

Module 3 Introduction: Overview

[00:00:00] Hi, welcome to week 3. I'm your instructor, Craig Silverman, the media editor of BuzzFeed News. When I'm doing a digital investigation or any kind of investigation, I love it when I come across Web sites that are involved because there is so much information that you can extract from Web sites and learn from Web sites if you know how to do it. So that's what we're going to focus on this week.

[00:00:20] Let me walk you through the three instructional videos and they're topics that we're going to be covering. So the first thing is going to be about content analysis. This is kind of a fancy way of saying I'm going to teach you how to read Web sites with an investigative mindset. There is a lot that you can find.

[00:00:36] In the second video, we're going to cover Whois searches, which are a way of potentially determining the owner of a domain name, as well as some other useful information. And we're also going to look at Web site archives and how you can use those in investigations.

[00:00:50] In the third instructional video, I'm going to teach you a really cool technique for how you take one Web site that seemingly might just be, you know, individual solo unconnected to others and actually find out that it is connected to other Web sites, although you wouldn't know it first visited. So it's a cool technique. It's not technical. You're going to find it really useful.

[00:01:11] Let's take a quick look at the tools that we're going to cover here in week three. So in terms of the first one, the most important one, our brains, the mindset is the most important thing for digital investigations. Remember that from the intro materials that you read.

[00:01:25] Then when it comes to the tools that don't relate to our body? Well, one is called BuzzSumo. This is a Web site with a free version that you can use to look at the social content and the social, you know, most popular content of a particular Web site. Then we're going to use the CrowdTangle browser extension, which is for Chrome. That is really great when you're on a specific url, a specific article, and you want to know where it's been shared across a bunch of different platforms. From there for Whois searching. We're gonna use whoisology and domainbigdata, two tools with some good free access that give you decent information. And then, of course, for archives, we're going to use the Wayback Machine chrome plug in. If you don't have that or you can't use chrome, you can go to archive.org/web archive.org/web. OK, so I'm excited for the material. Let's dive in.