

The Social Media OSINT Challenge to US Intelligence: Culture Not Gigabytes

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Abstract

The unprecedented pace of technological development gave birth to new forms of open source (OS) information that has been increasingly valuable overtime. Internet development made social media a more powerful tool of communication and information dissemination. From an intelligence perspective, the most useful OS information might be that where the online user feels most comfortable and secured in expressing his/her views. However, today's boom in the usage of social media makes the intelligence services face an influx of unending information stream with a lot of noise involved, which requires very precise mechanism of access, filtration and tracking. Another challenge would be the organizational culture in the IC involved in terms of valuing the importance of information collected through open sources. This paper discusses the challenges that open source intelligence (OSINT) poses to the United States' IC and some of the different means it uses to overcome them.

*New Media Politics Rethinking Activism and National Security in Cyberspace,
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