

OSINT Course by Cyber Secured India & MKITOS

Assignment 1: Intro to OSINT

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Key Learnings from the Module

1. Definition of OSINT

- OSINT (*Open Source Intelligence*) refers to gathering and analyzing information from **publicly available sources** such as websites, news reports, public records, social media, and satellite imagery. It is legal and widely used in cybersecurity, journalism, and law enforcement.

2. Importance of Timestamps

- Information online is constantly changing; posts can be deleted, edited, or fabricated. Recording timestamps ensures that data is **verifiable, contextual, and can be cross-checked later**. This is essential for maintaining the credibility of OSINT findings.

3. Examples of Open Sources

- OSINT relies on diverse open sources such as:
 - Social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn)
 - WHOIS domain records
 - Government and corporate websites
 - News reports and online forums
 - Satellite imagery (e.g., Google Earth)

4. Verification and Reliability

- Not all open data is trustworthy. Cross-referencing multiple sources and validating credibility are crucial to avoid misinformation. Analysts must always confirm facts before reporting.

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The OSINT Framework

The OSINT process typically follows a structured framework to ensure thorough and effective intelligence gathering. This framework helps practitioners organize their approach and avoid missing critical information.

Important: The OSINT Cycle

Planning & Direction: Define objectives, requirements, and scope of the investigation
Collection: Gather relevant information from various sources
Processing: Filter, validate, and organize the collected data
Analysis: Examine the processed information to identify patterns, relationships, and insights
Dissemination: Present findings in a clear, actionable format
Feedback: Evaluate the process and results to improve future investigations

Example: Example of the OSINT Cycle in Action:

Imagine you're investigating a company for potential business partnership:

- Planning:** Define what you need to know (financial stability, reputation, leadership)
- Collection:** Gather information from company website, news articles, financial reports, social media
- Processing:** Organize information chronologically, verify facts across multiple sources
- Analysis:** Identify patterns in company growth, leadership changes, market positioning
- Dissemination:** Create a report with key findings and recommendations
- Feedback:** Review which sources were most valuable for future investigations

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Conclusion

Congratulations on completing the Introduction to OSINT module! You've learned the fundamental concepts, ethical considerations, and basic tools used in Open Source Intelligence.

Important: Key Takeaways

OSINT involves collecting and analyzing publicly available information
The OSINT cycle provides a structured approach to intelligence gathering
Ethical and legal considerations are essential in OSINT practice
Various tools and techniques can enhance OSINT investigations
Critical thinking and analytical skills are as important as technical tools
As you continue your OSINT journey, remember that the most valuable skills are critical thinking, attention to detail, and ethical awareness. Tools and techniques are important, but they're only as effective as the person using them.
[quote]"The real power of OSINT lies not in accessing information, but in asking the right questions and making meaningful connections between disparate pieces of data."[/quote]

Next Steps

To build on what you've learned, consider exploring these modules:

- Advanced Search Operators
- Social Media Investigation
- OSINT Tools Overview

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Introduction to OSINT

Beginner

45 minutes

Learn the fundamentals of Open Source Intelligence, including key concepts, tools, and methodologies.

Module Progress

Section 12 of 12

Conclusion

Congratulations on completing the Introduction to OSINT module! You've learned the fundamental concepts, ethical considerations, and basic tools used in Open Source Intelligence.

Important: Key Takeaways

Practical Lab (Sofia Santos)

Lab Chosen

OSINT Exercise #004 – Resort Identification

Objective:

Identify the resort in the provided photo, locate the island's coordinates, and determine the camera's facing direction.

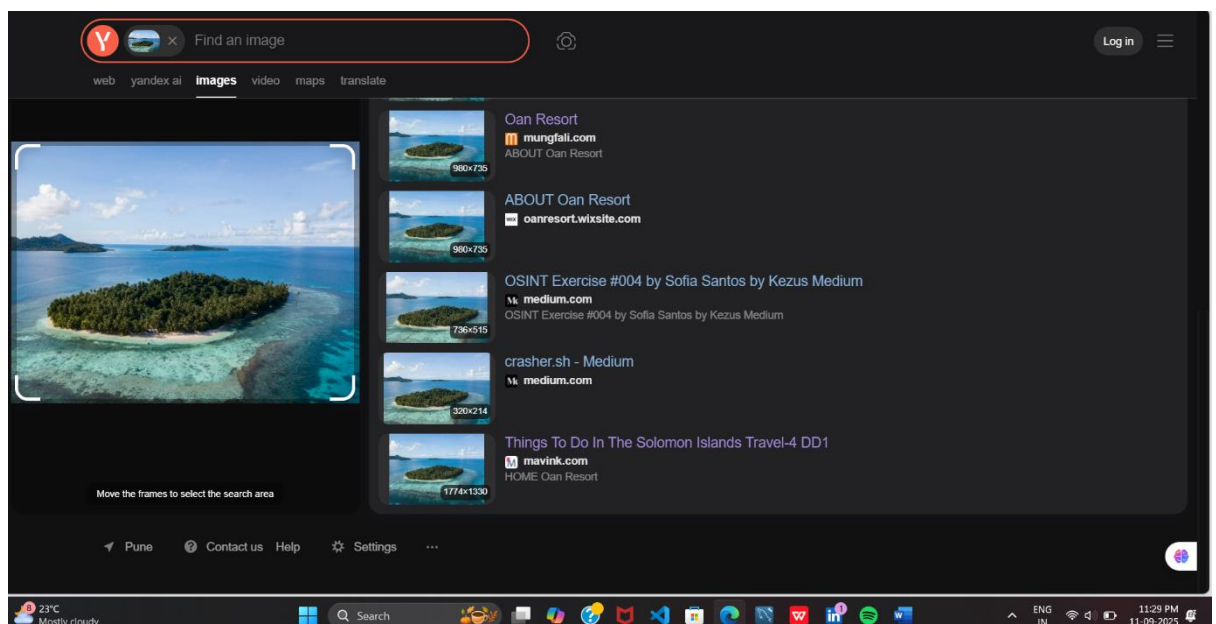
Approach (Plan)

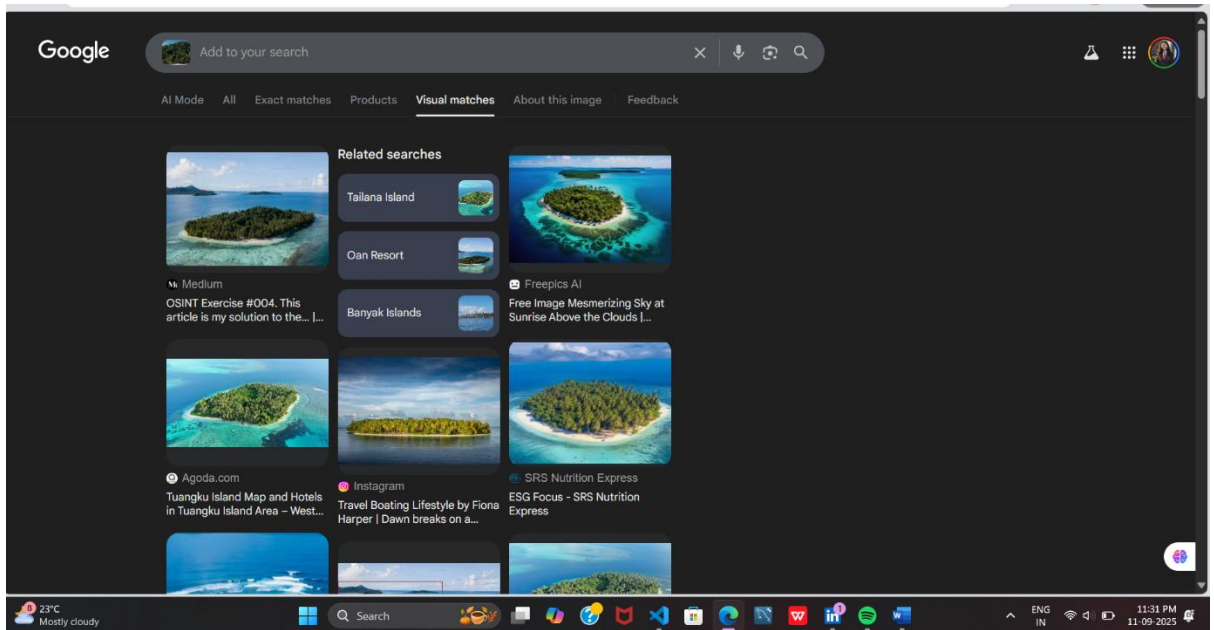
1. Perform a **reverse image search** (Google Images, Yandex, or TinEye) using the resort photo.
2. Inspect distinct visual features (roof style, beach layout, vegetation, pier) for keyword clues.
3. Use **Google Maps / Earth** to cross-match the island and confirm the resort.
4. Retrieve **coordinates** from the confirmed map location.
5. Analyze shadows, coastline, and orientation to determine the **camera's facing direction**.

Execution and Findings

Step 1 – Reverse Image Search

- **Action:** Uploaded the photo into Google Images and Yandex.
- **Screenshot:**





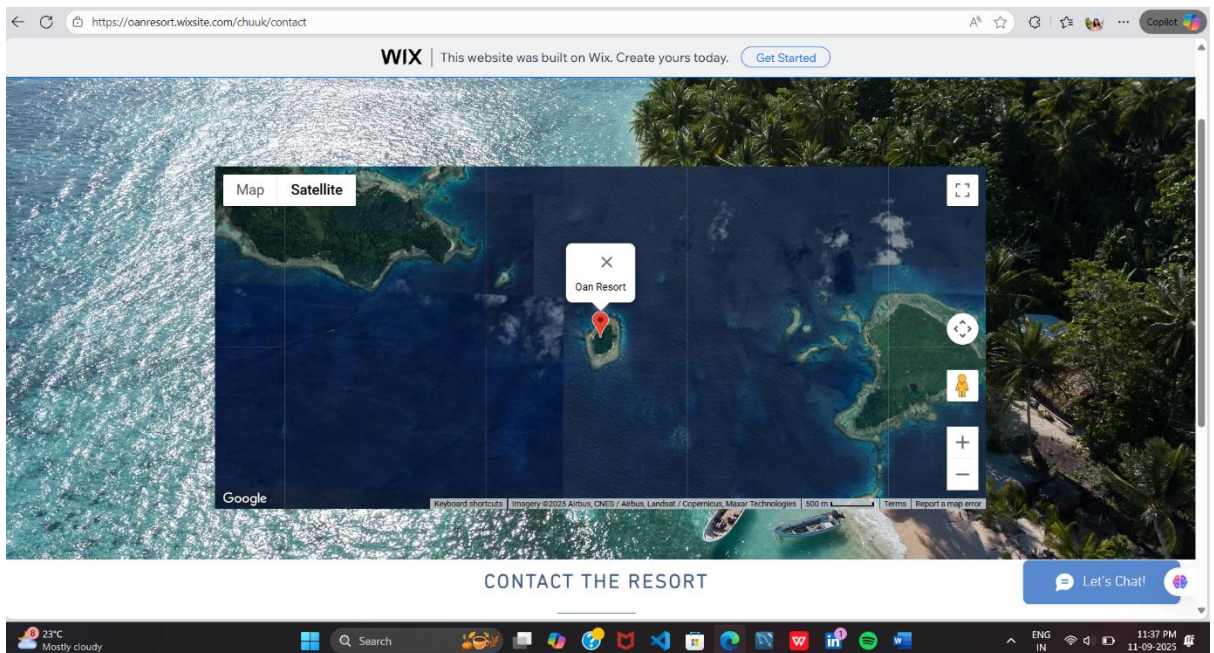
- **Finding:** Matches suggested a resort is Oan resort.

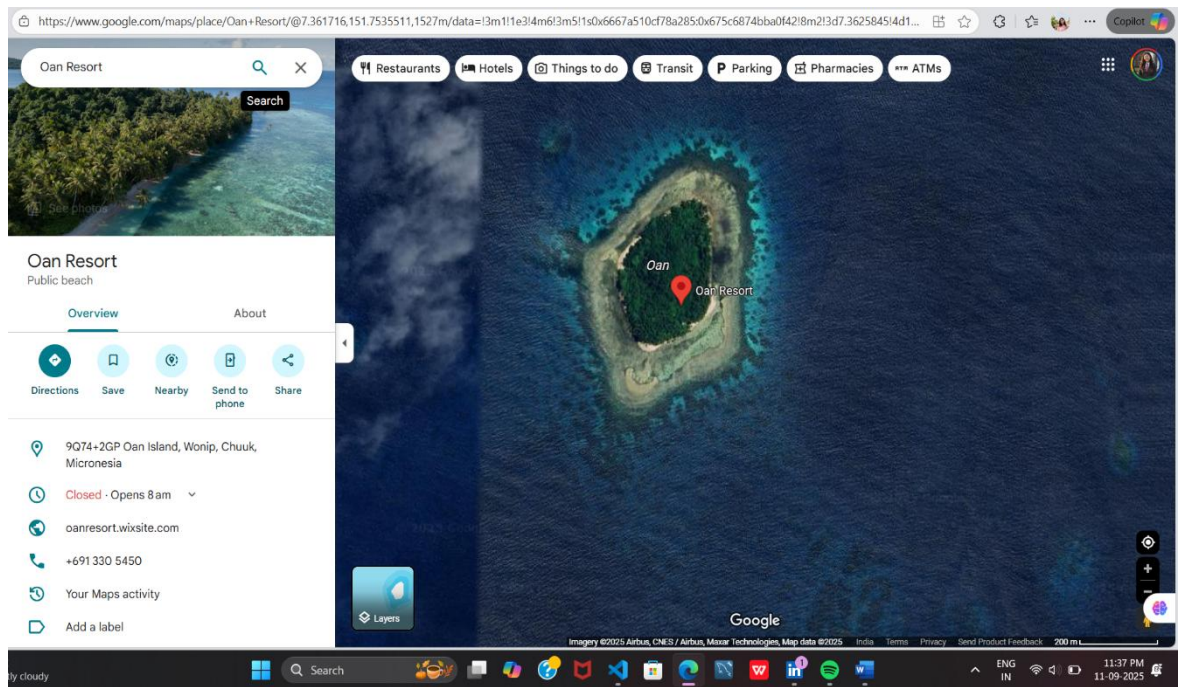
Step 2 – Visual Feature Analysis

- **Action:** Observed unique **overwater villas**, pier, and beach orientation.
- **Finding:** Visual features consistent with resorts on small circular atolls.

Step 3 – Google Maps Verification

- **Action:** Located the island and matched layout on **Google Earth/Maps**.
- **Screenshot:**





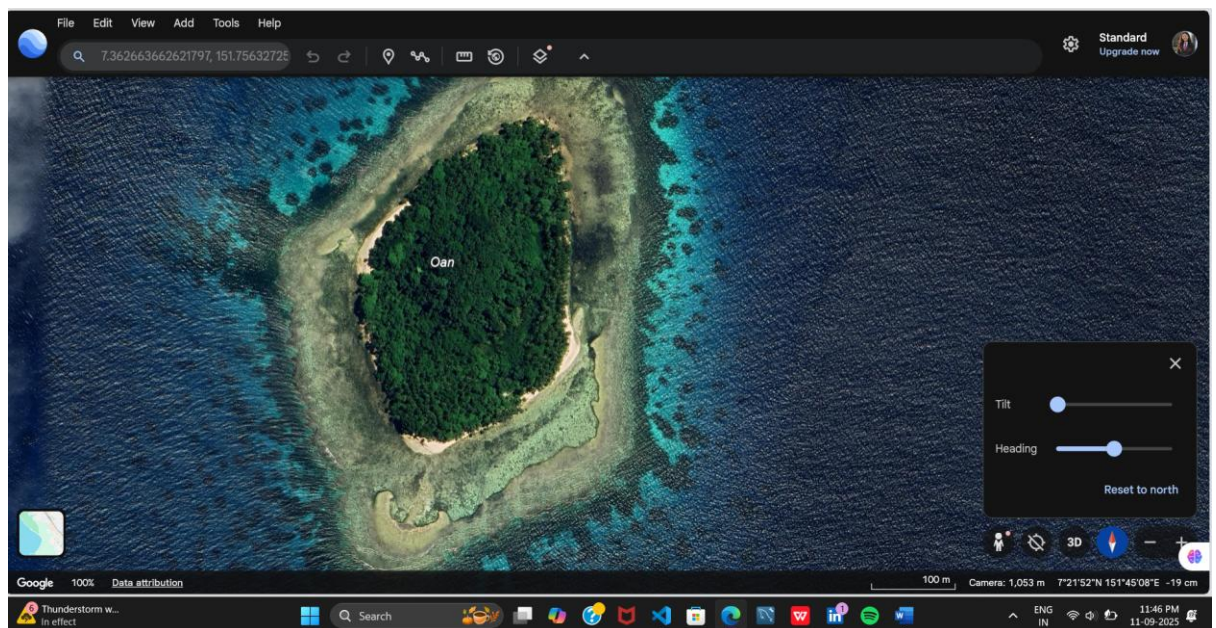
- **Finding:** Found matching image on website and google map..

Step 4 – Coordinates Extraction

- **Action:** Right-clicked location on Google Maps → “What’s here?” to get coordinates.
- **Finding:** Coordinates: 7.363576821744818, 151.7562528759949

Step 5 – Cardinal Direction Analysis

- **Action:** Checked shadow position and coastline orientation on map and Google earth.



- **Finding:** Camera was facing North-West when photo was taken.

Final Answers

- a) **Resort Name:** Oan Resort
- b) **Coordinates:** : 7.363576821744818, 151.7562528759949
- c) **Camera Facing Direction:** North-West

OSINT Game (Sourcing Game 1)

The image shows two screenshots of the SOURCING.GAMES website. The first screenshot is for 'GAME 1 - 01' and the second is for 'GAME 1 - 06'. Both pages have a navigation bar with links: HOME, ALL SOURCING GAMES, MORE GAMES, ABOUT, OTHER PROJECTS, CONTACT, LOGIN, and REGISTER. The first page has a message: 'PASSWORD FROM THAT PAGE BELOW WILL UNLOCK NEXT LEVEL.' and a button 'OPEN SITE'. Below this is a password prompt: 'To view next URL please enter your password (from the website) above:'. It says 'This content is password protected. To view it please enter your password below:' and has a password input field and a 'Submit' button. The second screenshot is for 'GAME 1 - 06' and has a message: 'One folder of this website "inovace.eu" was indexed by Google. You can find there the password for the next level.' Below this is an 'Instructions' section that says 'Use the password from the site'. Then it says 'To view next URL please enter your password below:' and provides the URL 'https://sourcing.games/game-1/game-1-fs7ff/'.

SOURCING.GAMES HOME ALL SOURCING GAMES MORE GAMES ABOUT OTHER PROJECTS CONTACT LOGIN REGISTER

GAME 1 - 01

PASSWORD FROM THAT PAGE BELOW WILL UNLOCK NEXT LEVEL.

OPEN SITE

To view next URL please enter your password (from the website) above:

This content is password protected. To view it please enter your password below:

Password:

Submit

Privacy & Cookies Policy

05:10 PM 13-09-2025

https://sourcing.games/game-1/game-1-ku7xa/

SOURCING.GAMES HOME ALL SOURCING GAMES MORE GAMES ABOUT OTHER PROJECTS CONTACT LOGIN REGISTER

GAME 1 - 06

One folder of this website "inovace.eu" was indexed by Google. You can find there the password for the next level.

Instructions

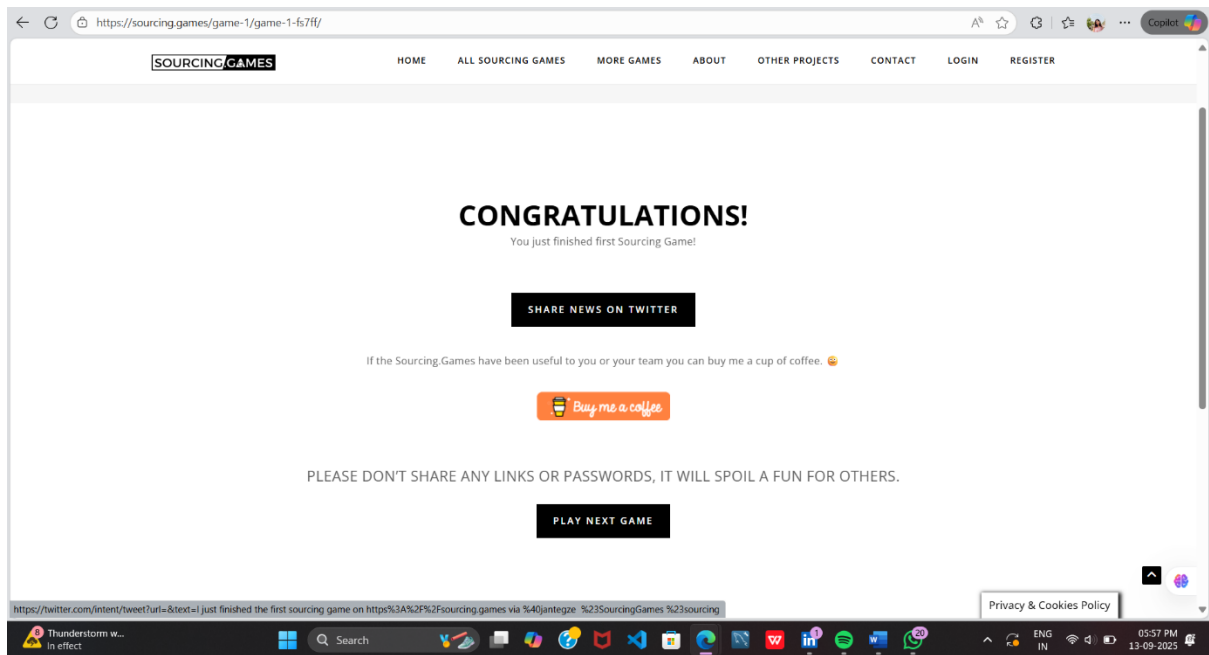
Use the password from the site

To view next URL please enter your password below:

https://sourcing.games/game-1/game-1-fs7ff/

Privacy & Cookies Policy

05:58 PM 13-09-2025



I completed all levels of the OSINT Sourcing Game Level 1. My approach was to carefully use Google advanced operators (like site: and inurl:), reverse image searches, and WHOIS/domain lookups to follow the clues step by step. Small details hidden in URLs and indexed folders often revealed the next hint. Some challenges were straightforward, but others required patience when the first searches didn't work. Combining multiple tools and thinking laterally helped me reach the final stage and score page.

Reflection:

This week I learned how to use Google advanced search operators more effectively, how to track hidden information through indexed folders, and how to apply reverse image search to uncover sources. I also practiced recognizing small digital clues, such as patterns in URLs, that lead to bigger discoveries. One tool I want to explore further is urlscan.io, since it provides rich data on redirects and timestamps. A challenge I faced was hitting dead ends when my first search attempts didn't yield results; I solved this by trying alternative queries and switching between tools until I found a lead. These skills will help me in future OSINT tasks by making my searches more systematic, efficient, and resilient when information is hard to locate.