

# Open Source Intelligence and Web Research

Lecture 4 - ECS198F SQ26



# Doxxing: How does it Happen?



What is doxxing?

- Finding and posting someone's personal information (name, address, Social Security number, etc.) online, usually to encourage negative attention towards them

How does someone find personal information online?

# What OSINT Looks Like



<https://www.tiktok.com/@notkahnjunior/video/7229889153595411758>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10SrinqJa0>



# So What Is OSINT?



## Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT)

- 1) The gathering of information from open / publicly available sources
- 2) Using this open information to make inferences and gain insights/gather intelligence



# Empowering Web Research



- AI is pretty good at summarizing information now!
  - Use it for doing well-defined tasks or to pull information from sources!
- For the simple stuff you can still use Google Search Operators...
  - Basic search narrowing, or Google Dorks!

# How do you Do OSINT?



Start with sources!

<https://github.com/jivoi/awesome-osint>

Basic Techniques to Explore:

- Username checking
- Website scraping
- File Metadata + Geolocating!
- Archived Data
- Public Databases...

# Best Practices for OPSEC



opsec

AI Mode All Shopping Images News Videos Forums More Tools

◆ AI Overview

**Operations Security** (OPSEC) is a systematic, five-step analytical process designed to prevent adversaries from piecing together unclassified, sensitive information that could compromise operations. It involves identifying critical data, analyzing threats/vulnerabilities, assessing risks, and applying countermeasures to protect information and enhance security. [U.S. Department of Commerce \(.gov\) +4](#)

### The Five Steps of OPSEC

- 1. Identification of Critical Information:** Determining what specific, sensitive data must be protected to prevent an adversary from understanding our goals.
- 2. Analysis of Threats:** Identifying potential adversaries and their capabilities/

Show more

Back to basics: Operations security | Army  
The United States Army

The OPSEC process provides a framework for the systematic and continuous process

★ Army.mil

What is Operational Security (OPSEC)?  
NordVPN

OPSEC, or operation security, is a process that helps prevent sensitive information from

# Best Practices for OPSEC



## OSINT OPSEC

- For CTF stuff don't worry about it too much...
- In the real world, use sockpuppet accounts!
  - Anyone care to guess why?

## Self-Defense

- Investigate your own online footprint and see how much you share!
- AVOID TYING YOUR REAL IDENTITY TO YOUR ONLINE ONES!
- Once it's posted, it's out there forever!