

## 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.

**September 24-25, 2025**

**Community Resource Center**

**825 Midway Drive**

**Willowbrook, Illinois 60527**

**\$450.00**

**[www.hi-techinvestigations.com](http://www.hi-techinvestigations.com)**





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## **Social Media & Online Investigations (2 days)**

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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 and the Dark Web. Advanced Google Search Techniques will 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.

**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.**

### **Day 1**

8:00 - 9:00	Local Law Enforcement Assistance Centers & Intelligence Companies
9:00 - 10:00	Browser Add-Ons & social media
10:00 - 11:00	Snapchat
11:00 - 12:00	Facebook & Instagram & TikTok
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (On your own)
1:00 - 2:00	Twitter & Redditt
2:00 - 3:00	Undercover social media accounts & Advanced Google Searching
3:00 - 4:00	The Dark Web

### **Day 2**

8:00 - 9:00	Overview of Forensic Mapping Tools & Google Earth Pro
9:00 - 12:00	Snapchat Geolocation practical
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (On your own)
1:00 - 1:45	Ride Share Companies & Smart Speakers
1:45 - 2:30	Microsoft, Yahoo, Amazon, etc
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 know about techniques on how to create anonymous online profiles that can be used to investigate subjects. Participants will know more about Internet Protocol and how perpetrations can be identified by IP addresses. 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:**

Detective Commander Mark Astrella has served with the Elmwood Park Police Department for 22 years, bringing extensive experience and leadership to his role. He is a member of the WESTAF Major Crimes Unit and the Cook County State's Attorney's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. As a certified Cellebrite analyst, Detective Commander Astrella has assisted numerous outside agencies in hundreds of investigations involving internet-based crimes, including violent offenses, peer-to-peer networks, dark web activity, and the exploitation of children. He is proficient in a range of forensic tools, including OS Triage, Autopsy, BlackBag Technologies' BlackLight, and Magnet Forensics' Axiom. Detective Commander Astrella is also a 3CE Certified Cyber Crime Investigator through the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) and a ChildFirst certified forensic interviewer, applying a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to child interviews.