018** Member of the KEG at ALGORITMI Research Center

# Contents

1

The Data Age

2

Data Sources and Data Collection

3

OSINT

# Learning Objectives

**By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:**

- Understand what OSINT is and where it applies;
- Know types of open data sources;
- Understand the OSINT cycle;
- Recognize practical applications and use cases
- Assess the quality, reliability, and legal risks of data;
- Perform basic OSINT data collection using open tools.

# Bibliography



## Books:

1. "Open Source Intelligence Techniques" by Michael Bazzell
2. "The OSINT Handbook" by Dale Meredith

## Training Platforms:

1. OSINT Framework ([osintframework.com](https://osintframework.com))
2. Trace Labs (for ethical practise)
3. Bellingcat's Online Investigation Toolkit

## Community and Resources:

1. **Reddit:** [r/OSINT](https://www.reddit.com/r/OSINT)
2. **GitHub:** [Awesome OSINT](https://github.com/OSINT-Tools) (curated repository)
3. **Newsletters:** OSINT Weekly, Bellingcat

# The Data Age: Current Context

- 90% of the world's data was created in the last 2 years
- 328.77 million terabytes generated daily (2024)
- 5 billion internet users globally
- 70% of companies report that data is critical to decision-making
- Big Data Market: US\$ 307.52 billion (2023)



***In a world flooded with data, how can we find valuable information?***

# Why we collect data?



## Decision Making

Evidence vs. Intuition



## Pattern Identification

Trends and Correlations



## Problem Solving

Accurate Diagnosis



## Optimization

Process Improvement



## Innovation

Insights for New Products/Services



## Competitiveness

Strategic Advantage

# Data Quality Dimensions

**Accuracy:** The degree to which the data correctly represents the entity or attribute being described.

➤ **How correct are the data values?**

**Completeness:** Amount of missing data from a given data set.

➤ **Is all information present?**

**Consistency:** Coherence in data between different sources/systems.

➤ **Does the data match other trusted sources?**

**Timeliness:** Data is up-to-date at the time of use.

➤ **How up-to-date is the data?**

**Validity:** Conformance to rules, formats, and standards.

➤ **Does the data conform to the predetermined format and constraints?**

**Uniqueness:** Ensures that there are no unnecessary duplications or overlappings within the data.

➤ **How much duplication is there in the records?**



# The Importance of Data Quality

**Decisions:** Bad data → Bad decisions

**Costs:** 20–35% of revenue is lost due to poor data quality

**Efficiency:** 30% of analysts' time is spent cleaning data

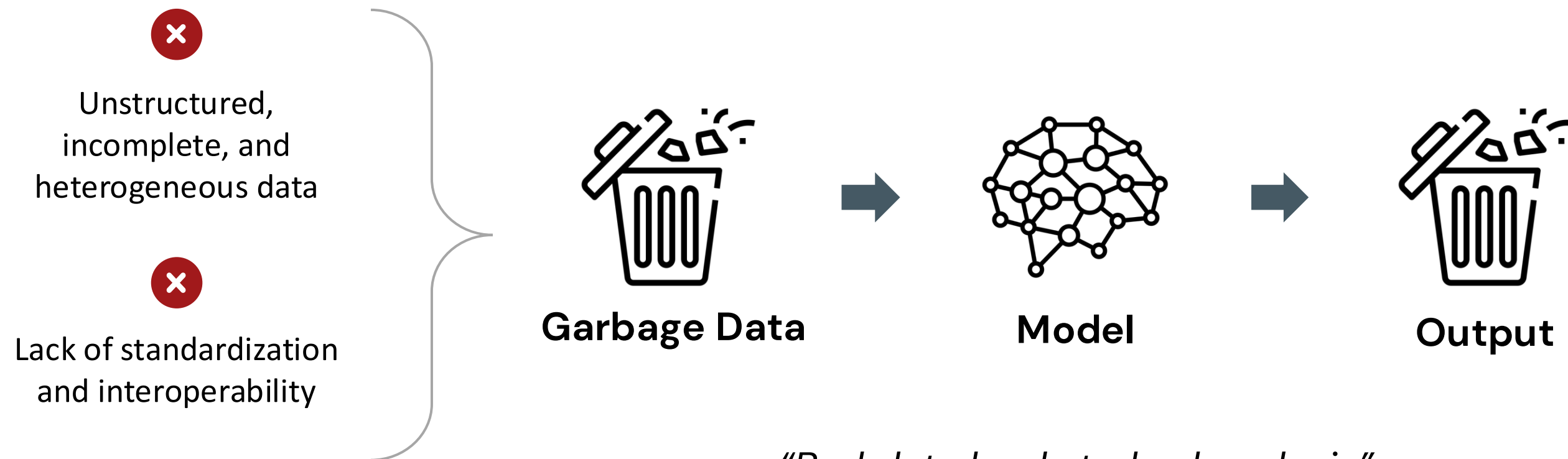
**Compliance:** Fines for incorrect data

**Reputation:** Public errors cause damage to the brand



# GIGO Principle

## Garbage In, Garbage Out



*"Bad data leads to bad analysis"*

*"Biased data leads to biased conclusions"*

**EXAMPLE:** Incomplete sales data → Incorrect inventory forecasts → Loss of sales or excess inventory



**Poor input = Worthless output**

# Modern Quality Challenges

## New Threats to Reliability

### GENERATIVE AI AND DEEPPFAKES:

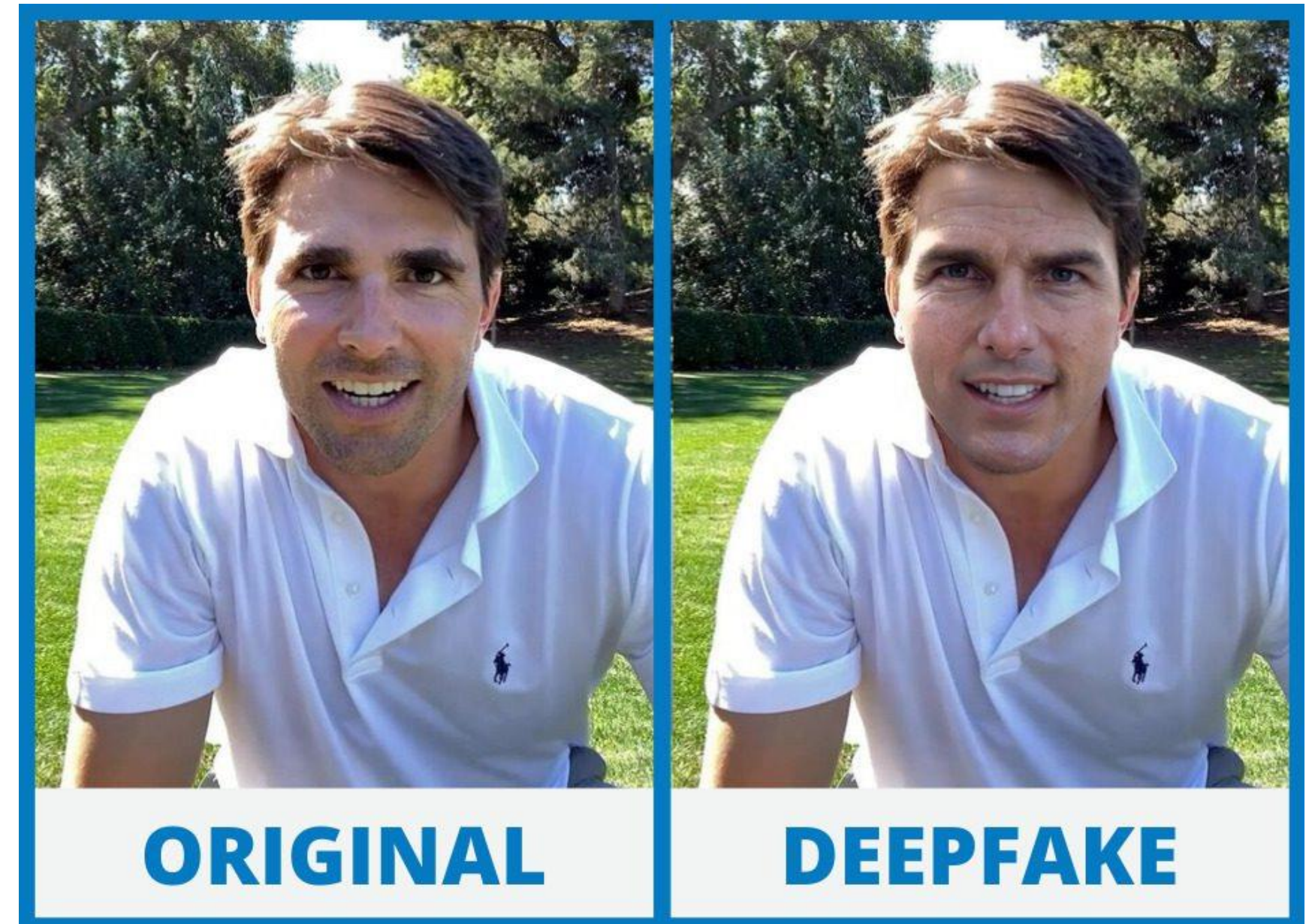
- Convincing synthetic text, images, and audio
- Need for specialized detection tools
- Speed of creation vs. speed of verification

### SYSTEMIC DISINFORMATION:

- Coordinated manipulation campaigns
- Closed ecosystems of disinformation

### ENHANCED PRIVACY:

- Greater anonymization of personal data
- Difficulty in verifying identities



# Data Sources vs Data Collection

## DATA SOURCES

- Where data originates
- Passive existence
- These are the repositories, systems, platforms, or locations where data resides.
- They can be active (generating data) or passive (storing data).

### Examples of Sources:

- Government databases
- Social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn)
- IoT sensors

## DATA COLLECTION

- How data is obtained
- Active process
- It is the process/methodology of extracting data from sources
- It involves techniques, tools, and systematic approaches

### Examples of Collection Methods:

Web scraping  
Official APIs  
Downloading open datasets

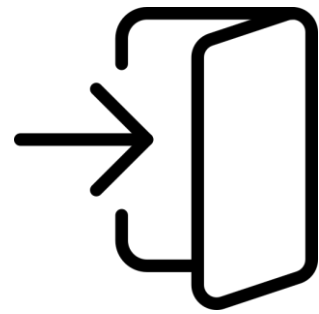


**Poor source choice cannot be fixed by good collection**



# Data Sources

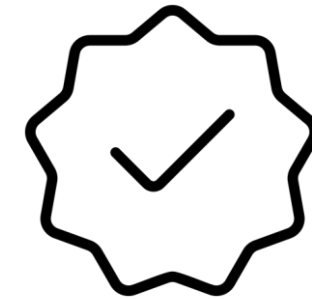
Data sources can be classified by:



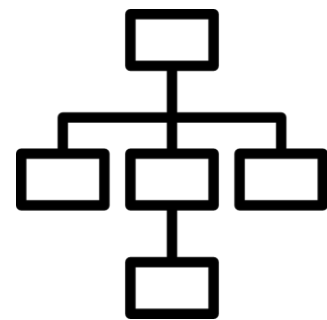
**ACCESSIBILITY**  
(open / semi-open / restricted)



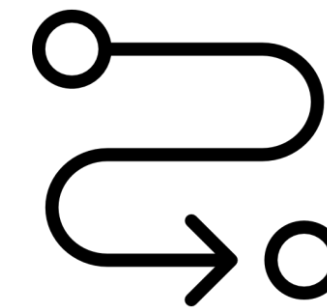
**TEMPORALITY**  
(static / dynamic)



**RELIABILITY**  
(official / unofficial)



**STRUCTURE**  
(structured / semi-structured / unstructured)



**ORIGIN**  
(government / private / individual)



**OSINT principle:** One source is no source → Verification & Corroboration

# Data Sources

## Temporality

### STATIC

- Point in time
- Not automatically updated
- Specific versions

#### Examples:

Screenshots, Historical data files

### DYNAMIC

- Constantly updated
- Continuous flow
- Real-time or near real-time

#### Examples:

Social media feeds, IoT sensor data



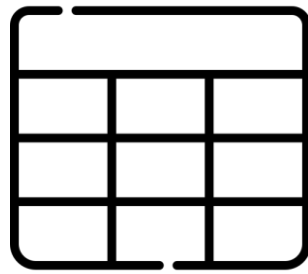
### COMMON CHALLENGES:

**Static:** Rapid obsolescence, conflicting versions

**Dynamic:** Data overload, difficulty storing historical data

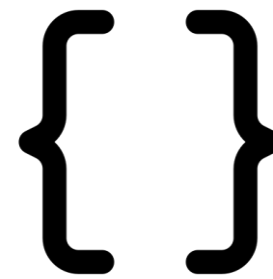
# Data Sources

## Structure



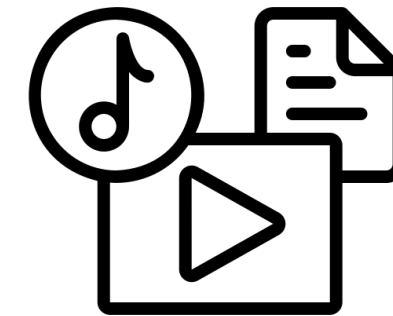
### STRUCTURED

- Government open data
- Statistical databases
- Corporate registries



### SEMI-STRUCTURED

- APIs
- Logs
- JSON / XML feeds



### UNSTRUCTURED

- Web pages
- News articles
- Social media
- PDFs, images, videos

# Data Sources

## Reliability

### OFFICIAL

- Officially recognized entities
- Established verification processes
- Institutional accountability

Confidence Level:

HIGH (but not foolproof)

### UNOFFICIAL

- No formal recognition
- Variable verification processes
- Diffuse responsibility

Confidence Level:

VARIABLE (requires intensive verification)



# Data Sources

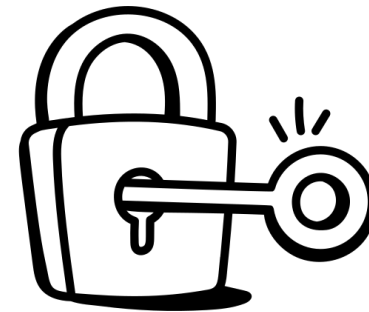
## Accessibility



### OPEN SOURCES (OSINT)

- Publicly available
- No significant access restrictions

Example: Government websites, public news



### SEMI-OPEN SOURCES

- Conditional access (login, registration)
- May have specific terms of use

Example: Social networks, registered forums



### CLOSED SOURCES

- Restricted or proprietary access
- Requires special authorization

Example: Private databases, internal systems

# Data Sources

## Origin

### GOVERNMENT SOURCE

- Public funding
- Institutional accountability
- Transparency (in principle)

Strengths: Broad coverage, standardization

Weaknesses: Bureaucracy, slow updates

### PRIVATE (CORPORATE) SOURCE

- Private financing
- Focus on profit/value
- Intellectual property

Strengths: Innovation, speed, specialization

Weaknesses: Commercial bias, restricted access

### INDIVIDUAL SOURCE (CROWDSOURCED)

- Decentralized production
- Diversity of perspectives
- Variable quality

Strengths: Diversity, scale, cost

Weaknesses: Inconsistency, difficult to verify

# Data Sources

## Practical Evaluation Cases

	API SOCIAL MEDIA	IMAGES SOCIAL MEDIA
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>	Restricted (payment/authorization)	Semi-open (visual public, closed API)
<b>TEMPORALITY</b>	Dynamic	Static image, dynamic metadata
<b>RELIABILITY</b>	Official delivery system	Unofficial user content
<b>STRUCTURE</b>	Semi-structured (JSON)	Unstructured image + metadata
<b>ORIGIN</b>	Private corporate API	Individual user content

# Data Collection

## Appropriate Strategies for Different Sources

### FOR WEB SOURCES:

Web scraping

REST/GraphQL APIs

RSS feeds

Change monitoring

### FOR SOCIAL SOURCES:

Platform APIs (Twitter, Facebook)

Monitoring tools (Hootsuite, Brandwatch)

Manual scraping (when API is limited)

### FOR DOCUMENTARY SOURCES:

OCR

Metadata extraction

Format conversion (PDF to text)

# Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

## What is OSINT?

OSINT stands for Open-Source Intelligence, which refers to the collection of data from publicly available sources and performing intelligence techniques to gain useful and meaningful insights from it using a systematic methodology. These sources include social media platforms, news articles, government publications, academic papers, forums, blogs, and publicly accessible databases.



### Key aspects:

- Open ≠ free of constraints
- Intelligence ≠ raw data
- Methodology matters more than tools



### OSINT adds:

- Context
- Interpretation
- Judgment

# Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

## What is OSINT?

Concept	Focus
Open Data	Availability
Web Scraping	Collection technique
Data Mining	Pattern discovery
OSINT	Goal-oriented intelligence
Business Intelligence	Organizational decision-making

### OSINT often feeds:

- Web scraping
- NLP / text mining
- Graph databases
- Knowledge graphs

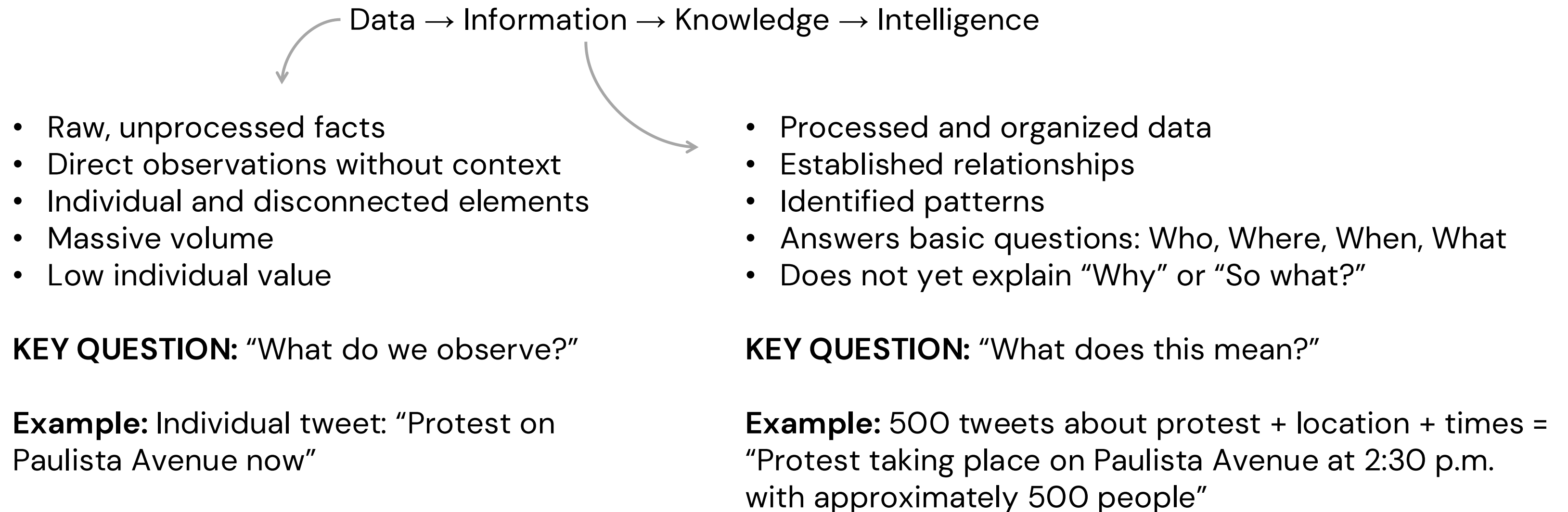
# Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

## What is not OSINT?

- ✗ It is not **hacking** (it does not involve unauthorized access)
- ✗ It is not **illegal surveillance** (it only uses public information)
- ✗ It is not just “**googling**” (it is methodical and systematic)
- ✗ It is not always **free** (some sources require payment)
- ✗ It is not **foolproof** (it requires verification and confirmation)

# Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

## From Data to Intelligence





# Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

## From Data to Intelligence

Data → Information → Knowledge → Intelligence

- Information analyzed and interpreted
- Implications and deeper meaning
- Basis for decisions
- Answers “Why?” and “So what?”
- Predictive or explanatory
- Action-oriented

**KEY QUESTION:** “What should we do with this?”

**Example:** Protest on Paulista Avenue + history of demonstrations + profile of protesters + content of posters = “Protest organized by unions against labor reform, with a tendency to grow and the possibility of clashes with the police”

- Application of intelligence with experience
- Understanding broader principles
- Strategic decision-making
- Includes values, ethics, experience
- Considers long-term consequences

**KEY QUESTION:** “What is the best course of action considering all factors?”

**Example:** Intelligence on protests + historical knowledge + organizational values + political context = “Do not intervene in the protest now, monitor and document; intervene only if there is violence.”

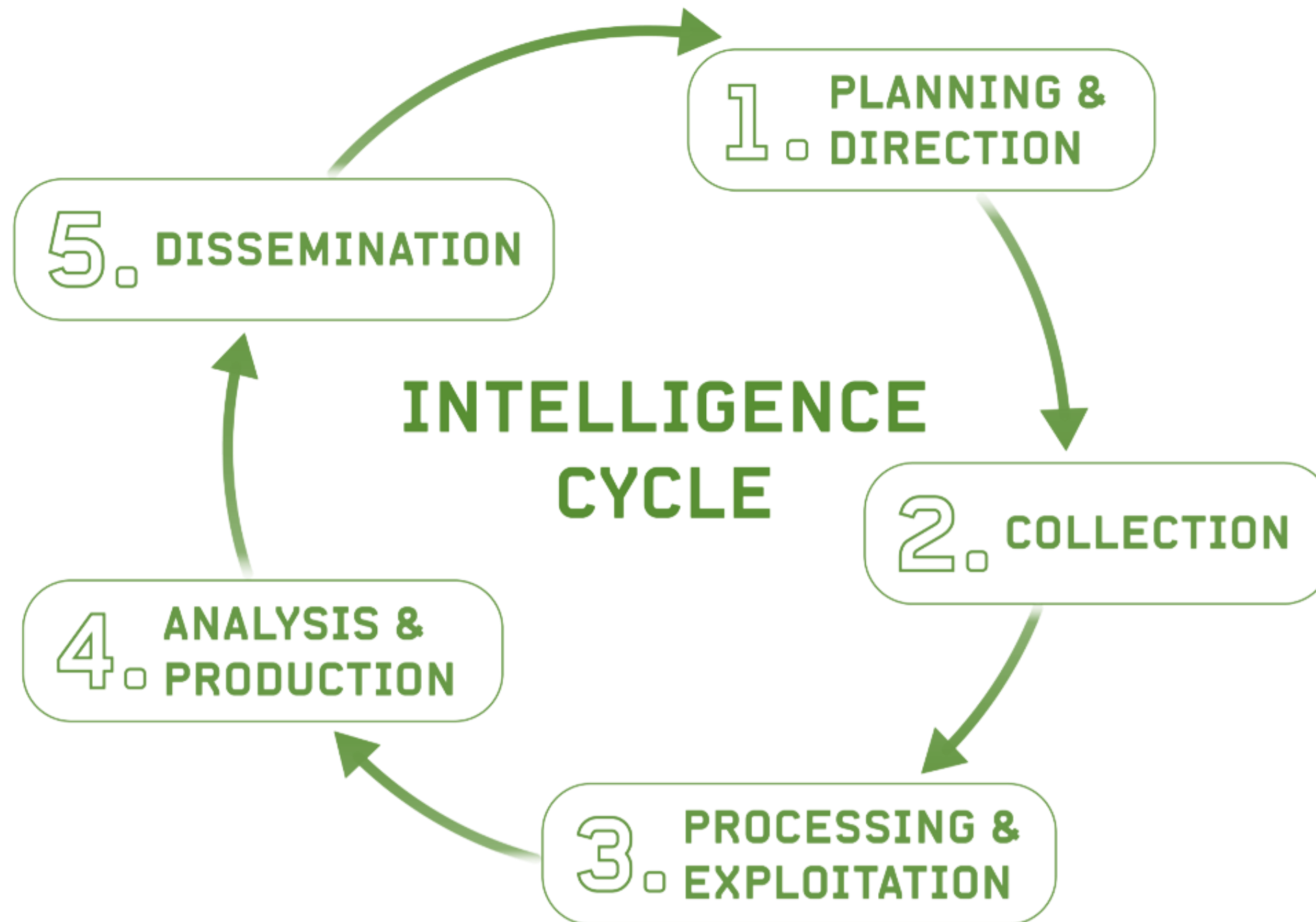
# Real World Use Cases

We can use OSINT almost everywhere, either its finding some online product for yourself or doing some bussiness anlysis for any corporate work.

- Investigating potentital security threats and vulnerabilities
- Monitoring and analyzing public opinions and sentiments
- Helping goverment agencices and military organizations in tracking terrirost activities
- Conducting market research and competitive analysis
- Identifying potential targets for sales and other bussiness development
- Helping law enformancements in missing person cases

# The OSINT Cycle

There is not a consensus about the stages of the OSINT cycle, but the most common is:



Iterative, not linear



Collection without planning = noise

# The OSINT Cycle

## ➔ Planning & Direction

- Define intelligence requirements
- Identify questions to be answered
- Establish scope and boundaries
- Determine available resources
- Develop an operational plan
- Consider ethical and legal aspects

Apply the "Five W's and One H" framework to guide planning:

- **Who:** Identify who will conduct the work and who is the target of collection.
- **What:** Define the type, format, and content of data to be collected.
- **When:** Establish the timeframe for data collection and operational timing to avoid detection.
- **Where:** Identify relevant sources (e.g., news, social media, deep web, dark web) to investigate.
- **Why:** Link the information directly to mission objectives.
- **How:** Plan for security, access control, data storage, tools to be used, and archiving.

# The OSINT Cycle

## ➔ Collection

- Methodical: Systematic and organized
- Documented: Traceability of sources
- Ethical: Respect for terms of service
- Legal: Compliance with regulations
- Efficient: Optimized use of resources
- Comprehensive: Multiple sources and perspectives

**Often the longest step of the cycle, as many analysts rely on manual methods to conduct collection.**

# The OSINT Cycle

## ➔ Processing

- Organization of collected data
- Cleaning and standardization
- Metadata extraction
- Categorization and indexing
- Preparation for analysis
- Authenticity verification

# The OSINT Cycle

## ➔ Analysis

- Link analysis
- Timeline analysis
- Spatial/geolocation analysis
- Social network analysis (SNA)
- Comparative analysis
- Pattern analysis

# The OSINT Cycle

## ➔ Dissemination

- Target audience (who will receive the information)
- Appropriate format (report, dashboard, briefing)
- Level of detail required
- Frequency
- Distribution channels
- Protection of sources and methods



# Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

The phrase "open source" does not refer to the open-source software movement, though many OSINT technologies do; rather, it refers to the open nature of the data being analyzed. Open source refers to the data/information that is publicly available, it does not matter if its available in its online or offline mode.

## **Examples of online information sources:**

- Search engines like Google, Yahoo, Bing
- Social media websites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit
- Sharing and publishing websites like Youtube, Pinterest, Medium

## **Examples of offline information sources:**

- Government and law enforcement records
- Academic research and journals
- Annual Reports, Press Conferences
- Mass Media like TV, Newspaper

# OSINT Tools

## A. Search Engines & Discovery

- **Google Dorking:** Using advanced operators (site:, filetype:, intitle:, inurl:) for deep web searches.
- **Shodan:** Search engine for IoT devices (servers, cameras, etc.).
- **Censys:** Similar to Shodan; indexes hosts and certificates (SSL certificates, hosts, etc.)
- **Searchcode:** Searches for source code across repositories.
- **Wayback Machine ([archive.org](https://archive.org)):** Views historical snapshots of websites.
- **Social-searcher.com:** Aggregated search
- **TweetDeck:** Real-time monitoring
- **Followerwonk:** Twitter follower analysis

# OSINT Tools

## B. Reconnaissance & Enumeration

- **Maltego:** Powerful data mining and link analysis tool for visualizing relationships.
- **theHarvester:** Gathers emails, subdomains, hosts, and employee names from public sources.
- **Recon-ng:** Full-featured web reconnaissance framework.
- **SpiderFoot:** Automates OSINT collection from over 100 data sources.
- **OSINT Framework ([osintframework.com](https://osintframework.com)):** A web-based directory of tools organized by category.

# OSINT Tools

## C. Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT)

- **Sherlock:** Searches for usernames across hundreds of social media sites.
- **Social Links:** A professional suite with both automated and manual search capabilities.
- **TweetDeck & Advanced Twitter Search:** For monitoring Twitter/X.
- **ImportYeti:** Tracks supply chains by searching global import/export records (useful for company research).

# OSINT Tools

## D. Domain & IP Investigation

- **WHOIS Lookup** (e.g., ICANN Lookup, whois command): Finds domain registration details.
- **DNS Dumpster**: Discovers subdomains, DNS records, and related hosts.
- **VirusTotal**: Analyzes suspicious files, URLs, domains, and IPs for malware; also shows passive DNS data.
- **AbuseIPDB**: Checks IP addresses against a global blacklist for malicious activity.
- [URLScan.io](https://urlscan.io): Scans and analyzes websites, providing screenshots, tech stack, and associated links.

# OSINT Tools

## E. Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) & Imagery

- **Google Earth Pro:** For historical imagery and advanced measurements.
- **Satellite Imagery:** Tools like **Google Maps**, **Bing Maps**, and specialized services like **Maxar**.
- **Flight Tracking:** **FlightRadar24** (live), **ADS-B Exchange** (unfiltered).
- **Marine Traffic:** For tracking ships and vessels.

# OSINT Tools

## F. Data & Document Analysis

- **ExifTool:** Reads, writes, and edits metadata in files (images, PDFs, etc.).
- **PDF Metadata Analyzers:** Tools to inspect document properties and hidden data.
- **Have I Been Pwned (HIBP):** Checks if emails or passwords have been compromised in data breaches.

# OSINT Tools

## G. People & Identity Research

- **Pipl:** One of the most powerful people search engines.
- **TruePeopleSearch:** US-focused people and phone number lookup.
- **FamilyTreeNow:** Genealogy-based people search.
- **LinkedIn:** A primary source for professional background and connections.



# OSINT Tools

## H. Network & Scanning Tools

- **Nmap:** The standard for network discovery and security auditing.
- **Wireshark:** Network protocol analyzer for deep packet inspection.
- **FOCA:** Fingerprinting organizations with collected archives (analyzes metadata from documents).

# OSINT Tools

## I. Automation & Data Aggregation Platforms

- **SpiderFoot:** (Also in Recon) Automates data collection from a vast array of sources.
- **IntelTechniques Tools:** A suite of online search tools created by Michael Bazzell for comprehensive searches.
- **Hunchly:** An OSINT capture tool that automatically documents and archives every webpage visited during an investigation.

# OSINT Tools

## Important Considerations & Best Practices:

- **Legality & Ethics:** Always use these tools within legal and ethical boundaries. Respect Terms of Service and privacy laws.
- **Source Verification:** Information found via OSINT is not always accurate. Corroborate findings with multiple sources.
- **Operational Security (OPSEC):** Use VPNs, virtual machines, and separate accounts to protect your identity and avoid contaminating your investigation.
- **Tool Selection:** The right tool depends entirely on your specific requirement (e.g., finding a person, mapping a network, tracking social media).
- **Skill Over Tool:** A tool is only as effective as the operator. Understanding methodology and analytical thinking is more important than the tool itself.

# Data Quality in OSINT

## From Volume to Trusted Value

The Modern OSINT dilemma:

*"We have access to more data than ever before, but less certainty about its reliability."*

### Questions to ask for source reliability and bias:

- Who produced this data?
- For what purpose?
- What is missing?
- Who benefits from this narrative?



### Risks of Low-Quality Data:

- ⊘ Decisions based on misinformation
- ⊘ Reputational damage from sharing misinformation
- ⊘ Time wasted on subsequent verification
- ⊘ Compromised operations/investigations
- ⊘ Legal consequences for using false information

# Data Quality in OSINT

## Trust Checklist

### 1. ORIGIN AND SOURCE

- ✓ Identifiable and traceable source
- ✓ History of source reliability
- ✓ Known motivations and biases
- ✓ Official channels vs. third parties

### 3. CONTEXTUALIZATION

- ✓ Environment and circumstances understood
- ✓ Cultural/regional elements considered
- ✓ Coherent timeline

### 2. CORROBORATION

- ✓ Confirmed by multiple independent sources
- ✓ Temporal and factual consistency
- ✓ Supporting technical evidence
- ✓ Absence of logical contradictions

# Data Quality in OSINT

## Reliability Scale

### LEVEL 1: HIGH RELIABILITY



Official government data



Peer-reviewed academic research



Public court documents







Established news agencies with verification

# Data Quality in OSINT

## Reliability Scale





### LEVEL 2: MEDIUM RELIABILITY

-  Verified social media profiles
-  Official corporate websites
-  Reports from recognized companies
-  Geospatial data from established sources

# Data Quality in OSINT

## Reliability Scale

### LEVEL 3: LOW RELIABILITY

-  Anonymous social media accounts
-  Unmoderated forums
-  Viral content with no clear source
-  Sources with a history of misinformation



# Data Quality in OSINT

## Framework S.A.F.E.

# S

### SOURCE

- Identifiable origin?
- History of accuracy?
- Known biases?

# A

### ACCURACY

- Verifiable facts?
- Internal consistency?
- External corroboration?

# F

### FRESHNESS

- When was it created?
- When was it published?
- Is it still relevant?

# E

### EVIDENCE

- Technical support?
- Complete context?
- Evidence?

# Data Quality in OSINT

## Tools for Quality Assurance

### CONTENT VERIFICATION:

InVID / WeVerify (video analysis)

FotoForensics (image analysis)

RevEye (multi-platform reverse search)

### SOURCE TRIANGULATION:

TinEye + Google Images + Yandex

BuzzSumo (virality analysis)

CrowdTangle (social media tracking)

### CHANGE MONITORING:

Wayback Machine (web archive)

Versionista (website change monitor)

Changedetection.io (change alerts)

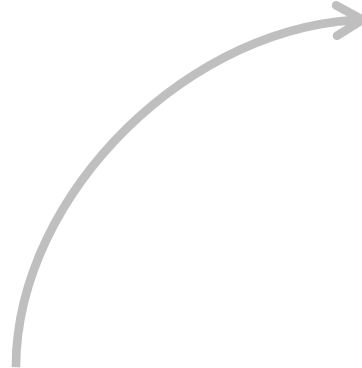
# Data Quality in OSINT

## Documentation Principles

For each piece of information collected:

- DATE/TIME of collection
- FULL URL with parameters
- METHOD of capture (print, API, download)
- TOOLS used
- CONTEXT of discovery
- Initial HYPOTHESES
- CONFIDENCE LEVEL assigned (1-5)

Example of label:



**Source:** Twitter/@oficial\_profile  
**Collection:** 2024-03-15 14:30 UTC  
**Method:** Print screen + HTML file  
**Trust:** 3/5 (verified profile, but information not corroborated)  
**ID:** OSINT-2024-015-TW-001

# Data Quality in OSINT



## **QUALITY > QUANTITY**

Five reliable sources are worth more than 50 dubious ones.



## **VERIFICATION IS A PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT**

Reassess continuously as new information emerges.



## **TRANSPARENCY BUILDS CREDIBILITY**

Document sources, methods, and levels of confidence



## **CONFIRMATION BIAS IS ENEMY NO. 1**

Actively seek information that contradicts your hypotheses



## **TOOLS HELP, HUMANS DECIDE**

AI helps, but critical human analysis is irreplaceable

# Good Practices

- ✓ **Document everything:** Sources, methods, dates → If it cannot be explained, it cannot be trusted
- ✓ **Always verify:** Confirm with multiple sources
- ✓ **Stay organized:** Use management systems
- ✓ **Protect your identity:** When appropriate
- ✓ **Respect ToS:** Platform terms of service
- ✓ **Constantly evolve:** New tools emerge
- ✓ **Collaborate:** The OSINT community shares knowledge

# Open ≠ Ethical ≠ Legal



Key **misconception**:

*"If it's public, it's safe to use."*

Reality:

- Legal ≠ ethical
- Accessible ≠ harmless
- Data aggregation increases risk

# Legal Aspects

- Public personal data is still personal data
- Specific and legitimate purpose
- Data minimization (collect only what is necessary)
- Legal basis for processing
- Rights of data subjects (access, rectification, deletion)
- International impact (GDPR has extraterritorial reach)

# Ethical Aspects

- **Legality:** Never violate laws
- **Proportionality:** Means appropriate to the ends
- **Transparency:** Document methods and sources
- **Accountability:** Be accountable for actions
- **Respect:** For rights and privacy
- **Good ends:** Legitimate and socially accepted purposes



Ethical OSINT is **defensible OSINT!**



# Limitations of OSINT

- Incomplete visibility
- Deception & misinformation
- Platform dependency
- Legal constraints
- Analyst bias

# Summary and Key Takeaways

- OSINT is a **methodology**, not a toolset
- Source selection is critical
- Ethics and legality are central
- Analysis creates value, not collection
- OSINT integrates naturally with data science

# Application to the KE Project

- **FOR THE DATA INPUT PHASE (Requirement: >100k records)**

## **A) Financial Domain:**

### 1. Public finance APIs:

- Yahoo Finance API (free tier)
- Alpha Vantage (free: 5 calls/min)
- Twelve Data (free tier)

### 2. News sources:

- NewsAPI.org (free: 100 requests/day)
- RSS feeds from economic newspapers
- Twitter API for financial trending topics

### 3. Government data:

- Bank of Portugal (open data)
- CMVM (Portuguese Securities Market Commission)
- INE – Economic statistics

## **B) Health Domain:**

### 1. Public datasets:

- Kaggle medical datasets
- UCI Machine Learning Repository
- Data.gov.pt (public health)

### 2. Medical literature:

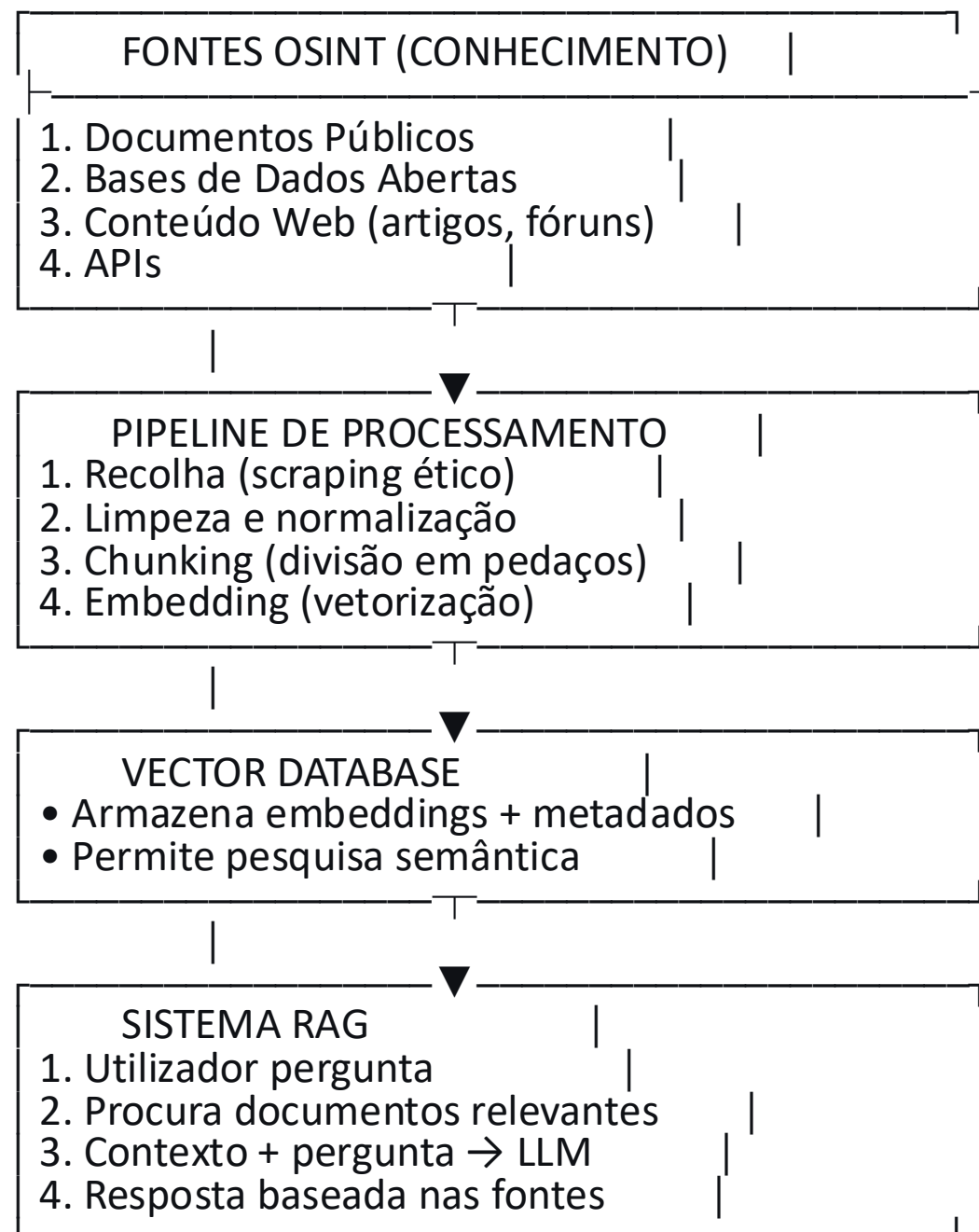
- PubMed API (free)
- ClinicalTrials.gov API
- Orphanet (rare diseases)

### 3. Simulated sensor data:

- Generate synthetic data based on real patterns
- Use public fitness APIs (Fitbit, Google Fit – limited)

# Application to the KE Project

- **FOR THE RAG SYSTEM (Retrieval-Augmented Generation)**



## ADVANTAGES

**Up-to-date:** OSINT sources guarantee recent information

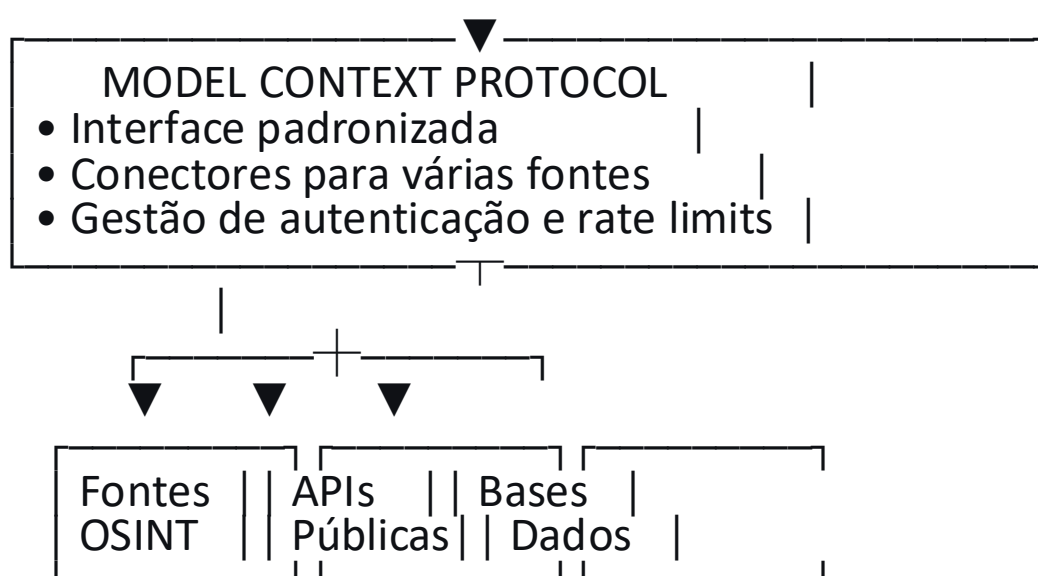
**Local context:** Specific data from Portugal

**Zero cost:** All sources are public

**Transparency:** Original sources can be cited

# Application to the KE Project

- FOR THE MCP (MODEL CONTEXT PROTOCOL)



## ADVANTAGES

**Extensibility:** Easy to add new OSINT sources

**Modularity:** Each source is a separate “plugin”

**Resilience:** If one API fails, others continue to function

**Performance:** Cached data + real-time updates

# Practical Application

➔ Worksheet PL2

