SOCIAL MEDIA

INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT SECTION

JOINT STRATEGIC & TACTICAL ANALYSIS COMMAND CENTER

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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SOCIAL MEDIA: INTRODUCTION

- Provide insight on how the Investigative Support Section (ISS) provides open source intelligence for investigative purposes
  - Old vs New procedures

- Techniques

- Challenges & Solutions

- Examples/Success stories
SOCIAL MEDIA: INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT

- Gaining actionable intelligence off social media about a subject
  - Weapons, narcotics, active areas, chatter, #hashtags, friends, activities, family members, etc.

- More targeted searches

- Ability to search a variety of social networking sites, but often use the most popular at the present time (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, Google)

- Search public profiles, pictures, blogs, comments, etc.
SOCIAL MEDIA: OLD PROCEDURES

Names/Phones → Public Records
- Virtual Identity Reports
- Email

Facebook

Barely scratching the surface
SOCIAL MEDIA: OLD PROCEDURES

Robbery Arrestee:

Accurint:
Virtual Identity Report

Facebook:

SOME THINGS THAT ARE TRUE ARE NOT VERY USEFUL

We couldn't find anything for: [redacted]
Looking for people or posts? Try entering a name, location, or different words.
SOCIAL MEDIA: CHALLENGES

- Time
  - **SOLUTION**
    - New social media protocol
    - In-depth searches post major incident

- Changing Usernames
  - **SOLUTION**
    - Variations of their previous usernames, check associates profiles for tagged photos

- Private Accounts
  - **SOLUTION**
    - Known associates and family members sharing tagged photos

- Getting Blocked
  - **SOLUTION**
    - Change username, view profiles publicly
    - Storiesig.com

- Search Restrictions
  - **SOLUTION**
    - Specialized search sites (Spokeo, Pipl, Webstagram, Facebook Messenger)
SOCIAL MEDIA: NEW PROTOCOL

Name(s), Phone(s), Email(s), Various Identifiers

Accurint Virtual Identity Report, Facebook, Google and at least 2 other search engines/sites

If Profile is uncovered:
• URL handle, alias names queried through Google, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and at least one additional site

Additional steps if no profiles found

Use other public records (TLO) to find any possible emails, phones, relatives, etc.

If searches are exhausted, document all sites searched. Revisit if homicide/major case of interest
SOCIAL MEDIA: RESOURCES

LexisNexis | Accurint

TransUnion | TLOxp

Social Media Icons
• Exhausted searches on armed robbery arrestee, Daejon Ross. Found mother’s Facebook account; however, no links to her son.
• Next, Daejon Ross ex-girlfriend/child in common: Phantaja Washington
Is there a location or crew your subject may be affiliated with?
While on this profile look for clues that may help you identify key words and help identify your subject.

Based on the profile bio and photos it appears [redacted] and [redacted] may be keywords associated with subjects from Simple City.
Based on that information, try searching and see what populates and check account since its public and he appears to be affiliated with the same area.
INSTAGRAM CONT’D
SOCIAL MEDIA: TARGETED SEARCHES

- Social Media drill downs on homicides and high profiles cases/individuals of interest
  - Quick turnaround time for requests
    - Around the clock requests/communication needed between shifts
  - Building out information on hashtags, possible retaliation/crew beefs, relatives/associates
  - Information sharing with Intel, NSID, Districts
SOCIAL MEDIA: TARGETED SEARCHES – YOUTUBE/INSTAGRAM
SOCIAL MEDIA: TARGETED SEARCHES - EXAMPLE

Post homicide follow-up of validated

• Searched through Instagram accounts of known validated members
  • [Redacted]
  • Posted 4 days after the homicide occurred
Who is this person?
CHALLENGES: SEARCH RESTRICTIONS

INSTADP

INSTADP search profile pictures
Search and download Instagram profile pictures or stories

Start Download
View PDF & Download PDF Converter Guru

Instagram Downloader

Instagram Story Viewer & Downloader
Best Instagram story viewer! You can watch Instagram stories anonymously and quickly without the need to log in or having an account.
CHALLENGES: SEARCH RESTRICTIONS INSTADP

Instadp search profile pictures
Search and download Instagram profile pictures or stories

Instadp search profile pictures
Search and download Instagram profile pictures or stories
Twitter Video Downloader

Download twitter videos & GIF from tweets

Paste Tweet URL Here:

Enter link/url and click Download

Ads by Google

Stop seeing this ad  Why this ad?
SOCIAL MEDIA: ADDITIONAL SEARCHES

- Using specialized sites to search hashtags, telephone numbers, usernames, email addresses, keywords, URLs

- Specialized site searches for Twitter, Instagram, etc.
WHAT’S NEXT?

Check-in on known recidivists and gang/crew members with a social media footprint.
SOCIAL MEDIA: TARGETED SEARCHES – SUCCESS STORY

The case

600$
01/04/19 0037 - 0234 hours - Robbery (Gun)

On the above listed date and time, the complainant and two others were approached from behind and held at gunpoint by three suspects who instructed them to lie face down then took several items including an iPhoneX described in Cobalt as Aluminum/Silver. The look out in this incident was for 3 B/M, late teens to mid-twenties.
Complainant, owner of the iPhone X stolen in the 01/04/19 incident appears to be a lawyer. The phone has a folder of apps dedicated to “Law Stuffs.”

Law School: UC Berkeley SOL Boalt Hall; Berkeley CA
Social media was queried for complainant. The following Facebook account was located which matches the complainant based on age and location. Photos show the complainant may have recently visited Asia, possibly China. The background of the phone shown in Logan’s Instagram story includes what appear to be Tibetan prayer flags.
• Stopped at the [redacted] probable cause for arrest for being in possession and attempting to sell complainant’s phone
• Placed under arrest for RSP, CPWL, PWID Marijuana
• Recovered in this incident was a Smith & Wesson 9MM Handgun, 1.8 ounces of marijuana, 2 cell phones