A Belated Newsletter

So let me start with an apology for this rather belated newsletter. When we started doing these newsletters in January last year we were aiming to produce four a year, at regular intervals. We only managed to do three in 2015 but then we were away a lot, busy with training courses, not only in the UK but also in Ireland, Denmark, Sweden and Mexico. So we are sorry that we never got to put together the fourth newsletter in 2015 and that this, the first one of 2016 is coming out way after January. But anyway we are back and have put together a new newsletter which we hope you will find interesting and very much hope to bring out at least another four this year.

There have been many changes over the last few months, which we will try to cover in this edition but let us first say goodbye to Friends Reunited, which for many of us in the UK and some of the Common Wealth countries was our first social networking site.

Friends Reunited was once really popular, with over 10million people in the UK being on there (and importantly being searchable in so many different ways, be it name, school, work place, hometown etc.) and had remained a useful OSINT tool, as all of the information uploaded by its users was still there. But we guess running a site like that, with hardly anyone using it, was an expensive waste for its owners, who finally pulled the plug in February and it has now closed for good and all of the information held on it is no longer available.

The people behind it have started "Liife" (www.liife.com) but it is still too soon to say whether this will be popular or a useful research tool or not.

One of the big changes we have to announce is that we have formed a new company called Qwarie (www.qwarie.com) along with our new business partner Richard Smith, who despite being another Smith is not related to Neil.

The idea behind Qwarie is to build on the Open Source Training & Investigations we were already offering but to add to it; firstly by having more highly trained staff who are able to assist in undertaking some of our training courses around the world, who thanks to their language skills will be able to deliver the courses in something other than just English. And secondly by having highly trained staff able to assist with some of the research and investigation enquiries we regularly undertake for clients.

In June 2015, long before the new company was formed, we began to train investigators for it. Now, they have begun work, performing some investigations, while Neil continues to be responsible for all investigations.

In the past we have had to turn down investigations simply because we did not have the time. This is resolved with Qwarie taking on investigations. So if you have any investigations work, Qwarie can do it for you!

Please take a look at www.qwarie.com and make contact with us through https://www.qwarie.com/contact

We will keep you updated on Qwarie as we hope to offer more services very soon.

Remember if there is anything you would like covered or if you have any interesting articles you want included in future editions of the Newsletter then just email me at: info@uk-osint.com.
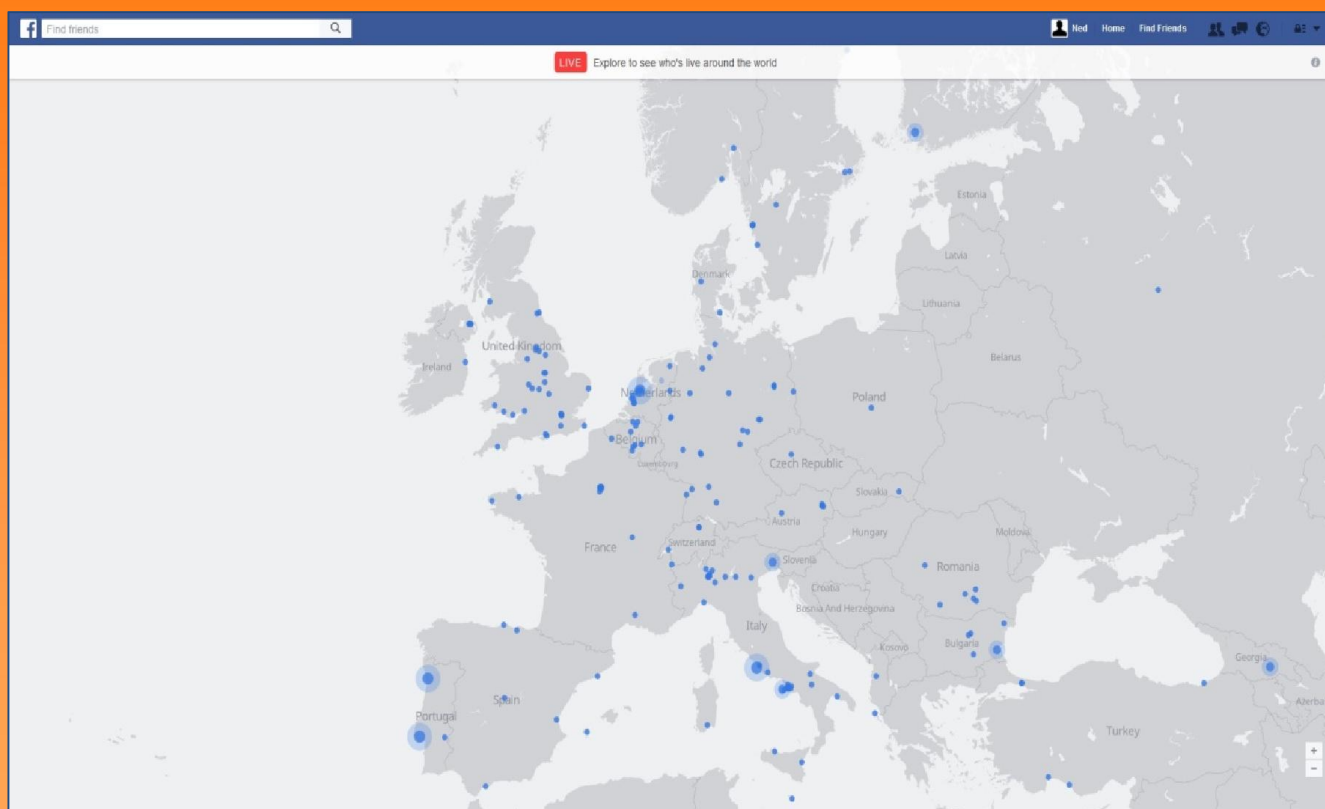
This is a photo of Neil giving a presentation at the Second Annual Special Investigators Unit Seminar for Insurance Ireland (www.insuranceireland.eu) in April 2015 at the Lansdowne Rugby Club in Dublin.

If you would like him to speak about locating information from the internet at a conference or seminar you are organising then please get in touch by emailing us at: info@uk-osint.com.

New Facebook Page

We have added a link for the Live Facebook Video page (https://www.facebook.com/livemap) to the Facebook page of our website.
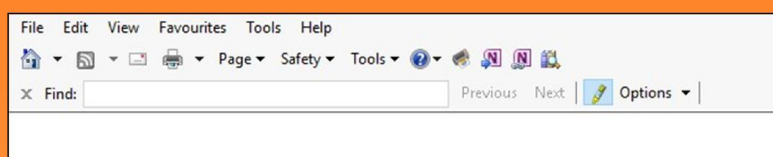

Once you have signed in to Facebook you can visit this page to see where live videos are being uploaded from, then click on the blue circle and visit the account and watch the video that is being uploaded.

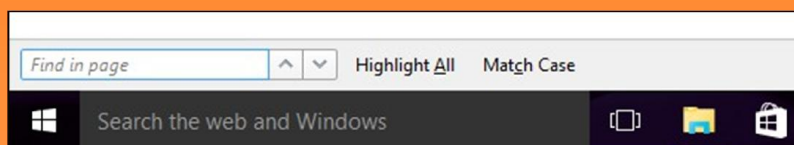# Finding Items In Long Websites, PDF's & Documents

So you have done a search and ended up directed to a really long website or a 180 paged pdf, and don't really have the time or the need to read it all, usually we just want to go straight to the bit that relates to our search.

So if you are on a website you can use "Ctr & F" to open a search box on your browser, where you can search for the term (name, telephone number, etc.) that took you to the page in the first place, and you will be taken to straight to where that term appears on the website, which is also usually highlighted.

This is the same for Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome, they just have different search boxes, in different places. In Internet Explorer, it will appear in the top left under the menu bar.
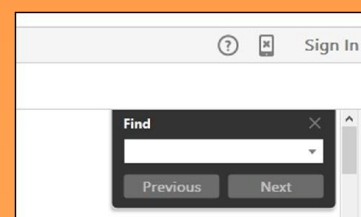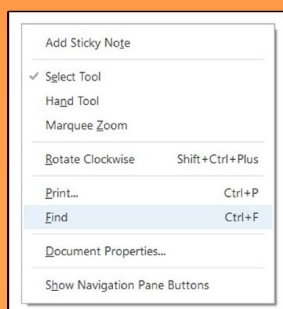
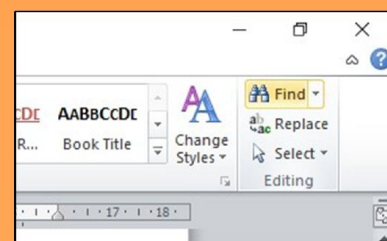In Firefox it will appear on the bottom right of your screen.

And in Chrome it will appear in the top right corner.

If you have downloaded a pdf (as opposed to viewing it within your browser, in which case you could use one of the above methods) and are viewing it with the standard free version of Adobe Acrobat Reader, then you can "Right Click" within the document, then click on "Find" and a search box will appear to the top right corner.

Similarly on Microsoft Office Documents there is a "Find" button on the right side of the toolbar, which will open up a search box on the left side of the screen.

So hopefully now if you are faced with long webpages or documents, you will be able to go direct to the interesting section.

The European Right To Be Forgotten

The European Right To Be Forgotten now also applies to google.com, which is annoying but doesn't stop most of us from being able to make our enquiries.

> Some results may have been removed under data protection law in Europe. Learn more

So if you are using any version of Google, whether it is a google country code, like google.co.uk, google.dk, google.ie etc. or even google.com, if your computer is showing a European IP Address then you will see the warning if you are searching the names of individuals and sometimes companies (although the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has limited the scope of this measure to apply to individuals only).

It doesn't mean that these individuals (and occasionally companies) have applied to have "inadequate, irrelevant, no longer relevant, or excessive" information removed but they might have. And Google report on their transparency site at https://www.google.com/transparencyreport/removals/europeprivacy/?hl=en that they have so far received 417,249 of these requests; with more than 50,000 coming from the UK and nearly 4,000 from Ireland.

The section titled "Examples of requests we encounter" is worth a read as it does show that Google appears to be applying a level of common sense to what it removes and what it refuses to remove. The trouble is we won't necessarily know if something has been removed or not.

So if you are inside Europe and have a European IP Address but want to search without the European Right To Be Forgotten restricting your searches you need to change your IP Address. Whilst there are many paid for Virtual Private Networks style of sites we can pay for, I thought I would share a couple of add-ons for Firefox & Chrome, that do the job just as well and importantly for free.

AnonymoX: Allows you to choose between an American, UK & Dutch IP Address, giving you a daily 500mb limit, which is ample for searches via google etc., as you don't need it turned on when on Facebook & Twitter etc. You can get more functions if you sign up and pay.

Hide-My-IP: Does a similar job to AnonymoX but requires you to create an account and sign in, giving you a free service for the first 30 days, with more services if you sign up for the paid account option

There are links for both of these on the add-ons page of our website.

A New Useful Add-On (& Another Useful Tip)
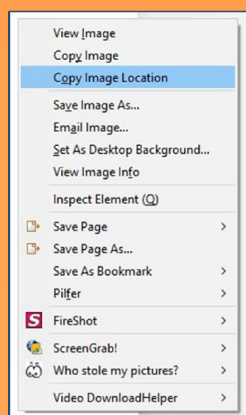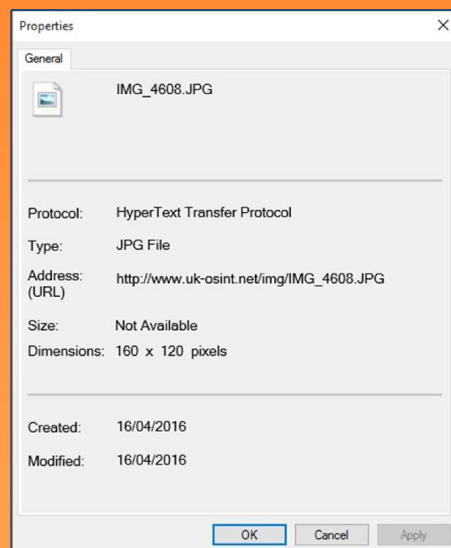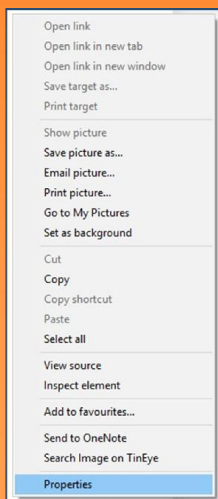
For those of you who have been using the TinEye reverse image search add-on there is a new add-on that is even better. Who Stole My Picture (https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/who-stole-my-pictures/) does the

same as TinEye but instead of searching just TinEye this add-on allows you to "Right Click" on an image and search for copies of the images using Yandex.ru, Tineye.com, Google.com (and supposedly VK.com although that doesn't work for me).

There doesn't yet seem to be a similar extension for Chrome but we prefer Firefox anyway ☺

If you don't have these add-ons or extensions to do a reverse image search, then you can just copy the image URL / address / location and search that, by posting it directly into the appropriate section on Yandex, TinEye and Google Images.
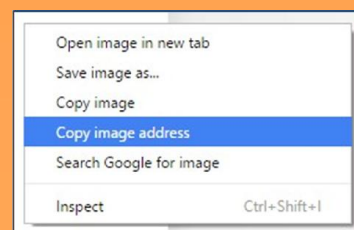
To get the URL / address / location for an image on the internet, depending on which internet browser you are using, you have to do the following:

In Internet Explorer, put your curser on an image and "right click" then click on "Properties" and you can copy the "Address" / URL shown.

In Firefox, put your curser on an image and "right click" then select "Copy Image Location"

And in Chrome, put your curser on an image and "right click" then select "Copy Image Address"

Then you can paste this into the appropriate section on the Google Images search page.

The Ice Academy - www.theiceacademy.co.uk

I thought some of you might appreciate this website as they do some fun team building sessions, taster sessions & masterclasses, as well as creating some stunning pieces for weddings and parties (check-out their Vodka Luges).

The Ice Academy has designed a team-building exercise that will involve learning new skills, working together and being creative. The objective is to produce an ice sculpture (in groups of 3) after observing a demonstration & familiarising yourselves with the tools required for the job. There will be certain features of the sculpture that must be exact whilst other aspects will allow creativity in the form of decoration. As this activity involves chainsaws and other various sharp tools it is imperative to listen carefully, follow safety guidelines and work as a team to ensure the activity is a success.

Taster Sessions allow you to experience the chill of -10 degrees at their base in New Inn; you needn't worry about the cold though as you will be provided with warm ski-wear and offered hot beverages too! The aim of the session is to learn the various chisel & power-tool techniques used by the professionals and have lots of fun in the process. On the day, you will have an example of the sculpture you will need to replicate, along with various chisels and power tools that you will use to help you. A professional ice sculptor will be there to instruct you on the safe handling of the tools and a quick demonstration will follow. It is then up to you to have some creative fun and enjoy the experience.

The company is based near to Newport in South Wales
and can be contacted at info@theiceacademy.co.uk for full details.

A couple of interesting quotes, which we thought we would share that we heard at last year's OSIRA conference;

"We use Facebook to schedule the protests, Twitter to coordinate, and YouTube to tell the world" – which was reported to be said by an activist in Egypt in relation to the Arab Spring

And

"At the start of every cybercrime is a human" – which was given as a reason why not everything has a technical answer and can be solved with software alone; you need humans to investigate humans

OSIRA – Open Source Intelligence and Research Association

The third annual conference was due to be held in London in May but we understand for a number of reasons it has had to be put back to July the 6th & 7th.

www.osira.net

The event will be at the ILEC Conference Centre, near to Earls Court and will be part of The Annual CIFI Security Summit, which they describe as essentially "2 day conferences and exhibitions bringing together leading security experts from around the globe to discuss Cyber Intelligence, Digital forensics, Cyber Security and Cyber Investigations. This is the only event of its kind that will run 4 simultaneous streams over 2 days in addition to case studies, demonstrations from global business leaders and a 30+ Exhibition".

Neil will be presenting at the event, talking on Social Networking Sites; so if you have a chance please come along, the full details are at: http://cifi.network/london2016.html

Visit our website – www.uk-osint.net
Like us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/ukosint
Follow us on Twitter – twitter.com/UKOSINT