



A Hillbilly's Guide to Staying Anonymous Online

(A Hillbilly Storytime Production)

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- Who Am I?
- Simple Answer:
 - Father/Husband/Son/Brother
 - Programmer/Pentester/Researcher
 - Hillbilly
- Employer
 - TrustedSec



Why did I decide on this topic?



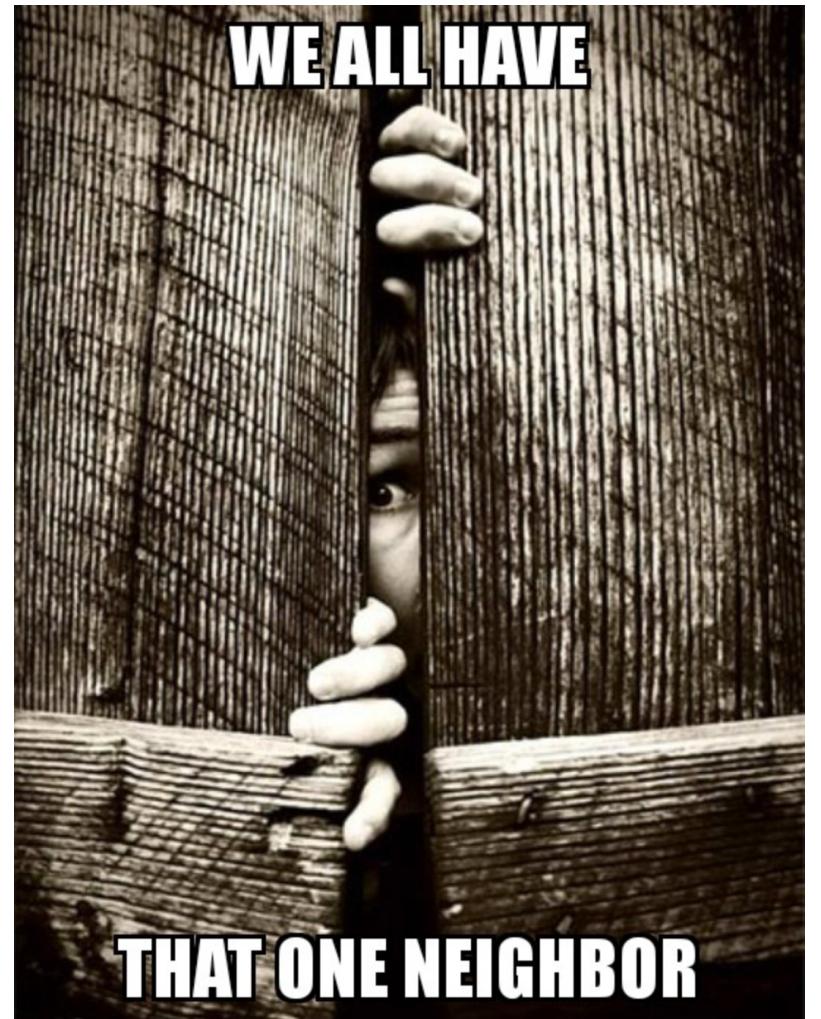
What is OSINT (short version)?

OSINT = Open Source INTelligence

It is the collection and analysis of data obtained from publicly accessible sources.

Common sources:

- Social Media
- Blog Posts/Forums
- Document Metadata
- Data Leaks (Pastebin)
- Whois/DNS
- Shodan
- (and many many more)



What is Anti-OSINT?

In short, it is the process by which one attempts to prevent gathering accurate OSINT about a person or thing.

Typically thought of as the domain of:

- Spies/Governments
- Hermits/Off Grid
- Conspiracy Theorists



Why is online privacy important?

- "Good people" can use it to perform security validation attacks against you and your company. (Social Engineering)
- Companies may search for you on the internet and base their opinion of you on what they find.
- Companies can make a LOT of money off of you and your information. There is no such thing as a free service. You are the product.
- "Bad people" can use it to do bad things to you or in your name.

Do you need online privacy?

- Do you have sensitive data? (financials? medical? SSN? DoB? Mother's Maiden Name?)
- Does your employer monitor your social media presence?
- Did you do things in your past you would like hidden?
- Do you live under a repressive or tyrannical government?
- Are you in witness relocation?
- Do you have someone(s) who would harm you if they knew who/where you were?
- ... basically, everyone!

All my info is already online!

1st accept you can never get rid of all of it.

2nd remove as much as you can.... But first, change it to be meaningless.

- Use services like:
 - <https://namechk.com/>
 - <https://checkusernames.com/>
- For each known online account:
 - Change your data
 - Delete the account
- Search for more sites (google, bing, etc...)
 - Request they delete your data



Maintain your privacy.

Periodically check for new information pertaining to you online and removing it.

Freeze your credit at all credit agencies:

- Equifax, Trans Union, Experian, Innovis

Learn to lie.... **Or not...I am not a lawyer!!!**

When filling out a form/application/etc, only fill out as much as required.

For the other items question why they are needed.

Even then, if you can get away with providing incomplete/inaccurate data, ...

Be cautious what you tell people. Does that person you met at <insert place here> really need to know where you work?



Maintain your privacy.

Ask friends and family to not post/share info about you.

If you really need to, get a new SSN. <https://faq.ssa.gov/en-US/Topic/article/KA-02220>

If you decide to switch doctors, ask for your old medical records and request that they destroy any copies they have.

Setup a P.O. box (or other service) instead of always providing home address.

Use a virtual phone number service and provide that number as needed.



Let's make a new identity.

Sockpuppet = an alternate online identity used to hide/obscure the identity of a person

Items usually needed:

- Name
 - Pick a believable name
- Email
 - Use a separate email account (ideally one that is encrypted such as Proton Mail)
- Money
 - Cash is best
 - Prepaid gift/debit card (Visa/MasterCard/etc...)
- Phone
 - Set up a burner phone with its own number. Prepaid phones work well. Remember to pay with cash.
- Address
 - USPS P.O. Box, UPS Store

Let's make a new identity.

- Browser
 - Incognito mode
 - Tor
 - AdBlock
- Passwords
 - Maintain separate passwords for all accounts.
- VPN
 - Use a trusted VPN for online activity.

Extra thoughts:

- Social Media
 - Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc..
- **Be willing to destroy the account if needed!!!**

Is this illegal?

I AM NOT A LAWYER!!!!

Do these things at your own discretion!!!!

Personally, when I perform any of these activities, I do so with the intent of protecting my identity, not to defraud or harm someone else.

Helpful resources.

Find Social Media Accounts: <https://namechk.com/> and <https://checkusernames.com/>

Get a new SSN: <https://faq.ssa.gov/en-US/Topic/article/KA-02220>

Get a UPS Store Address: <https://www.theupsstore.com/mailboxes/personal-mailboxes>

Freeze your credit:

- <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/>
- <https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html>
- <https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>
- <https://www.innovis.com/securityFreeze/index>

Reduce spam phone calls: <https://www.donotcall.gov/>

Check if your email against breaches: <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

Parting Thoughts

It is not for everyone.

You do not have to do everything if you do not wish to.

Protecting your privacy/data is a never-ending process.

Your privacy and data are valuable, do not give it away for free.

It can be very difficult to maintain separate identities.

This presentation was just an overview and intro to online privacy.
You can deep dive into it much more than we have covered here.

Parting Thoughts (videos)

Several videos out there:

Tim Vetter - "Winning and Quitting the Privacy Game: What it *REALLY* takes to have True Privacy in the 21st Century"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxQSu06yuZc>

Scott M - "Anti-OSINT...or hiding from The Man"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqtF-fuVI9w>

Michael James - "ANTI OSINT AF: How to become untouchable"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFIGP8MRSJI>

Contact Me!

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