Fundamentals of Open-Source Intelligence Course Syllabus

About Echo Analytics Group

Echo Academy (EA) is the training division of Echo Analytics Group (EAG), an open-source intelligence (OSINT) research and analysis company founded in 2015. Its founder, Harry "Buddy" Jericho, discovered early in his service with the Department of Defense throughout 2007 the significant impact social media had across the world. However, the massive amount of information uploaded to the internet daily was helpful but not always reliable. This availability of information led to the development of research methods and technologies to find and analyze reliable information quickly. The result was the creation of an in-house methodology and an analytic tool resources platform; Discover, Develop, Monitor (D2M™) and the Cyber Intelligence Dashboard (CID).

EA now provides perspectives-based digital media analytics training to public and private sector businesses and government entities, aligning it with the EAG company mission; to be the most trusted name in OSINT education, technology, and services.

EA has trained over 4,000 professionals across the globe on basic and advanced digital media analysis. The instructional staff continually performs quality control of its training by applying information gathered through course surveys to improve and evolve the curriculum. Because of these ongoing quality control efforts, instructors can modify and customize each course to the unique requirements of its attendees as a matter of corporate policy. Further, practical and capstone exercises are client-determined.

About Our Courses

Designed by government professionals for government professionals, our courses focus on the evolution of digital media and the critical thinking skills required to apply unbiased analytic thought to navigate the massive amounts of data that is now at everyone's fingertips. Students learn how to apply critical thinking techniques while navigating the D2M methodology framework. Students are also introduced to digital media analytic tools, using CID, enabling each student to build customized tool workflows that work best in their field to ensure consistent performance and the ability to adapt to an ever-changing landscape of data. Each student is then put to the test by participating in a capstone exercise that will challenge their ability to locate information and develop an intelligence product to present to the class for peer review assessment.

Syllabus

Course Title: Fundamentals of Open-Source Intelligence Course

Created By: Echo Analytics Group – Echo Academy

Language: English

Skill Level: Basic to Intermediate

Program Duration: 40 Hours In-Person

How to Successfully Complete the Course

To complete this course, you will need to:

- Attend all 5 days of the training
- Pass all quizzes and final assessment with a score of 80% or higher
- Submit and Present the CULEX (Culmination Exercise)

This Course Includes:

- Access to Cyber Intelligence Dashboard
- Course Guides and Learning Resources
- Certification of Completion

Who should attend this course?

- OSINT Collectors
- Data Collectors
- Open-Source Collectors
- OSINT Analysts
- Social Media Analysts
- Intelligence Professionals
- Law Enforcement Professionals
- Journalists
- Research Professionals

Course Scope

This course is an introduction to the many facets associated with being an open-source research analyst. It encompasses foundational knowledge required by students to determine tools and technology best suited to satisfy research requirements. Students need to have a basic understanding of technology and know-how to use a computer and Microsoft Office to succeed in this course.

Course Description

During this course, students will explore all the technical components associated with hardware, software, social media platforms, and open-source tools. This course has an emphasis on critical thinking and decreasing cognitive bias to gain an objective view of the research topic. Additional emphasis is placed on managing digital signatures decrease organization and personal risk. Through the Fundamentals of Open-Source Research and Analysis Course students will gain a firm understanding of what is needed to plan and efficiently collect data to answer well defined research questions.

Course Pre-requisites

None

Assessments

This is a five-day course that has several assessments in the form of practical exercises. Each assessment is considered a steppingstone towards an end of course project. The end of course project will consist of a timeline, regional overview, identified key personalities, and a summary of your findings. We have also included surveys to gain insight into your perspective on the course. All assessments whether they be quizzes, indirect assessments, or surveys are mandatory and we ask that you provide honest feedback about your experience.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking to conduct basic open-source social media analysis.
2. Define and locate short and long form social media, journalism, and grey literature.
3. Demonstrate and execute a positive digital footprint and properly manage attributions.
4. Demonstrate the ability to craft an effective research plan to answer a well-developed research question.
5. Employ open-source research and analytical tools.
6. Demonstrate a strategy for collecting data and managing attributions throughout the research plan.
7. Apply the Discover, Develop, and Monitor methodology throughout the research and analysis process.

Subject by Day

- **Day 1:**
    - Critical Thinking
    - Media Types
    - Internet Service Providers
    - Managed Attribution
- **Day 2:**
    - Virtual Private Networks
    - The Onion Router (TOR)

- Cyber Intelligence Dashboard
- Mind Mapping
- Creating Research Question
- Key Communicators & Key Influencers
- Introduction to Discover, Develop, Monitor D2M Methodology

- **Day 3:**
  - Social Media Statistics
  - Social Media sites
  - Developing a Timeline and a Research Plan
  - Boolean Logic & Google Dorking
  - Geolocation Mapping Tools
- **Day 4:**
  - Social Media Research and Analysis Tools
  - Personality Insights
  - Monitoring Tools
  - **Day 5:**
  - Conduct and Submit
  - Research Plan and Timeline
  - Identify Key Communicators and Key Influencers
  - Summary of Findings

Accessibility

Echo Academy is committed to its learners and adheres to equal opportunity standards of conduct. Accessible versions of this syllabus along with other documents are available upon request. Please inform the instructor of any requests.