Week in OSINT #2019–28

Sector035 Follow

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From tricking trackers, sun and shadows, information and images, it's all in this week's newsletter.

- Track This!

- Sun and Shadow

- Storytelling

- We Leak Info

- Deblurring Images

- Verification Handbook

- Trace Labs Missing Persons CTF

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Site: Track This!

Mozilla has created a new tool in the fight against tracking and profiling of users. Via the site 'Track This' you can select a type of profile and have it open a whole bunch of tabs that will affect all kinds of trackers in your browser by feeding it a whole bunch of web sites that will change the personal profile those trackers created of you. You have a need for this? Then read all about it in their blog.

Track This: https://blog.mozilla.org/firefox/hey-advertisers-track-this/

Link: https://trackthis.link/
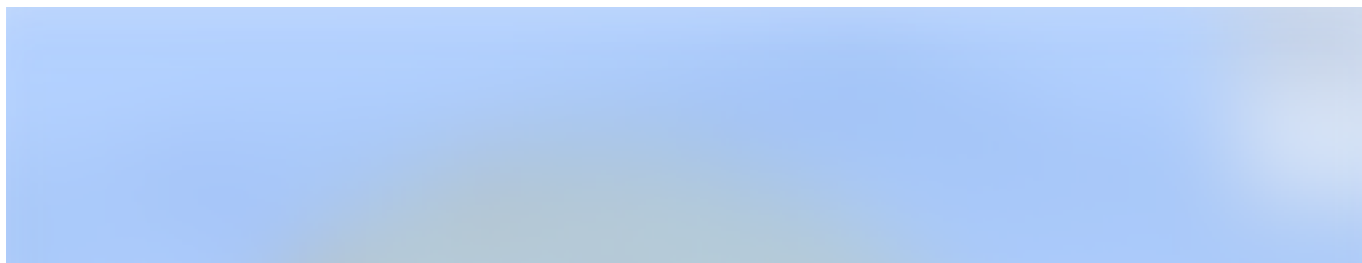
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Site: Sun and Shadow

On Saturday I saw Dutch Osint Guy share a link on Twitter, pointing to a special page, called 'sun path' created by Andrew Marsh. The tool shows a 3D model and realistic shadows around it. By dragging and dropping both *.obj* and *.mtl* files of your own 3D models, you can use your own environment.

Blog: http://andrewmarsh.com/software/sunpath3d-web/

Link: http://andrewmarsh.com/apps/staging/sunpath3d.html

Right after that, Henk van Ess tweeted another tool, that is just as awesome!
If you want to be able to plot the shadow of an object directly on Google
satellite imagery, then this is something you should definitely check out!

Link:

http://shadowcalculator.eu/#/lat/52.518251830427836/lng/13.3966651
6267533

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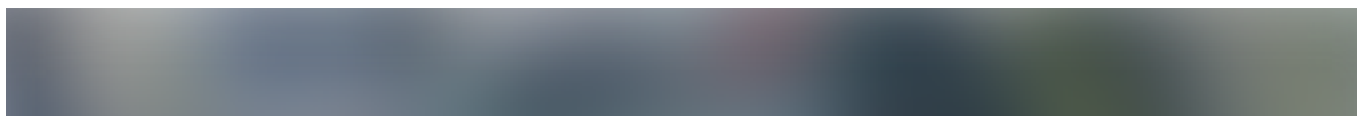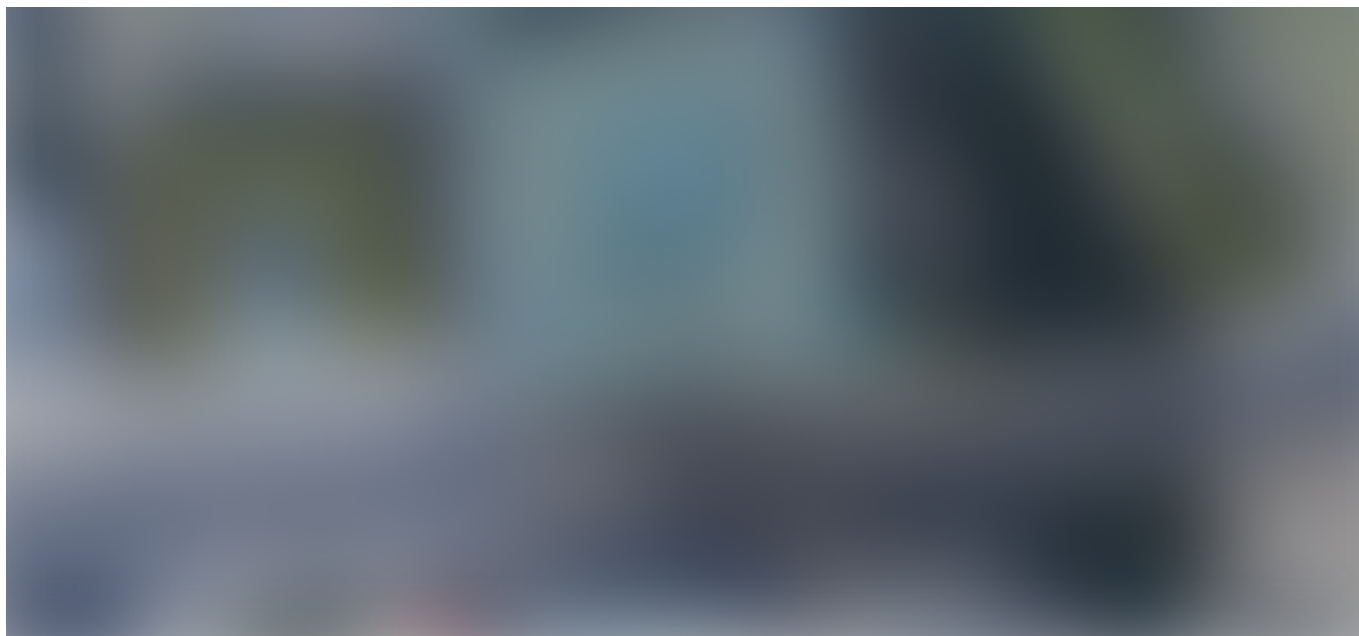
Article: Storytelling

Besides finding information, verifying things and reporting it, there is also
the way of telling a story. Writing a good article is something completely

different compared to investigating an event. And that is what Bellingcat editor Natalia Antonova wrote about in a new article.

Link: https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/2019/07/12/how-to-tell-stories-a-beginners-guide-for-open-source-researchers/

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Site: We Leak Info

The website 'We Leak Info' offers insight into the world of data breaches. They have over 7.500 data breaches indexed and over 10 billion records with information. By providing a simple search engine they give you the ability to query the data sets for information on email addresses, usernames, hashes, IP addresses and such. When there is a hit, it will show you the results, listing all data breaches, whether it is a data set that can be downloaded or it shows you what original website it came from.

Link: https://weleakinfo.com

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Article: Deblurring Images

Somdev Sangwan wrote a new article about some basic image editing, in case you encounter heavily pixelated images. By doing some basic editing you can slightly enhance a photo and prepare it to be used for reverse image searches. In the comments on his tweet people already found that for Yandex and TinEye didn't needed to have an edited photo as input, since because the original was found without editing. But the case it that it only some basic editing skills can enhance a photo a lot after it was made almost unrecognizable by web sites or tools.

Link: https://medium.com/@somdevsangwan/deblurring-images-for-osint-part-2-ba564af8eb5d

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Site: Verification Handbook

Just before I published this newsletter I found that InfoSecSherpa shared a really great resource on her blog. She found the 'Verification Handbook' and the accompanying publications that come with it. The handbook goes over everything you might encounter as a journalist or researcher. From satellite imagery, Google searches, reverse image search, fact checking, working

with data and so on. It seems to be a really nice source of information that is provided by some of the biggest experts in the field. More information about it can be found in the blog of InfoSecSherpa.

OSINT-y Goodness, №17 — Verification Handbook

This publication from the European Journalism Centre, the Verification Handbook calls itself, "A definitive guide to...
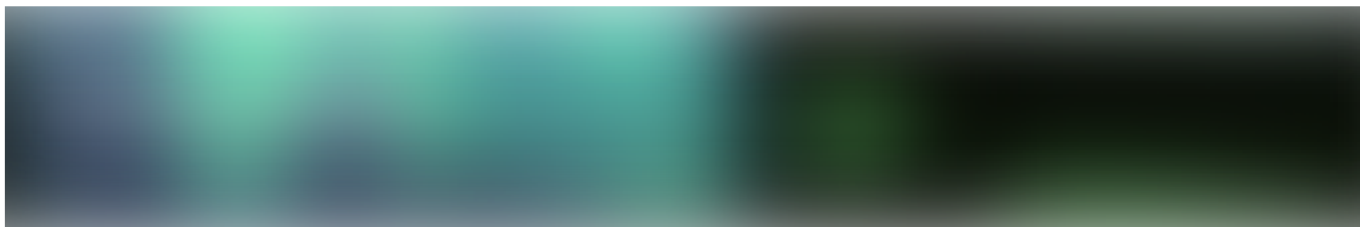
medium.com

Link: https://verificationhandbook.com/

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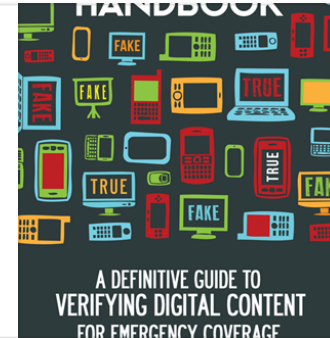
Site: Trace Labs Missing Persons CTF

This Saturday was special and I will not easily forget that day. I participated in the 8 hour long marathon of the 'Missing Persons CTF' run by Trace Labs. It felt a bit weird to me to do a CTF on actual missing people cases, since it is an actual event that needs investigating. But since it is 'gamified' the participants of course have to submit flags, and don't stare blindly on finding obscure or hidden social media profiles, something I started off doing right away. But even though it has a game element to it, there will be information found that law enforcement has not uncovered themselves, and every tiny bit of extra information can actually propel an investigation forward that may have been stuck for months. So a great cause, an awesome event and a great way to dive into the deep end and learn even more how to work fast and accurate.

Link: https://tracelabs.org

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Have good week and have a good search!

Journalism   Osint   Open Source Intelligence   Open Source Investi   Verification

WRITTEN BY

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Just a shadowy nerd... Busy with InfoSec, geolocation and OSINT

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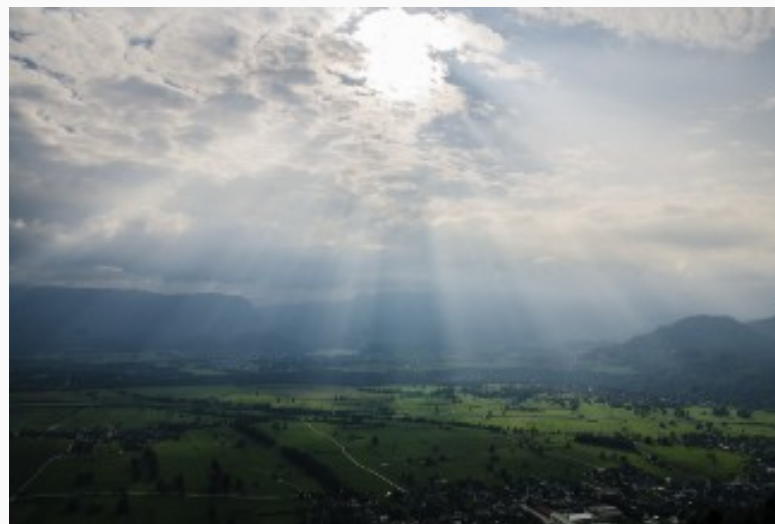Related reads

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I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE