VERE SOFTWARE
INVESTIGATIVE TOOLS

How Authentication, Collection and Reporting Strengthen OSINT's Value

Written by
Vere Software

Contents

The Challenges of OSINT Collection....4

- Quantity....4
- Speed....4
- Quality....4
- Ease of use....4
- Cost....4

Using WebCase to Support OSINT Collection....5

- Produce Actionable Web Intelligence 5
- Authenticated Collection....5
- Store Additional Electronic Exhibits 5
- Export Data for Predictive Analysis....5
- Generate Reports Automatically 5
- Manage OSINT Collection Across Your Team 6
- Keep Cost Low....6

Vere Software: The Internet Investigations Leader....7

- Vere Software Solutions for Online Digital Investigations....7
- For More Information....7

The Challenges of OSINT Collection

The collection, timely analysis and use of open source intelligence (OSINT) can be of immense value to an analyst. Open source information may be indistinguishable from classified information, but based on its source, may not be evaluated as trustworthy.

OSINT is inherently challenging, in fact, because the very qualities that make it valuable to operations can reduce its credibility, too. These qualities include:

Quantity

Traditional news media have been a source of OSINT for years. However, not only has the Internet provided a place for legitimate journalistic outlets to report current events, it has also provided for a number of additional sources of information. Government entities, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and individuals all provide facts, opinions, community, and other intelligence via blogs, websites, video and audio, and social networking sites.

The quantity of available information surpasses anything you could have developed in the past. It also presents more then can possibly be accurately evaluated. This doesn't slow down target subjects, and it can't slow down OSINT analysts either.

Speed

Along with changing the quantity of available data, the Internet has also changed the speed at which it can be found. A simple search and a few minutes to a few hours is all it takes. This reduces the amount of time you need to research a target subject or topic, but it makes target subjects more efficient, too. Nonetheless, timeliness alone can make OSINT superior to other sources.

Quality

The quality of Internet-based information may not be immediately apparent. A poorly written, poorly designed blog may still contain important nuggets, while a well-written article may tell the analyst nothing new. Combined with confidential or classified information, however, OSINT gathered in a timely manner can be superior to standalone classified data.

Ease of use

Only if you have appropriate clearances can you view classified information. However, information collected openly on the Internet is reviewable by everyone. And, while it is easy to obtain, it is not so easy to condense into an easily analyzed dataset or format.

Cost

The ability for an analyst to exploit the Internet for OSINT can be had at relatively little cost compared to other sources of information. Of course, the access is free to target subjects too.

Using WebCase to Support OSINT Collection

Produce Actionable Web Intelligence

Cut through the noise of online information. WebCase simplifies the challenge of documenting Internet based OSINT by allowing you to collect only the high quality information you need. Whether a news article, blog rumor, recruitment video, or “chatter” among tweets or forum postings – among many other forms of information – WebCase enables analysts to focus your intelligence gathering efforts for each case you examine.

Authenticated Collection

Collected intelligence items are date/time stamped and “digitally fingerprinted” via hash algorithms. Establish the validity of your collected intelligence at the moment you collect it—even if it the source web location is changed or deleted at any time afterward. This can be important when it comes to convincing your supervisors or other teams of the veracity of your actionable intelligence.

Store Additional Electronic Exhibits

Fully contextualize the information you collect by recording new online exhibits and attaching electronic files – including audio and video recordings, MS Word documents, spreadsheets, etc. WebCase automatically numbers each collected item within a case, and makes it easy to store other digital intelligence items by attaching them to the case. This provides a fuller picture of the target group or person, all in one place.

Export Data for Predictive Analysis

Need your collected data in your most powerful link analysis and other intelligence assessment tools? WebCase exports items collected into HTML for easy export. Get OSINT on people, places, events and organizations, then import to analysis tools for comparison.

Generate Reports Automatically

Preparing reports the old-fashioned way often requires a major time commitment. With WebCase, simply click a button to generate a browser based report that contains a comprehensive chronology of activities, as well as the OSINT that was gathered, together with any comments.

This makes it easy for other team members, other teams, and supervisors to see what you collected in the same format as when you collected it.

Manage OSINT Collection Across Your Team

Effective case management goes far beyond case tracking. WebCase not only lets you maintain accurate records of all collected online information, it also improves your ability to manage large numbers of ongoing OSINT collection efforts. Clear and comprehensive documentation of all your team's online activities gives you the power to manage both your online caseload and your staff.

Keep Cost Low

WebCase helps to bring costs into line with expected outcomes. Analysts spending time on the Internet collecting data can spend their time searching and evaluating versus documenting and reporting. WebCase's ease of use also means less training time for analysts.

Reference: Reexamining the Distinction Between Open Information and Secrets**,** Stephen C. Mercado, https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/Vol49no2/reexamining_the_distinction_3.htm

Vere Software: The Internet Investigations Leader

Vere Software Solutions for Online Digital Investigations

Using Vere Software's solutions, you'll be able to extend your digital investigation through individualized case management and effective documentation tools. Automated report building will help you maintain compliance with reporting requirements and end user presentation of investigations. WebCase's capabilities will enable your staff to quickly accomplish their case documentation with less overall time and effort. Best of all, you'll free up valuable staff time to pursue other projects that benefit the organization.

Vere Software is a recognized leader in online investigation documentation, with years of experience in online investigations and reporting. With proven solutions, Vere Software can help reduce time spent on investigations, increase the legally defensible documentation of online evidence, and help you successfully manage your online investigations while reducing employee time and costs.

Vere Software helps you easily meet ever-increasing requirements to properly document online investigations. You'll be able to eliminate the distractions and complexity of documenting online intelligence with many individual tools. When the courts review your process, don't be stressed. With Vere Software tools, online investigations and documentation are now under your control.

For More Information

To learn more, visit http://www.veresoftware.com/

About Vere Software

Now more than ever, organizations need to work smart and improve efficiency. Vere Software creates and supports online investigations—helping our customers solve every day Internet investigations challenges faster and easier. Visit www.veresoftware.com for more information.

Contacting Vere Software

VERE SOFTWARE
INVESTIGATIVE TOOLS

PHONE 888-432-4445 (United States and Canada)
If you are located outside North America, you can find our reseller on our Web site.

E-MAIL sales@veresoftware.com

MAIL Vere Software
4790 Caughlin Parkway #323
Reno, Nevada 89519
USA

WEB SITE www.veresoftware.com

Contacting Vere Software Support

Vere Software Support is available to customers who have a trial version of a Vere Software product or who have purchased a commercial version and have a valid maintenance agreement.

Vere Software Support provides assistance with our Web self-service.

Visit our forum at http://www.veresoftware.com/forum

Our website gives users of Vere Software products the ability to:

- Search Vere Software's online FAQ
- Download the latest releases, documentation, and patches for Vere Software products
- Request email support
- Manage existing support cases

© 2011 Vere Software, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Vere Software is a registered trademark of Vere Software, Inc. in the U.S.A. and/or other countries. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are property of their respective owners.

Copyright Notice

Copyright© Vere Software 2007-2011
All Rights Reserved

The information contained in this document is protected by copyright under the laws of the United States of America and any applicable International laws. Users of this document are authorized to redistribute and reproduce the document without the written permission of Vere Software as long as the document is distributed or reproduced in its entirety along with this notice. Users of this document are not authorized to modify, or make public or commercially use the information without the written authorization of Vere Software. The registered marks referenced in this document are the property of their respective companies and imply no association with those companies and are used as a descriptive nature only under the “Fair Use” laws. Vere Software makes no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this document and reserves the right to make changes to specifications and product descriptions at any time without notice. Vere Software does not make any commitment to update the information contained in this document.

If you have any questions regarding your potential use of this material, contact:

Vere Software
Attn: Legal Department
4790 Caughlin Parkway #323
Reno, Nevada 89519
www.veresoftware.com
email: info@veresoftware.com

Refer to our Web site for regional and international office information.

Trademarks

WebCase “Make the Internet your regular beat” and the Vere Software logo, are trademarks and registered trademarks of Vere Software in the United States of America and other countries. Other trademarks and registered trademarks used in this guide are property of their respective owners.

February 2011