

OSINT Capstone Challenges

Welcome to your final set of challenges. The following investigations are designed to test the skills and OSINT mindset you've developed throughout this course. Each scenario requires you to apply the techniques you've learned to solve a practical problem. Good luck!

Challenge 1: The Reddit Investigator

The Scenario: A popular, independent game developer who goes by the online handle 'PixelProphet' has suddenly stopped posting updates about their anticipated new game. The community is worried. Your mission is to build a profile of their recent activities and potential current focus using only their Reddit history.

Your Tasks:

Find the User: Based on their known handle 'PixelProphet' and the fact they develop a "space exploration game," find their actual Reddit username.

Identify Interests: From their comment history, identify two non-gaming hobbies they have.

Determine Professional Focus: Find a comment where they discuss a specific programming language or game engine they use. This reveals their technical expertise.

Form a Hypothesis: Based on their recent activity (or lack thereof), form a simple, one-sentence hypothesis about why they might have gone quiet. (e.g., "They have taken a new job," or "They are focused on a different project").

Hint: Show how one might start this with a Google search like:
`site:reddit.com "PixelProphet" "space exploration game"`

Challenge 2: The LinkedIn Analyst

The Scenario: You are a cybersecurity analyst tasked with understanding the professional landscape of a key figure in the open-source community. Your target is Mitchell Baker, the CEO of Mozilla Corporation.

Your Tasks:

Identify Key Initiatives: From her LinkedIn profile's "Activity" section, find a recent post where she discusses a major initiative or product for Mozilla (e.g., Firefox, AI, privacy).

Map the Org Structure: From the Mozilla company page on LinkedIn, identify one other C-level executive (e.g., Chief Marketing Officer, Chief Technology Officer).

Find an External Interest: Look through her profile for any non-Mozilla boards or organizations she is a part of. This shows her wider professional interests.

Track Company Growth: Using the company's "Posts" page, find an announcement related to hiring, a new partnership, or a company event from the last six months.

Hint: Navigate to LinkedIn and search for "Mitchell Baker Mozilla". Go to her profile and show the "Activity" and "Experience" sections.

Challenge 3: The Website Deconstructor

The Scenario: You are researching non-profit organizations focused on digital rights. Your target is the Electronic Frontier Foundation ([eff.org](https://www.eff.org)), and you need to build a technical and operational profile of their website.

Your Tasks:

Identify the Tech Stack: Use Wappalyzer or a similar tool to identify the primary

Content Management System (CMS) that `eff.org` is built on.

Find Hidden Content: Examine their `robots.txt` file. Identify one directory that they have disallowed from search engine crawlers.

Go Back in Time: Use the Wayback Machine to look at the `eff.org` homepage from 10 years ago. Find the name of one staff member listed on the "About Us" page from that time who is no longer listed on the current page.

Find a Document: Use a Google Dork to find a PDF file hosted on their site that contains the word "surveillance" in the text.

Hint: Show the Wappalyzer extension on `eff.org`. Then navigate to `eff.org/robots.txt`. Finally, perform the Google search:

`site:eff.org filetype:pdf "surveillance"`