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Thread: [Searching public records for private info](#)

whiterabbit7500 - April 16, 2009, 7:50 pm

If you've read my previous tuts, you know that I see information gathering as a big part of what we do. I recently found some very good sites and resources, and decided to share them with you, along with info on how to use them properly.

note: many places promise you "private" info such as address, relatives, etc. Just a word of caution, there is no free way to gather information like this from phone/email lookups. Unless the person has their information tied to a public source, be prepared to pay for it.

Pipl

<http://www.pipl.com/>

This site should be your one-stop for any sort of public records search. It helps to have an idea who your searching for, and some sort of history about them. What it does is search what's called the "deep web", which means it not only searches google and search engines, but also enters the info you give it into public databases, which could mean it pulls up criminal records, myspace accounts, property records, etc. the site offers 4 modes of search:

1) Name:

obviously, your searching by first/last name, city, and state. Enter as much info as you know, and press search. it first searches for exact matches in the city and state you gave it, then without the city, then without the state. by doing this, it broadens the search, and is helpful in pulling info on someone who may have moved around.

2) email

this could easily be one of the most powerful tools on the site. it enters the given email address into databases and can find myspace, facebook, and other accounts you didn't know the person had.

3) username

helpful in finding stuff like blogs, forum memberships, etc. Just remember you can't find what is meant to be hidden. This only searches PUBLIC databases, so seeing if your neighbor has a brazzers subscription is not an option, although you can check his criminal history, lol.

4) phone

i have yet to use it alot, but it searches the same way as the others, but by phone number. I personally feel that using other tools in this tut will produce more results.

WhitePages

<http://www.whitepages.com/>

As stupid as it sounds, sometimes the easiest way to find out something about a person is to look it up in the phonebook, which is exactly what this site is for. It is a very powerful search tool, and can come in handy in alot of ways:

1) People search

The most basic function there is. enter a first/last name, city/state, or zip, and it gives you listed

matches. Can suck when your target is called "john smith" but is helpful either way. this can produce an address, even sometimes a business name to go along with the person. Some have the phone number unlisted, but some have it attached. (all are landlines, so be aware of that!)

2) Reverse Phone search

For most people, this will be their primary tool. Keep in mind, landlines will always produce better results than cell phones. Why? If your trying to trace a landline, it's either listed/unlisted, so 50/50 chance of finding info on it. If it's a cell, the cell phone company controls that information, so really no chance of getting anything more than the general area, and the carrier. but don't expect an address or name.

3) Reverse Address search

Useful in finding a person attributed to a certain address. Not really useful for us, but it's there for the stalkers among us.

4) Area/ZIP code search

So you have a zipcode, but don't know what area it's in? punch it here and find out.

Another good benefit of this site is fact that it offers iPhone apps of it's site, so you don't have to be tied to your computer to look up info. That, paired with the google earth app works amazing.

Virtual Gumshoe

<http://www.virtualgumshoe.com/resources/>

this site seems like a big ad site, but it's very useful. The page I linked gives public resources for all the listed categories. You can search for your states criminal records, public records, etc. Almost everything you can think of. I won't go into a deep discussion of all the tools because it's just ridiculous the amount. Just click around and enjoy.

Hope you found this useful, +rep if you did ?

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Jettboi93 - April 16, 2009, 9:04 pm

Woah... Thanks for the share... It works lol...!