

Digital Footprints Resources and Techniques For Getting Your Digital Footprint

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Abstract—Day by day size of digital footprints is increasing very fast. People have number of online accounts, data, photos, various cloud services etc. even they don't know anything about their digital footprints. Using this resources and techniques anyone can clean up their useless digital footprints which are easily available as open source.

Keywords—Digital Footprints, CyberSecurity, OSINT, Privacy Security.

I. INTRODUCTION

An individual's digital footprint isn't usually given a second thought but legacy content can be liability not only to one's professional reputation to an individual's personal security posture. The more the personal Information available about you on online various platforms, the easier it is for threat actors to effectively target you.

We all know, the content we shared will remain forever, but there are some easy ways to get the simple digital footprint of yourself. Let's see how-

II. RESOURCES AND TECHNIQUES

• OSINT (Open Source Intelligence)

First, by understanding of how much personal information about you is posted or shared online, can tell you how much information you can get.

To get your digital footprint, by using OSINT, I will suggest the first source is always GOOGLE. You can gather so many information by using some well-crafted dorks. Below are some you may find useful.





- ✚ "Name"
- ✚ "Name" site:Instagram.com or facebook.com
- ✚ [name] + "hometown"
- ✚ [name] + "company you work for"
- ✚ inurl:resume "john smith"
- ✚ "Name" +related terms with you
- ✚ intext:resume "john smith"
- ✚ "text of a tweet" -site:https://twitter.com
- ✚ @twitterhandle -site:twitter.com/twitterhandle

Social Media

Most of the digital footprint of yours will be on Social Media Platforms. Just create a list of accounts past and present across as many platforms as you have accounts. We can use this list also in above google dorks.

Sites like **SOCIALCATFISH**(<https://socialcatfish.com/>) also can help you to locate accounts you may have forgotten about.

You may also check for:

-  Shopping sites, Government sites
-  Food Delivery sites
-  Trading portals
-  Entertainment sites

The Clean Up

Unsubscribe

In this step, go through all your email accounts and unsubscribe to the mails, newsletters which you don't actually read anymore.

Delete all the not useful emails, keep inbox clean and don't forget to clean the SPAM box also.

Deleting

Now, delete all the old, unused accounts which you have found. This will not only benefits in reducing your digital footprint but mitigates any risk of future breaches on the platform.

Keep secured all current accounts

1. Delete old photos, posts and comments and any posted content that may give location status, landmarks etc.
2. Untag yourself from photos, posts, events you don't want to be associated with.
3. Set up all the privacy and security settings, use complex passwords and enable 2FA's.

III. CONCLUSION

This resources and techniques will be helpful for maintain Privacy and Security of yourself. If everyone has implemented this, then it will be more helpful to reduce Cyber Crimes also.

IV. REFERENCES

- [1] SocialCatFish (<https://socialcatfish.com>)
- [2] Google (<https://google.com>)