USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL

Traditional, old-school investigations have come a long way, baby! Today’s online investigative research is more than a simple Google search. We have an extraordinary amount of information floating around the Internet. This session will explore best practices for understanding the intelligence you can recover from various public websites and search engines along with numerous social networking sites. Learn how your fingers can do the miles of walking and take away three new knowledgeable items, no matter what your skill level.

CYNTHIA NAVARRO
President
Finnegan’s Way

Cynthia Navarro has worked in the area of investigations for more than 30 years and is currently the president of Finnegan’s Way, an investigative consultation and training firm located in California. In this role she manages both civil and criminal investigations and consults worldwide, specializing in anti-piracy, business, and intelligence backgrounds. Prior to Finnegan’s Way, Navarro held various management positions at several Silicon Valley firms. In these positions, she was responsible for managing business-intelligence gathering, intellectual property theft investigations, interviews, cyber investigations, background investigations, and training. She has taught using the Internet as an investigative tool to law enforcement and corporate investigators worldwide.

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Here are some places to check out.

**International Search Engines**
- Arianna.libero.it (Italy)
- Bing.com
- Ch.altavista.com (Switzerland plus other countries)
- Google.com
- Searchenginecolossus.com (317 Countries and Territories)
- Suche.freenet.de (Germany)
- Sympatico.ca (Canada, news, finance, videos more…)
- Yahoo.com (Advanced: 102 Countries)
- Zoeken.nl (Netherlands)

**U.S. Search Engines**
- About.com
- Alltheweb.com
- Altavista.com
- Aol.com
- Ask.com
- Bing.com
- Blekko.com (categorically different)
- Clipblast.com (world’s largest video search, type in subject and go)
- Contenko.com
- Dogpile.com (recent changes for a updated come back)
- DuckDuckGo.com
- Google.com
- Info.com
- Infospace
- Like.com (search and shop visually)
- Lygo.com
- Mahalo—this search site is human-powered. They claim while the results are not Google or Bing, your results will be higher quality of content and
## Using the Internet as an Investigative Tool

- Relevance...humm...human powered...give it a try! It appears to be a *how-to with videos*...
- Mywebsearch.com
- topix.com (check out what is going on by specific area)
- Webcrawler.com
- Webopedia.com (resource for searching techno terminology and computer definitions)
- WOW.com (part of Aol)
- Yahoo.com
- Zabasearch.com
- ZoomInfo.com

### Anonymous Surfing
- DuckDuckgo.com
- httrack.com
- Lxquick.com
- Scroogle.org
- Torproject.org—free anonymization service
- Yippy.com (they don’t track your activities! Played around with it, I found something that Google didn’t!)

*Generally you type in your query, your identifiable information is scrubbed, grabs a new IP address sends the request, gets the information and then sends back and with no cookies.

### A Few Dark Sites and Recommendations
I highly recommend checking out Toddington International Inc. for some training and recommendations regarding the dark web: [https://1x7meb3bmahktmrx39tuiynce-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/TOR.pdf](https://1x7meb3bmahktmrx39tuiynce-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/TOR.pdf)

### U.S. Places to Search (non-search engine)
- Archive.org—(check what a website looked like back to 1996, 2M–3M visitors per day)
- Blogsearchengine.com

## Notes

- Mywebsearch.com
- topix.com (check out what is going on by specific area)
- Webcrawler.com
- Webopedia.com (resource for searching techno terminology and computer definitions)
- WOW.com (part of Aol)
- Yahoo.com
- Zabasearch.com
- ZoomInfo.com

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# USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL

- Corporatewiki.com
- Craigslist—(auction and personals)
- Crimeanalysts.com
- Crunchbase.com
- DomainTools—(great place to find names, addresses, email, phone and connections to other sites)
- Guidestar.com
- Inc.com
- Nozasearch.com—(previously Grantsmart.com)
- Pipl.com—(this is great even if you think you have checked everything)
- Search.org
- Secinfo.com—(info on publicly held companies)
- Spokeo.com—(small fee, but well worth it)
- State public data bases
- Technorati.com—(blog search engine)
- Wikipedia.org
- Zabasearch.com - (residential listings and more)
- Zoominfo.com

## U.S. Business Searches
- Annualreports.com
- bbb.org (Better Business Bureau)
- Corporateaffiliations.com (paid site, LexisNexis)
- Google.com (search: *Company name*, subsidiaries)
- [http://publicrecords.searchsystems.net/Free_Public_Records_by_Type_of_Record/Corporations_and_Companies/](http://publicrecords.searchsystems.net/Free_Public_Records_by_Type_of_Record/Corporations_and_Companies/)—Scroll down to Public Records, look up by state for corporation information
- [http://www.corporationwiki.com](http://www.corporationwiki.com) (company and active members, good visual tool)
### USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL

- Jayde.com (B2B search engine)
- Kompass.com (B2B search engine)
- Numberway.com (international white and yellow pages)
- Orbis.bvdep.com—Obis is a global database on 85M companies from 204 countries. Free/Paid
- Secinfo.com (Securities Info from US SEC Edgar database; the 10K filings have great information)
- Where2go.com (business directories worldwide)

### Alternate Search Engines

- Books.google.com—Books search (and search within books)
- Scholar.google.com—Looks for academic papers, patents or case law
- US.searchboth.net—searches multiple major search engines at once
- Worldcat.org—Books search (and closest library/sourcing details)

### International Business Searches

#### Brazil
- Boavistaservicos.com.br (Fee based)
- Google.com.br
- Jucesponline.sp.gov.br (Business Search database of Commerce, each state has a different website)
- npi.gov.br (National Institute of Industrial Property)
- Registro.br (Search/register for domain)

#### Beijing
- Baidu.com (general searches) ***The Android version of Baidu Browser transmits personally identifiable data, including a user’s GPS coordinates, search terms, and URLs visited, without encryption, and transmits the user’s IMEI and a list of nearby wireless networks with easily decryptable encryption. The Windows version of Baidu Browser
also transmits a number of personally identifiable data points, including a user’s search terms, hard drive serial number model and network MAC address, URL and title of all webpages visited, and CPU model number, without encryption or with easily decryptable encryption. Check out https://citizenlab.org/2016/02/privacy-security-issues-baidu-browser/ for more information***

- Baike.baidu.com (general searches)
- Cosco.com (cargo shipping company)
- gateway2china.com/opendir_China/Beijing/Business_and_Economy/Manufacturing/
- Google.com.hk (general searches)
- Gsxt.saic.gov.cn (Chinese company info)
- Haiguan.info (Chinese company info)
- Hanjin.com (cargo)
- Mscgva.ch/tracking/index (public companies)
- Nacao.org.cn (Chinese company info)
- Sec.gov (U.S. company info)
- Wikipedia.org (general searches)
- www.ic.gc.ca (Canadian company info)

**Canada**

### Germany/Netherlands
- Amazon
- Bing
- Facebook
- Faillissementsdossier.nl
- Globalsources
- Google.com
- HKTDC
- Insolventies.rechtspraak.nl
- Kvk.nl
- LinkedIn
- Unternehmensregister.de
- Wipo.int

### Hong Kong/Shenzhen/Argentina/Korea
- Baidu.com
- Google.com
- Naver.com
- Sfc.hk—Securities and Futures Commission
- Wikipedia.org

### Sweden
You’ll need to get your Google translate ready for this. Generally, you can get name, address, personal number (which is like a U.S. SSN), how much they make, where they work and more! Just click and translate to guide you through.

[www.ratsit.se](http://www.ratsit.se)

### Misc. International Searches
- 192.com—search for people business and places
### NOTES

- Alibaba.com (by country/region products, suppliers and buyers)
- Asianproducts.com—(find manufactures and businesses)
- Companieshouse.gov.uk—Secretary of State for the UK annual reports, and officers’ information
- Corporateinformation.com—(Company analysis paid service)
- Fita.org—(import/export trade leads)
- [http://www.rba.co.uk/sources/registers.htm](http://www.rba.co.uk/sources/registers.htm) Official Company Registers, this site is broken down by key points, country by country EU, Asia, Oceania, The Americas and Africa
- Kidon.com—(links to global newspapers)
- Made-in-China.com—(connect with manufactures)
- Panjiva—Global Suppliers and Mfg/Customs Data/Credit Data (paid service)
- Thepaperboy.com—(international and national papers)

### Social Networking Communities

**U.S. Personal**
- Bebo
- Facebook
- Flickr (find that photo)
- Friendster
- Friendwise
- Google+
- Imeem (share your favorite music with others)
- Instagram
- mocospace (similar to myspace)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• MySpace</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pinterest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SnapChat (number one with 13-27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tumblr</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Twitter</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vimeo</td>
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<td>• Xanga</td>
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<td>• YouTube</td>
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<th><strong>NOTES</strong></th>
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**International Social Networking Sites**

- Australia—Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn (Twitter dropped down to 6th)
- Brazil—Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Orkut
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Platforms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Facebook, Copains d'Avant, Twitter, Skyrock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Facebook, Twitter, Jappy, wer-kennt-wen, Xing, stayfriends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Worldfloat (45M users), Facebook, Twitter, Skype, Myspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Facebook, Google+, Twitter, YouTube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Twitter, Facebook, Mixi, Gree (mobile), Ameblo, Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, ask.fm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>V Kontakte, Odnoklassniki, LiveJournal, YouTube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Facebook, Tuenti, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, tumblr, Vimeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Twitter, LinkedIn, Skype, Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram, Pinterest, Reddit, Spotify, Vimeo</td>
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**Translation Assistance**

- Babel Fish (Yahoo!) Free
- FreeTranslation.com (first 750 works free)
- Google (translate from an entire site to just one sentence, Free)
- Online-translator.com
- Worldlens.com—(mobile app)

**International Blogs Worth Reading**

- AnnaRaccoon.com (business British blog)
- Blogger (personal Latin America)
- Meneame.net (Spain microblog, trending topics used for Twitter)
- Tradeology.com (US government blog sponsored by the International Trade Administration).
- Wordpress (Latin America)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>U.S. Blog Sites</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blogger</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Google “teen blogs”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Livejournal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Typepad (need to register)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wordpress (need to register)</td>
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**Something Better Than Google Alerts**


**People Search**

- 192.com (UK white/yellow pages)
- 411.com
- Anywho.com
- Canada411.ca
- DexOnline.com (includes government phone listings)
- Followadder.com (automated Instagram bot to schedule posts from your desktop)
- Infobel.com/teldir (covers 216 countries)
- Instantcheckmate.com
- Peekyou.com
- Peeplo.com
- Peoplesmart.com
- Pipl.com
- Radaris
- Spoke.com (this is not spokeo)
- Spokeo.com
- Switchboard.com
- Yasni (based in Germany, People/Topic and more search engine, covers US as well)
- Yatedo—People search, by company, title
- Zabasearch.com
### Phone Lookup
- Anywho.com
- Privacystar.com (I searched a few cell numbers and it found the correct owner)
- Reversegenie.com

### Who Is at This Address?
- Rehold.com (not perfect and old information, but it has helped more than once. Click on the blue names for additional information)

### Social Networking Tools
- Crunchbase.com (free database of tech companies, people and investors)
- Google images
- Searchinstagram.com (name says it all)
- SnapMap—[https://snapmap.knightlab.com](https://snapmap.knightlab.com) (Instagram locations by user (public only))
- Snapmap.knightlab.com/#top (User’s 20 most resent geo-tagged Instagrams)
- Socialbearing.com (Twitter user search & analytics)
- Socialmention.com (real time social media search and analysis)
- Social-searcher.com
- Tagboard.com (hashtag searching)
- Thebrain.com (mapping your cases out)
- Tinyeye.com (it will look for similar photo based on Fuzzy Hashing, I like Google best)
- Touchgraph.com (social networking mapping)
- Tweetdeck (love this!!!! it is great for live searching)
- Twitwheel.com (tweets from the legal world)

### Some Random Sites
- Browsys.com (organize web pages in virtual folders that can be created, accessed, edited and shared)
- cluuz.com (search engine with visual display)
### Using the Internet as an Investigative Tool

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<tr>
<td><strong>Cybertoolbelt.com</strong> (IP tracing, plans run from $12 to $99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dotsub.com</strong> (videos that can be translated and put in multiple language subtitles for videos across all platforms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>geobytes.com/FreeServices.htm</strong> (geolocation and IP tracing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Globalincidentmap.com</strong>—the free version is time delayed by 24-48hrs and you can’t get specific info on threat. This is good for a general idea of what is happening throughout the world of terrorism and other suspicious events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Govtrack.us</strong>—(are you tracking Members of Congress, Bills &amp; Resolutions, Voting Records, Committees...helps learn and <em>track activities</em> of US Congress...notice it is not a government website)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hunch.ly/demo/</strong> (check out this site, keep browser sites you have searched in one folder along with screenshots with one click! Worth checking out)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parkopedia.com</strong> (find parking worldwide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Searchtempest.com</strong> (search craigslist, eBay, Amazon by U.S. State, region or worldwide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statescape.com</strong>—(legislative and regulatory tracking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunbiz.org</strong>—(one stop shopping for FL state division of records)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terrapattern.com</strong> (Satellite photos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thefreelibrary.com</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vesseltracker.com</strong>—(global AIS vessel movements and maritime information)</td>
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### Social Media Scheduling Tools

| **BufferApp** |
| **Hootsuite** (favorite tool) |
| **ScoopIt** |
| **SocialOomph** |
| **SproutSocial** |
**USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media Legal Questions??</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Check out EthanWall.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Using social media in your investigations? In New York there is no common-law right to privacy…check out this out (thanks Cynthia Hetherington): <a href="http://www.courts.state.ny.us/Reporter/3dseries/2010/2010_20388.htm">http://www.courts.state.ny.us/Reporter/3dseries/2010/2010_20388.htm</a></td>
</tr>
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Snip from the opinion of the court: The Fourth Amendment’s right to privacy protects people, not places *(see Katz v United States, 389 US 347, 351 [1967] [“What a person knowingly exposes to the public, even in his own home or office, is not a subject of Fourth Amendment protection”])*.


<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>When Searching, Don’t forget</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Add to your search string things like, profession, sports, spouse’s name, kids’ name—“Cynthia Navarro” +soccer or “Cynthia Navarro” investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Change your Google search preferences (under settings) for number of results for the page from the standard “10” to “100”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Don’t forget to capture your findings; they may not be there later!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Google is great for searching those “private” social networking sites. You may come up with a previous “public” posting or something listed under their friends’ profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ If you have an address, use Maps for a visual of the location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Look for images while you’re at it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL

- Use other names/spellings like Robert, Rob, Bob, Bobby nick names
- Use terms like AND, OR, NOT, NEAR/2 (depending on the site)
- When searching, use the Math commands +(add), - (exclude), * (wildcard-fill in the blank) it doesn’t work on all search engines but try it out.
- When searching, don’t forget Videos and News

Tools for Capturing
- Acrobat—don’t forget this is not perfect, watch your margins (may need to use landscape), it does not pick up multi layers, it is not only great for page captures, but capturing an entire website, www.adobe.com
- Camtasia Studio—great for capturing video- www.techsmith.com
- Snagit 8—great for capturing a region, window, full screen, webpage and webpage keeping links plus more - www.techsmith.com. You can also save your capture in Acrobat and catch everything that you may not get by just using Acrobat itself.

U.S. Subscription Databases
- Cpclear.com
- IQdata.com
- Irbssearch.com (my favorite)
- Knowx.com (subscription database owned by ChoicePoint)
- Lexisnexis.com (subscription database)
- Locateplus.com
- Merlindata.com
- PACER.PSC.USCOURTS.GOV (subscription database—Federal court records anything under $15 for the quarter, they don’t bill)
- Piers (export/import)
- Tracers.com
### Recent Bookmarking for My Computer

Some oldies but goodies from Cynthia Hetherington Group

- Brbp.com (public records, awesome site please check it out!!)
- Decodethis.com (Vin Decoder)
- Info.com (top results from Google, Yahoo, Bing, Yandex)
- Maltego 3 (paterva.com/web5)
- SoundJax.com (this is fun!)
- Ssnvalidator.com
- TinEye Reverse Image Search (not as robust as Google)
- Usa.gov

### Notes from Cynthia:

*Things to remember:*

- Always use more than one database to verify and check to see how current the information is you are getting
- Ctrl-D = instant bookmark
- Ctrl-J = opens Firefox library window to see download history
- Ctrl-W = deletes the window you are in
- We are just listing a few sites to check out…there are many we have not listed, and may not even have discovered
- We try to keep this up as best as possible, if you find something that is no longer active or comments that you would like to share drop us an email, we would love to hear from you.
- Websites can be set up to deny a bot to capture their site, which means you need to go directly to a site for information because you won’t find it on Google or other search engines.
- With all these things in mind, have fun and learn what you can, online research is the future in collecting intelligence.
### Using the Internet as an Investigative Tool

- You may need to go directly to a website to search; google and other search engines do not cover the entire internet. I’ve heard Google search engines only cover less than 2-3% of the internet.

#### Some Things from Plessas Experts Network:
[http://www.plessas.net/site/](http://www.plessas.net/site/)

**How to Turn off Wi-Fi Sniffing in Firefox Permanently:**
1. Type about:config in the address bar and hit enter.
2. Click “I’ll be careful” and don’t worry about the warranty.
3. In the filter or search bar at the top of the following page, type: geo.
4. There will be two choices. Double click the word True so that it says false and double click the URL and delete it.

#### Search Strings on Google
- **Site:** plus.google.com Mike Smith—Any Google search using site: plus.google.com will find Google+ pages, which will allow access to the Google_ search tool.
- **Site:** YouTube.com Mike Smith—All YouTube pages and comments are now integrated with Google+. To find the user, search YouTube first, then select the profile page and discover the link to the Google+ page.

#### Geo Search Tool for YouTube
[http://youtube.github.io/geo-search-tool/search.html](http://youtube.github.io/geo-search-tool/search.html) Despite its very plain appearance, this tool can sort YouTube videos by location posted (which may differ at times with where the actual video was taken). It also allows for keyword searches, time periods, radius of search and even by YouTube channel (or user).
USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL

Monitor for Changes on the Web
www.watchthatpage.com—several options for how you want to monitor the Internet…pretty cool!

Sites where you don’t want your Kids
- **Blender**—A flirting app via GPS location…for any one
- **Omegle**—Another anonymous app. You enter what you want to talk about and they randomly pick someone for that topic. Plus you can video chat. You can’t use if you are under 13 yrs old...right…the age police are out tracking you now.
- **Searchboth.com**—Search both Yahoo and Google
- **Tinder**—While I have learned about his via a blog from someone sharing experiences…this is another site kids tend to check out. Because of the location features, this can put kids at risk.
- **Trends24.in**—Twitter trends within the last 24hrs (10 min, 1 hr, 2 hrs, 3 hrs….etc.) you can narrow for worldwide, state or city.
- **Vine**—Not one that took my interest, but teens seem to like the 6 second loop video, you can find sex, drug use, and many other things they should not be watching.
- **Voxer**—This is a walkie-talkie app where you can have chats with multiple people, the app is actually rated for 4+…potential for cyberbullies
- **Whisper.sh**—This came out last year. Don’t tell anyone, but I have a secret I’m dying to tell someone. So why not tell a complete stranger…and in your geographic area! What could be better than talking anonymously to a stranger? Plus you can search other secrets by category. Guess who else thinks that is a great idea…predators.
- **Yik Yak**—Messages viewed by 500 Yakkers closest to them via GPS. Cyberbullying, sexually explicit content, and while anonymous you can still give out what info you want.
**Non-Social Media Apps (Another Favorite of Kids)**

- **Jailbreaking** for iPhone—this helps lift restrictions on “allowable applications”
- **Poof**—This is an app that hides the apps icon on your cell that you don’t want (your parents) to find.
- **SBSSettings**—Another icon hiding app

**Messaging and File Sharing**

- Facebook Messenger (Android, iOS)
- PlayStation Messages (Android and iOS), check what friends are online and playing, send text or voice messages, plus photos or stickers.
- Signal (Android, iOS) for the security conscious comes from Open Whisper Systems.
- Skype (Android, iOS, Windows) this is great especially if you have international friends you want face/face conversations!
- Telegram (messaging [http://www.softpedia.com/reviews/mac/telegram-review-501916.shtml](http://www.softpedia.com/reviews/mac/telegram-review-501916.shtml)) This is geared for the security conscious user.
- Viber (Android, iOS, WP8) send text, stickers, emoticons, photos, voice and video messages for free to other Viber users. Non-Viber numbers and landline for a fee.
- WeChat (Android, iOS, Apple watch)
- Whatsapp (Facebook app for web/cell; [http://www.messengerforweb.com/search/label/About%20us](http://www.messengerforweb.com/search/label/About%20us))
- Yahoo Messenger…you know how to find this…

**A few GREAT Twitters to follow:**

- @CYBERSAFETY808
- @ETHANWALL
- @FUTURECRIMES
- @HETHERINGTONGRP
**USING THE INTERNET AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL**

- @KIRBSTR
- @MSJAGINV’S
- @THEACFE
- @TODDINGTONINT

**NOTES**

**Great Books to Check Out:**
- **ACFE**—[www.acfe.com](http://www.acfe.com) great organization, check them out along with the training and books available
- **Michael Bazzell:**
  - Open Source Intelligence Techniques
  - The complete Privacy & Security Desk Reference
  - OutSmarting Your Kids Online
- **Online Competitive Intelligence** by Helen P. Burwell
- **The Guide to Online Due Diligence Investigations** by Cynthia Hetherington
- **The Manual to Online Public Records** by Sankey & Hetherington
- [www.PIstore.com](http://www.PIstore.com) check out by category for your interest

**US Online Slang Dictionaries**
- Urbandictionary.com (can’t live without this one!)