



Online Investigative Tools for Social Media Discovery and Locating People

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.

It's important to have a plan and know where you are going to look, before you begin mining for OSINT. And depending on what kind of information you are seeking, there are many online avenues, both free and paid-for, that you can use to get it.

What Are You Looking For? First, you need to know what you are looking for. This can be as simple as an address,

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other personal details. Knowing what information you are trying to find makes it easier to determine which websites, forums, directories, public information sources and other OSINT tools and resources to use.

Capture What You Find Through OSINT. The internet is fluid and what you find one day could be gone the next, so

it's a good idea to capture anything important immediately upon discovering it. Use your computer's screen grab function or a program, such as Snagit or Camtasia to capture a still screenshot or a video of the information and store it in a folder with your digital evidence files (or in your case file if you are using case management software).

Browse through the extensive list of links below to see 101+ OSINT resources and tools for investigators.

General Open Source Intelligence Search

Many investigators like to start 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.

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Bing

Cluuz

Deeperweb

Dogpile

DuckDuckGo (doesn't track users)

Exalead

Google

Gigablast

Ixquick

Mozbot

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

Peeplo

Qwant (doesn't track users)

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[Sputtr](#)

[StartPage](#) (Google search, doesn't track users)

[Yahoo](#)

[Yandex](#)

[Yippy](#)

[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.

[Black Book Online](#) (Public Records)

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[Internus](#)

[MarketVisual](#)

[Peekyou](#)

[Phonebook of the World](#)

[Pipl](#)

[Public Records](#)

[Rootsweb](#)

[Snitch.name](#) (username search)

[Spokeo](#)

[UserSearch](#)

[Webmii](#)

[Zaba Search](#)

[ZoomInfo](#)

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Searching Social Media and Dating Sites

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.

AshleyMadison

Bebo

Blogspot

Classmates

Facebook

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[Google Plus](#)

[Hi5](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Match.com](#)

[Meetup](#)

[MyLife-Reunion](#)

[MySpace](#)

[Ourtime](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[ReverbNation](#)

[Social Mention](#)

[Sportstats](#)

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Trendsmap

Twitter

Wayn

Websta

WordPress

YikYak

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 these resources.

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[Instagram](#)

[Photobucket](#)

[SmugMug](#)

[TinEye](#)

[Webshots](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Online Communities and BlogsBlogs](#)

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

[Angelfire](#)

[Blogdigger](#)

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[Deviantart](#)

[Domain Tools](#)

[eWhois](#)

[Flixter](#)

[Google Groups](#)

[Icerocket](#)

[IMDB](#)

[Nexopia](#)

[Omgili](#)

[Reddit](#)

[Tumblr](#)

[TypePad](#)

[Who.is](#)

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Xanga

Yahoo Groups

Classified Listings

There are several reasons you might want to search classified listings as a source 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

Craigslist

Ebay

Hot Frog

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[Manta](#)

[PicClick](#)

[SaleSpider](#)

[Used.ca](#)

[Background Checks](#)

Conducting background checks requires specific skills and knowledge of procedures and resources. The following links have been provided but are members sites as well as paid sites.

[Accurint](#)

[BRBPublications](#)

[CourtLink](#)

[LexisNexis](#)

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[PACER](#)

[Tracers](#)

[US Tax Court](#)

[Business Search](#)

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 business search sites. This list isn't comprehensive, but you can use it to get started, then follow the trail.

[Better Business Bureau](#)

[BizNar](#)

[Bloomberg Businessweek](#)

[Central and Eastern European Business Directory](#)

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[Dun & Bradstreet](#)

[Guidestar](#)

[Hoovers](#)

[Industry Canada](#)

[Mint Business Information](#)

[Open Corporates](#)

[SEC](#)

[SEC Company Search](#)

[Specialized and Deep Web Searches](#)

There are many sites that are not 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.

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[Athlinks](#)

[DomainTools](#)

[Earthcam](#)

[Fold3](#) (military records)

[4chansearch](#)

[Global Terrorism Database](#)

[Human Trafficking](#)

[Internet Archive](#) (same as Wayback Machine)

[Ipaddresslocator](#)

[Snopes](#)

[Pageglimpse](#)

[Public Records](#)

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[whatismyipaddress](#)

[Webboar](#)

[Whoisology](#)

[GeoLocation Searches](#)

A geolocation search can help you track a vehicle that has an 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 Location](#)

We have provided this outline to help assist those who are looking to find information or people of interest.

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asset and although it's not impossible to do the research yourself, if you find that you're unable decipher what your looking for, call Mark Matthews & Associates for assistance.

We're Here To Help When You Need Answers!

Mark Matthews & Associates, LLC

Toll Free (877) 535-9154

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