

Module 2.3

The most widely used verification tool is the reverse image search engine. It really should be your first port of call when you're doing any kind of visual verification work because if you can find examples of the image or video you're looking at online previously it means you're looking at an old piece of content and you don't have to go any further. Here is the example of the image from Charlottesville that went viral in early August 2017.

When you find images on social media the search engine struggled to recognize the url so you need to do a screenshot and then upload that image. When the results come back I want to see if that image was published before the Charlottesville rallies held on August 11th and 12th of 2017. So I do a custom date range search of January 1st to August 10th. The first result takes me to this Facebook page which first shed the image on July 13th. Without having to go any further I know immediately that this image wasn't from Charlottesville on August 12th.

And while crucially reverse image searches only work on still images. As a side note the person who invents the reverse video search engine will be immediate billionaire.

You can effectively check whether a video is old by taking a prominent screen grab from a video and running that screen grab through reverse image search. So let's use this example which is an eyewitness video capturing the aftermath of the police shooting of suspects in Cambrils in Spain again in August 2017.

We can run through the exact same process. I took the screenshot from the video and then uploaded it to Google reverse image search. None of the images that comeback match exactly, but I also do a custom time search looking for images from before August 17th 2017 which is when the attack took place. There are a number of different reverse image search engines and we recommend you use as many as possible as they often give you different results.

You can now watch two short videos. The first shows you how quick it is to use a Google reverse image search by just using the right click of the mouse. The second one shows you TinEye that has slightly different possibilities in terms of how you filter your results.

For those of you who do lots of verification, we recommend you download the RevEye Chrome extension that allows you to right click on an image and to run a number of different searches at one time.