

## Module 2.2

### The challenge of dealing with scrapes

There are two issues to think about when you find a piece of content.

1. Did this image or video originate on this platform?

During the Brussels airport attack, this video was widely tweeted and used by many news organizations.

Later it became clear that the video had been captured by someone else.

They had shared it in a WhatsApp group Anna Ahronheim was part of.

She downloaded the video and then re-uploaded it to Twitter, so many assumed she had captured the footage herself.

In places like Yemen, content might first be shared on WhatsApp; in Iran, Telegram, another messaging app, is very popular.

Content is captured and first shared on these apps, then often takes a few days to emerge on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube or Instagram.

The problem is that you don't have the name of the person who originally captured the content; you often also don't have the right date.

Increasingly people are capturing photos and videos during news events and sharing them with friends on Snapchat.

Journalists can't access these streams but sometimes they 'jump' from Snapchat onto other channels.

During the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Amanda Alvear was on Snapchat with her brother when the gunman opened fire.

Her brother then uploaded the content to Facebook.

From there, her images appeared widely on news outlets.

2. Are you looking at the original version of the content on this platform?

On Youtube, people will download the original video and quickly re-upload it, hoping to make money.

You can sometimes see hundreds of scrapes of the same video in the hours after an event.

This was a widely shared 2013 video of a car emerging from the foam created by a big storm in Australia.

There are still many scraped versions of the same video on Youtube.

There were many scrapes of videos of this August 2015 explosion in Tianjin, China. This was one of the original videos that was licensed by Storyful.

At least this man is honest about his scraping.

Always be aware that when you find a piece of content, it might not be the original, even if the title says so.

It might have originated on another platform, or it might be a copy of the original on the same platform. Be skeptical.

And remember, if you're not looking at the original, all the metadata about the source and date will be wrong.