Course Syllabus

OSINT Fundamentals

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Course Description and Goals

Course Description: If you are into Cybersecurity, especially Social Engineering, you have probably come across OSINT, which stands for Open Source Intelligence. In this course, we will try to lay a good foundation on going forward with the subject. Firstly, we will go through what OSINT is and who actually uses it. Then we will go through the ethics and moral/immoral side of it and in the end how people use OSINT since it is a thing that people use on the everyday basis without even knowing what they (we) are doing. Maybe you are a business that just wants to find out more about your competition or you met someone on an online dating site and you are interested in finding out more about them. There is also the "other" side of OSINT that is used as a process-stage of a cyber attack.

What is OSINT?

Easiest way to define OSINT is via Wikipedia: **Open-source intelligence** (**OSINT**) is data collected from publicly available sources to be used in an intelligence context.". Looks like a simple and easy way to understand the definition, but there is much more behind it. OSINT is the process of gathering, collecting and analysing information which is acquired from public and open sources. Public and open are terms that tend to deceive you that they mean free, but it is not, and that is just one of the things we will talk about later in this course.

What is involved in this course?

This course involves mostly theoretical knowledge about OSINT to lay a good foundation before proceeding on to the practical section. You will learn all the basics of OSINT to make an easier transition to the more advanced things.

Why should I learn about OSINT?

There are a handful of reasons why you should/want to learn about OSINT, especially if you are in the Cyber Security profession and community. Some of the reasons are:

Knowledge. If you like to learn new and exciting things and you are already involved with Cyber Security then you are on the right track. Expand your expertise and advance your Cyber Security career with the usage of OSINT. While using different OSINT techniques you are expanding your way of thinking and your imagination.

Protection. Learn to protect yourself and your organisation because all the information and data that you can find via OSINT tools, the bad guys could also do it and use those findings against you.

Fun. I have to tell you the truth – OSINT is a real fun ride, but at the same time it is quite scary. People write, share, record, send enormous amounts of data and most of the times without even knowing that they are doing it and all of that data is publicly available. Also one of the reasons is the lack of awareness and the feeling of false security. Here is where you come to play and enhance the overall cybersecurity posture of a person or an organisation, and have fun along the way.

Prerequisites: If you read the newspapers or you use the Internet, then you already have all the prerequisites for this course but basic technical terminology knowledge would be a great plus. Also, a computer/smartphone and an Internet connection would be mandatory.

Study Resources:

- osintcurio.us
- hunter.io
- exploit-db.com/google-hacking-database
- shodan.io
- thispersondoesnotexist.com
- remove.bg

Course Goals: Upon completion of the course, you are expected to go outside the box by looking for other resources because you have made a great foundation to move forward. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- ❏ Understand the OSINT cycle
- ❏ Interpret the possible vectors of an investigation
- ❏ Understand how different tools work
- ❏ Conduct a basic OSINT investigation
- ❏ Prepare for the next steps in studying OSINT

Course Outline

Module 1 | Introduction

Lesson 1.1: Instructor Welcome and Course Overview (4:57)
Lesson 1.2: Disclaimer (0:41)

Module 2 | OSINT Beginning

Lesson 2.1: What is OSINT? (5:31)
Lesson 2.2: Types of OSINT? (1:34)
Lesson 2.3: Who uses OSINT? (2:47)
Lesson 2.4: Ethics and morality of OSINT (3:16)
Lesson 2.5: Module Summary (0:31)

Module 3 | OSINT Basics

Lesson 3.1: The OSINT Cycle (5:06)
Lesson 3.2: Notes notes notes (2:00)
Lesson 3.3: Tools and techniques (9:49)
Lesson 3.4: Validation (true or false)? (1:05)
Lesson 3.5: Module Summary (1:17)

Module 4 | Sock Puppets

Lesson 4.1: What are sock puppets? (3:10)
Lesson 4.2: How to spot a Sock Puppet? (1:10)
Lesson 4.3: Module Summary (0:58)

Module 5 | OSINT defense

Lesson 5.1: OPSEC (2:56)
Lesson 5.2: Answering the phone (1:14)
Lesson 5.3: Module Summary (0:40)

Module 6 | Conclusion

Lesson 6.1: Final thoughts (2:11)