

Social Media & Online Investigations

Two day hands-on course in identifying and analyzing Social Media data using court orders and Open Source Intelligence Techniques (OSINT). Internet Protocol, the Dark Web, and Advanced Google Search Techniques will also be discussed along with tips on creating online identities for Online Investigations. Students will work with a forensic mapping tool to analyze Snapchat geolocation data.

July 27th to 28th, 2026
Alaska State Crime Lab
Anchorage, AK 99507



\$450.00

www.hi-techinvestigations.com

60-day free trial of LeadsOnline Nighthawk for new users





Hi-Tech Investigations, LLC
<https://www.hi-techinvestigations.com>

Social Media & Online Investigations (2 days)

Law Enforcement Officers, Police Crime Analysts, and Prosecutors will learn the skills needed to conduct internet-based investigations along with obtaining data from Social Media companies with a court order. Students will be introduced to Open-Source Intelligence Techniques (OSINT) that can be used to obtain evidence and information about offenders without the need for legal orders. Students will be introduced to Internet Protocol, Advanced Google Search Techniques, and creating online identities for Online Investigations. Students will work with a forensic mapping tool to analyze Snapchat geolocation data and LeadsOnline Nighthawk to analyze social media and geolocation data.

Students will need a laptop or windows tablet (NO IPAD) with internet capability and Google Earth Pro for Desktop installed on their laptop. Bring a mouse to use with the laptop. New users will receive a free 60-day trial of LeadsOnline Nighthawk.

Day 1

8:00 - 9:00 Intelligence Companies, Browser Add-Ons, & social media
9:00 - 10:00 Snapchat
10:00 - 11:00 Facebook & Instagram
11:00 - 12:00 TikTok, Twitter/X, Reddit
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (On your own)
1:00 - 2:00 Overview of Forensic Mapping Tools & Google Earth Pro
2:00 - 4:00 Snapchat Geolocation practical

Day 2

8:00 - 9:00 Leads Online Nighthawk
9:00 - 12:00 Nighthawk Exercises
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (On your own)
1:00 - 2:00 Undercover social media accounts & Advanced Google Searching
2:00 - 2:30 IP Addresses & Internet Service Providers
2:30 - 4:00 Online Investigative Websites and Tools

Upon Completion:

Participants will have a better understanding of different Social Media companies commonly used and how to identify their target's Social Media accounts. Participants will know how to preserve and obtain data that is stored by Social Media companies either through a Court Order or through Open-Source Techniques. Participants will be knowledgeable in the device location data kept by some Social Media Companies and how this location data can be obtained and forensically mapped. Participants will be trained on how to use LeadsOnline Nighthawk to analyze digital data. Participants will know about techniques on how to create anonymous online profiles that can be used to investigate subjects. Participants will know more about Internet Protocol. Participants will know how to go beyond the normal Google Searches by using Advanced Google Search techniques. Participants will have knowledge of over 250 free websites that can be used to learn valuable intelligence on any type of investigation.

Instructor Biography:

Jeff German is a Detective with the City of Joliet, Illinois Police Department. Detective German has over 20 years' experience as a Police Officer and over 10 years' experience as a Detective and an Investigator for the Will/Grundy Major Crimes Task Force. Detective German is a subject matter expert in Cellular Record & Geolocation Analysis, Certified Forensic Mobile Examiner, Certified Forensic Video Technician, Certified Vehicle System Forensic Technician & Examiner, Fire Investigator, Lead Homicide Investigator, and Certified Evidence Repair Technician.