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101+ OSINT Resources for Investigators [2020]

Directory of open source intelligence (OSINT) tools for online investigations, research, due diligence and background checks

Posted by Dawn Lomer on May 27th, 2016

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When researching investigative subjects, the first stop for an investigator is usually the internet. And while this is a great place to start, the sheer volume of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) tools on the internet is staggering.

Make a plan and know where to look before you begin mining for OSINT. Are you looking for an address? Email address? Phone number? Political leanings or other personal details? Depending on what kind of information you are seeking, there are many online avenues, both free and paid-for, that you can take to get it.

> If you don't have time to browse this page now, download our **OSINT Links for Investigators cheat sheet** to get an interactive PDF of all the links in this article.

No matter which tools you use, remember to capture anything important immediately upon discovering it. The internet is fluid and what you find one day could be gone the next. **Hunchly** captures pages *as* you search, leaving a full audit trail that will hold up in court, even when the pages are long gone.

Browse through the extensive list of links below to see 101+ OSINT resources and tools for investigators. If you can think of any good ones we've missed, please let us know and we will add them.

Don't gamble with your company's investigation processes.

i-Sight software is a better way to manage investigations. i-Sight is a specialized investigative case management tool to make your investigations more efficient and consistent. Request your demo of i-Sight to find out how users are saving time, closing more cases, reducing risk, and improving compliance.

REQUEST A DEMO ▶

General OSINT Search

Many investigators begin with a general search using a variety of search engines. Google is always a great place to start, but you'll be surprised by the different results you get when you use different open source intelligence tools.

Ask

Bing

Cluuz

Dogpile

DuckDuckGo

Exalead

Google

Gigablast

Mozbot

Oscobo (UK-based, doesn't track users)

Qwant (doesn't track users)

Soovle

Sputtr
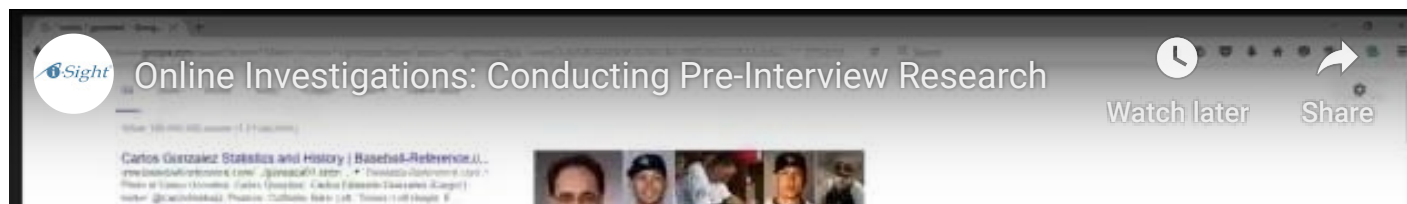
StartPage (Google search, doesn't track users)

Yahoo

Yandex

Yippy

Researching Interview Subjects

Watch an excerpt from Cynthia Hetherington's webinar on using OSINT resources to research investigation interview subjects.

To watch the full webinar, click **here**.

Searching People

When using OSINT to search for a person, consider every possible variation of the person's name. Include shortened versions of the person's name, nicknames, usernames or any version of their name you think they might use.

You can also search someone by their telephone number, email address, physical address, an image or through articles that mention them.

Ancestry	**PeekYou**
AnyWho	**Phonebook of the World**
Black Book Online (public records)	**Pipl**
BeenVerified	**Public Records**

Canada 411

InfoBel

Intelius

MarketVisual

MelissaData

Numberway
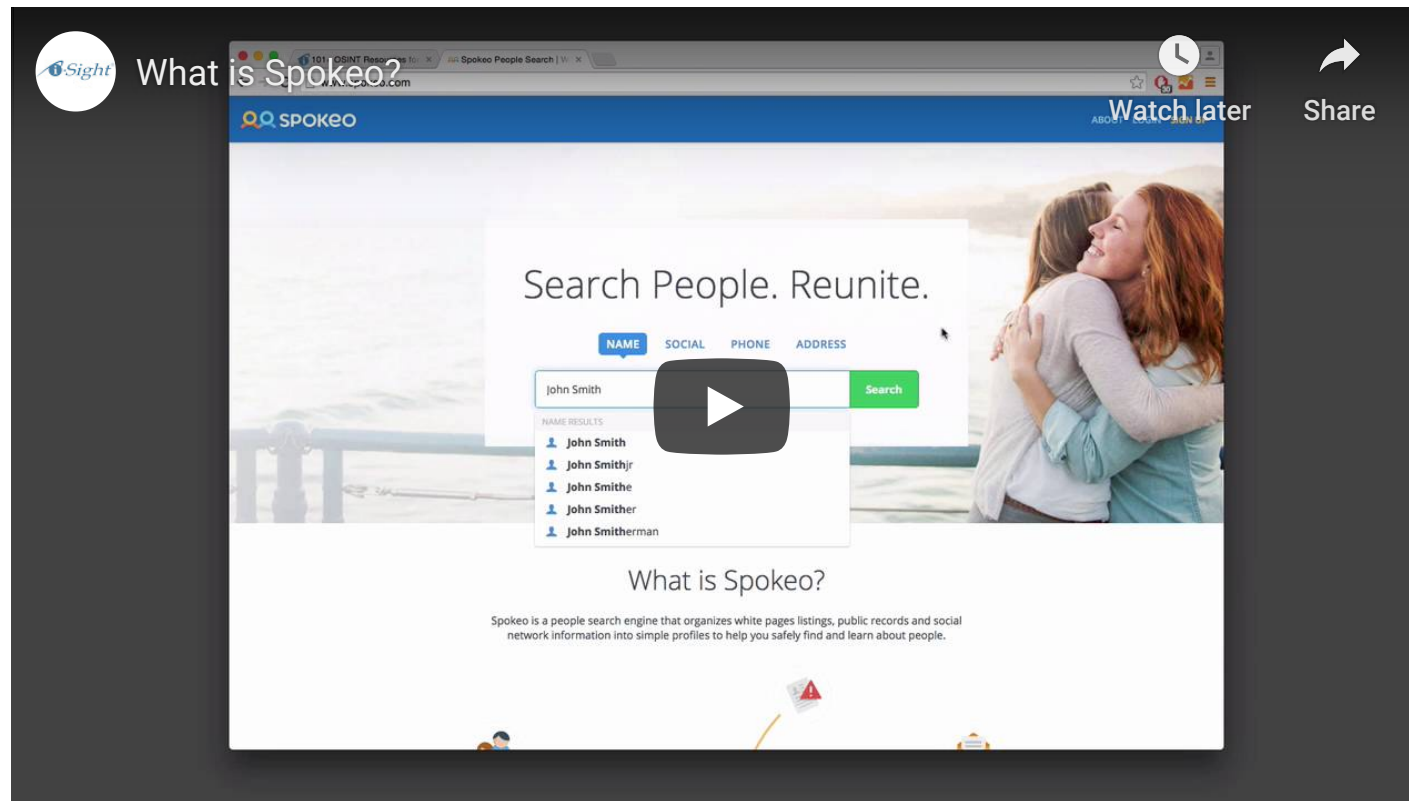
Snitch.name (username search)

Spokeo

UserSearch

Webmii

ZabaSearch

ZoomInfo

What is Spokeo?

Searching Social Media & Profiles

Using OSINT, you can find not only a person's profile, but also discover what they are talking about if they participate in online forums on social media platforms. Searching for secondary connections, such as friends, family members, colleagues and ex-partners can reveal a great deal of information about your target and is especially helpful if his or her security settings don't allow access to profile information and timelines.

Many sites that are not specifically social media sites allow users to set up profiles, and these can be just as revealing as social media sites.

Ashley Madison

Bebo

Blogspot

Classmates

Facebook

Flickr

Google Plus

hi5

Instagram

LinkedIn

Match

Meetup

MySpace

OurTime

Pinterest

Reunion

ReverbNation

Sportstats

Tagged

Trendsmap

Twitter

WAYN

WEBSTA

WordPress

YouNow

YouTube

Searching Images and Video

Also search image and video social sites to find photos, videos and discussions related to them. You'd be surprised at how much information you can get from OSINT resources.

Bing Image Search

TinEye

Flickr

Webshots

Instagram

Yandex Image Search

Photobucket

YouTube

SmugMug

What is TinEye?
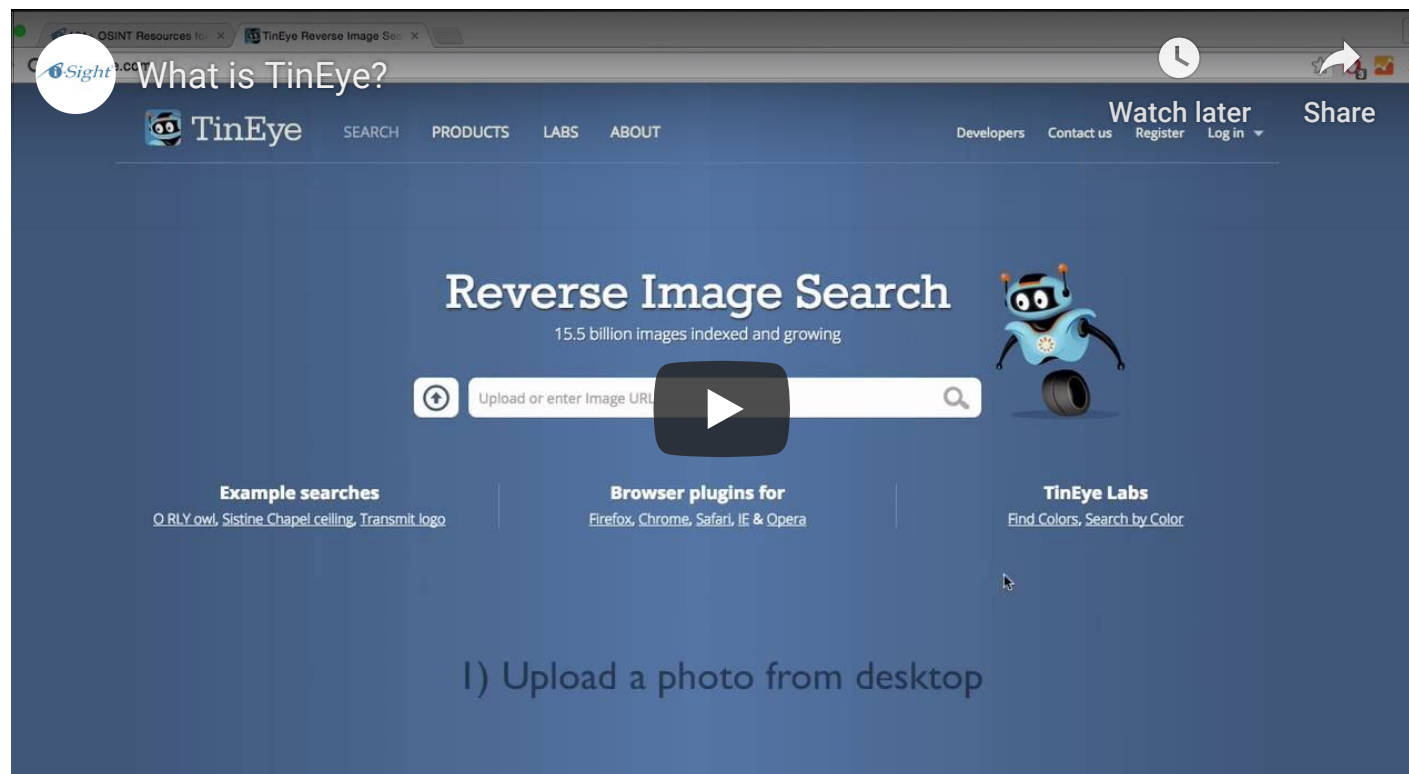
Online Communities and Blogs

Blogs, online communities and free domain hosting sites are all sources of OSINT and can be valuable repositories of information. Search these using names, usernames, email addresses and telephone numbers.

Angelfire

BlogDigger

Boardreader

Deviantart

Domain Tools

Flixster

Google Groups

IceRocket

IMDB

Nexopia

Omgili

Quora

Reddit

Tumblr

Typepad

Who.is

WordPress

Xanga

Yahoo Groups

What is IceRocket?

Filter search results
by publish date
and language
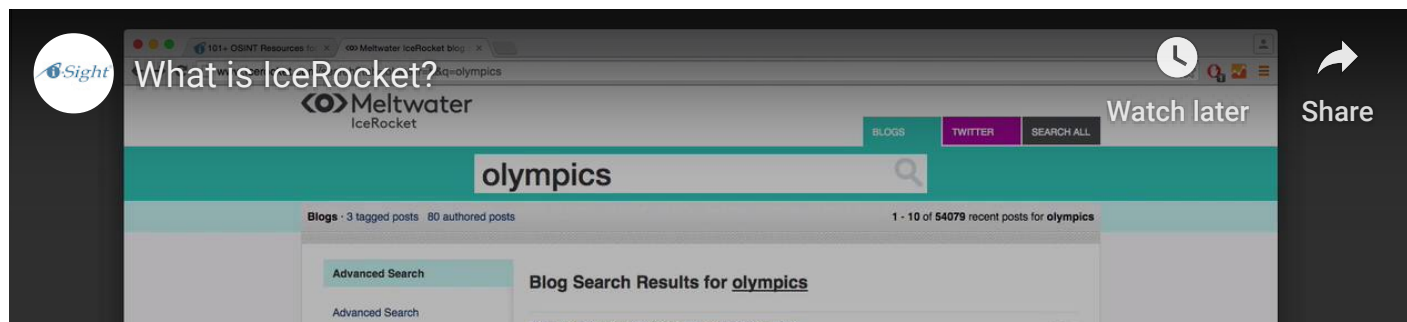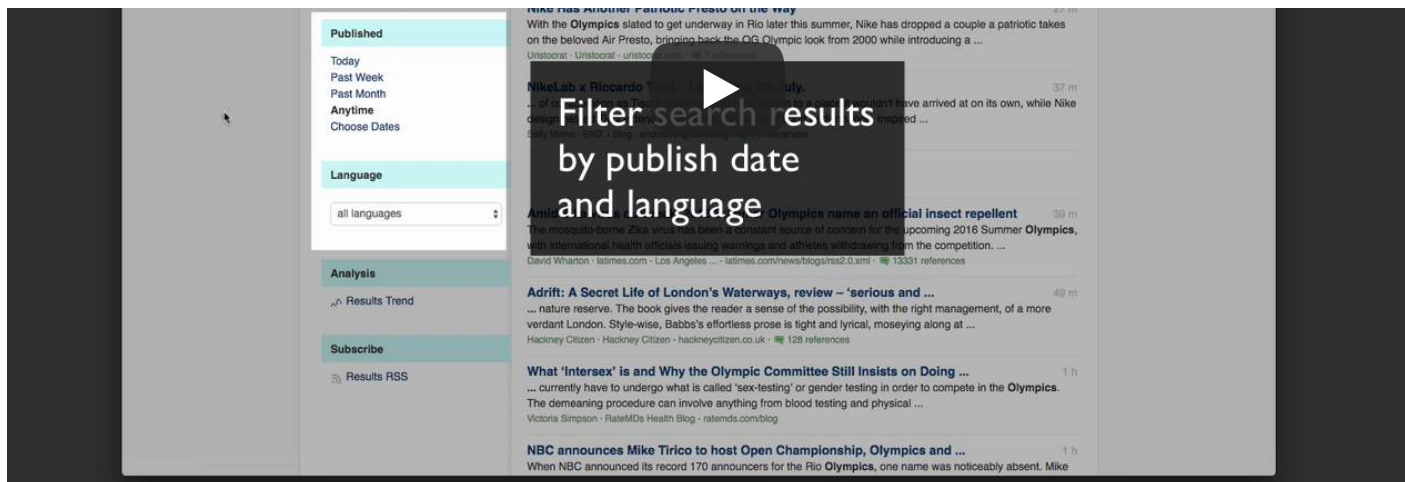
Classified Listings

There are several reasons you might want to search classified listings as a source of OSINT in the course of an investigation. In a theft investigation, the target may be trying to sell a stolen item, or might be searching for similar items online. You can also gather information about buyers and sellers from classified listings, including location information.

Amazon	**Manta**
American Listed	**OLX**
Clickooz	**PicClick**
Craigslist	**SaleSpider**
eBay	**Used**
Hotfrog	**VendAnything**
Kijiji	

Background Checks

Conducting background checks requires specific skills and knowledge of procedures and resources. The following OSINT resources have been provided by Cynthia Hetherington. Visit her website for more information.

Accurint

BRBPublications

CourtLink

LexisNexis

LittleSis

PACER

Tracers

US Tax Court

Business Search Sites

When conducting due diligence investigations, or even researching a person you are going to interview in an investigation, it's a good idea to conduct a search on a variety of OSINT business search sites. This list isn't comprehensive, but you can use it to get started, then follow the trail.

Angie's List

Better Business Bureau

BizNar

Bloomberg Businessweek

Central and Eastern European Business Directory

CLEAR

Corporate Information

Dun & Bradstreet

Hoovers

Industry Canada

InsiderPages

Leadership Directories

Open Corporates

Orbis Directory

PIBuzz

SEC

Foursquare

Guidestar

SEC Company Search

Yelp

Bitcoin and Blockchain Searches

Cryptocurrency transactions have been used for illicit transactions since the advent of the dark web. But, cryptocurrency transactions aren't as private as many believe. If you're looking to find a person's Bitcoin wallet or a specific Bitcoin transaction, there are OSINT tools to help you do that.

Blockchain

Matbea

Wallet Explorer

Specialized and Deep Web Searches

There are many sites that are not traditional OSINT resources, aren't mainstream, may be buried, hard to find or simply not indexed by general search engines. When you know what you're looking for, you can dig deeper into your research by going directly to these sites.

Airbnb

Athlinks

CourtReference

dnsLytics

DomainTools

EarthCam

National Sex Offender Registry

PageGlimpse

Public Records

Snopes

State Sex Offender Registry

U.S. Federal Inmate Lookup

Free Public Records Directory

Fold3 (military records)

4chansearch

Global Terrorism Database

Human Trafficking

Internet Archive (same as Wayback Machine)

Wayback Machine

What Is My IP Address

Webboar

Whoisology

GeoLocation Searches

A geolocation search can help you track a vehicle that has and Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS), identify the whereabouts of social media activity or identify the physical location of an IP address.

Creepy

Echosec (social media search by location)

Google Maps APRS

IP Address Locator

IP Location

Dawn Lomer

Manager of Communications

Dawn Lomer is the Manager of Communications at i-Sight Software and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). She writes about topics related to workplace investigations, ethics and compliance, data security and e-discovery, and hosts i-Sight webinars.

Related Resources

Investigating Online: Conducting Pre-Interview Research

Webinar

Conducting Online Investigations Using Deep Web Resources

Article

Advanced Resources and Tools for Online Investigations

Webinar

E-Discovery and Social Media in Workplace Investigations

Article

"I can't say enough about the service that i-Sight provided; It's amazing."

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RESOURCES

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