

Strategic Social Media Exploitation for Law Enforcement Investigations Overview

The training is designed to inform students of the benefits of *strategic* social media exploitation for law enforcement purposes and to introduce a variety of tools, techniques and methods for exploiting social media and other open source information. The results of an experiment using real-time social media exploitation during a tactical operation by the Baltimore Field Division are presented and discussed. A variety of websites that offer social media search, alert and aggregation tools, as well as content analytics and visualization, are presented and discussed. The training includes live demonstrations of techniques and methods presented on an undercover computer. The demonstration portion of the training is interactive in nature and tailored to the particular investigative focus of the audience. A hand-out is provided with a list of social media search websites and other useful open source tools, including a link and a description for each.

An extended, full-day of training includes hands-on application of the techniques and methods by the students on their own laptop computers. The instructor will guide students through a variety of useful websites, providing oversight and answering questions. The course will conclude with a practical exercise in which students will be required to work together in groups.

Instructor Information

Christine Gribble is a Program Analyst at ATF Headquarters in the Violent Crime Intelligence Division, Cyber Intelligence Branch. She developed ATF's first Social Media Exploitation course for ATF personnel. She is also training other Federal, State and local law enforcement personnel on behalf of U.S. Attorney's Offices in strategic social media exploitation techniques and methods. She has over six years of experience in evaluating ATF programs, including Violent Crime Impact Teams (VCIT), Project Gunrunner and Gunrunner Impact Teams (GRITs). Christine has over 200 hours of open source intelligence and analysis training provided by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). She has received the most current training available from the DNI's Open Source Academy in Social Media Analysis and Collection. She has applied her knowledge and skills in this area in direct support of ATF's mission and is continuing research of techniques, methods and technologies in social media exploitation for law enforcement. Christine has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Education from Towson University.