

Transcripts - Understanding geo-location

Which we've called examining the where - understanding geo-location. In this lesson you'll learn why it's so important to independently geo-locate imagery that you find on social media. A very small percentage of social media posts are actually geo tagged by users themselves. Only about 1 to 2 percent. And as you learn in this unit no geo tagged metadata is foolproof on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. While they all suggest where you are based on your G.P.S. reading you can always override that suggestion. That means that you need to find other evidence to support the fact that the image or video was captured from a particular location. Fortunately in many parts of the world we can access high quality satellite and street view imagery, which allows you to pace yourself actually on the map and stand in the place the person was standing when they captured the footage.

I hope you enjoy this unit. Geo-location is my favorite part of the verification. And as always take a look at the reading list. The work done by Bell¿ng cat using geo-location techniques is really impressive.

Read how they geo-located the roots of the book Missile Launcher, which brought out MH 17. Using little more than images and videos uploaded to social media, they were able to identify the vehicles journey through the countryside. We also included a number of interactives, so you can practice these skills yourself. And at the end we give you the opportunity to bring all of your new skills together. By now you should be able to find a video or image related to a news event and run all of the verification checks: provenance, source, date, location and motivation.

The question is after you've done these checks, put yourself in the shoes of a news editor. Would you run the footage in a news bulletin. Do you trust it enough.