



Atlas Analytics

OSINT Tools For Analysts

29 of our preferred ways to explore digital open sources in support of intelligence analysis at a tactical level.

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Social Media Search

1: www.echosec.net

Summary: Giving access to 10 social media platforms we think this is the best geolocated social media content search engine available, with simple tools to help you navigate global users via an interactive world map. The free version can be used to search for Twitter and Flickr users.

Positive: Excellent way of discovering content from specific geographic areas or by specific people, key word or hashtag.

Negative: You need to pay for the full functionality, and remember it only shows content from users who have public accounts and geolocation services turned on.

2: www.facebook.com “Graph Functionality”

Summary: Make sure your language settings are “English US” and then use this advanced search term function within Facebook to better understand people’s interests, allegiances and locations. For example, in the search field type combinations like the following:

- “People who live in Turkey and like Football”
- “Journalists who live in Tehran and speak Arabic”
- “People from London who work at the International Atomic Energy Agency”

Positive: Navigate millions of profiles, easily.

Negative: You can only see what people allow you to see, for example, the person has to ‘like’ something for it to appear in the results. You must then apply your analysis to that and ask what reason do they have for liking “Justin Bieber”? Is it genuine sentiment or ironic?

3: www.socialmention.com

Summary: A search engine researching 100+ media properties including Twitter, Facebook, FriendFeed, YouTube, Digg, Google etc.

Positive: Good for searching multiple social media and for understanding the origins of content, also top users, top hashtags, and top keywords.

Negative: Do not necessarily take the “Sentiment Analysis” reading on the left of the screen as fact as this is computer generated and possible not realistic. We don’t know of any very reliable automated sentiment analysis tools commercially available at this time (but we’d welcome suggestions).

Twitter Exploitation Tools

4: www.foller.me

Summary: Another site providing free analysis of Twitter users and their accounts.

Positive: Provides quick, basic analysis of a user, in particular showing times of tweeting activity, key words they use and interactions.

Negative: Beta version therefore it may cease to function.

5: web.tweetdeck.com

Summary: A Twitter product that allows you to monitor multiple Twitter streams simultaneously.

Positive: Can be used as an alarm system; for example, enter key words as search terms, Tweets featuring those words will appear in your stream as they are generated.

Negative: Limited to public Twitter accounts only or accounts you are connected with.

6: www.tweetedtrips.com

Summary: Locates and links geotagged tweets on a map by specified users.

Positive: Provides insight into a Twitter user's travel.

Negative: Requires the user to have located tweets turned on.

7: www.twitonomy.com

Summary: Analysis of users' tweets, retweets, replies, mentions and hashtags.

Positive: Allows you to build a clearer picture of how a user thinks as well as who they are associated with and their activity on Twitter.

Negative: Requires you to log in for full functionality.

8: www.twiangulate.com

Summary: A way to find mutual followers of two Twitter users, or, understand who two users both follow. E.g. Donald Trump.

Positive: Can help to build knowledge of human networks.

Negative: Only two users can be entered at one time so can be time-consuming to research many users.

9: www.geosocialfootprint.com

Summary: Uses geolocated tweets to produce a heatmap.

Positive: Useful for producing images you can use in other intelligence products.

Negative: Only searches last 200 tweets from specified user.

10: www.talkwalker.com

Summary: Excellent research tool for searching across multiple social media platforms.

Positive: The free access function shows a week's activity around a key word or hashtag.

Negative: Need to pay for full functionality.

11: www.hashtracking.com

Summary: Professional Twitter hashtag analytics tools designed for businesses.

Positive: Excellent for identifying Twitter users who talk most about a subject.

Negative: Need to pay for full functionality.

Other Content Search and Aggregation

12: www.google.com

Summary: A thorough way of accessing content from millions of sources with a growing number of related tools including:

news.google.com

Aggregated news from different sources and countries on current top stories as well as more nuanced reporting. It's a good way to build awareness about current situations and gather different media opinions.

google.com/alerts

A good way of being alerted about current stories and mentions of specific topics. Google sends you an email with a link to the online content as it happens or when you tell it to.

13: www.digg.com/reader

RSS feed application you can personalise to show only the content providers you care about, want to follow and want to be kept updated about. Type in a key word to show sources that could be of use; there are lots available that you may not have heard of or used before.

14: www.boardreader.com

A search engine that investigates message boards. Excellent for researching content that traditional search engines (e.g. Google) don't focus on, as message boards can yield a lot of content that could be relevant to your research.

15: www.addictomatic.com

Summary: Quickly returns results from YouTube, Google Images and Bing and also less popular sources on the web in one browser window, including Wordpress, FriendFeed and Ask.com.

Positive: Pull together content from different channels quickly.

Negative: Sometimes also returns suggestions for content that are only slightly related to the keywords you have entered.

16: www.newsnow.co.uk

Useful for looking at international news source perspectives on issues like **Syria** or **ISIS (Daesh)**. It's a UK-centric site aggregating news sources into one place, providing up to date articles on current situations, but it also provides articles from different media sources from different countries.

Citizen Journalism

17: www.bellingcat.com (Analysis)

Founded by Eliot Higgins (the famous blogger who used to publish under the name of “Brown Moses”) this is a site for and by citizen investigative journalists, providing up to date articles using only open source analysis. It is very good for increasing your knowledge of current topics and providing evidence for your own further research. Remember: the people posting may not be professional analysts, so apply your own rigorous processes to what you are gathering.

18: www.wikimapia.org (Mapping)

Crowdsourced world map with details about specific locations including buildings, bases and hard-to-reach areas. It is constantly being populated with further information and is often linked to information on Wikipedia. It is very good for helping to build knowledge on geographic areas, but, remember to treat the content with caution and assess its credibility.

19: www.periscope.tv (Videos)

Application only via mobile phone or Apple TV, this is an increasingly popular way to share live video with limitless numbers of viewers, who can search via a map for areas of interest. Viewers can interact with the broadcaster by written messages, potentially encouraging them to act or speak in response to instructions.

Website, User and Company Checks

20: www.who.is

Location, domain history, admin details of websites.

21: www.archive.org/web

Look at previous versions of websites. Note: website has to have previously been crawled to appear, and it does not feature every website in existence.

22: www.knowem.com

Search across 100s of social media sites and other websites for duplicate user names, allowing you to focus research when looking for specific users.

23: www.peakyou.com

Identity checking website, which, although very US focussed, can be used to reveal data about people internationally. Payment needed to get access to some records.

24: www.glassdoor.com

Anonymous employee reviews. Currently has a limited number of companies but is expanding, so potentially useful to watch.

25: orbisdirectory.bvdinfo.com/

Company information and business intelligence data with a range of products also available through a pay wall. Useful for checking company names and registered addresses.

Data Capture and Archiving

26: www.pdfmyurl.com

Create high-quality PDFs from your web pages or HTML templates. Easy-to-use and requires no installation.

27: www.archive.is

Take a 'snapshot' of a webpage that will always be available online through a unique URL, even if the original page disappears. Very useful for preserving research data.

Presentation Tools

28: www.storify.com

Provides a great way to build a professional looking presentation, allowing you to easily access different open sources including media and social media and then collate, organise and publish them in one place. Also allows you to download as a PDF or share it.

29: www.piktochart.com

Populate professionally designed templates with your own data to produce infographics for inclusion in other products.