

Module 4 - Reverse image search – some tools

[00:00:02] Hello! Today we will look at tools that can help us check images; remember that videos are images in motion. I mean, we can use tools we're going to use right now for pictures and frames, that is, chunks of a video that we can freeze and use as pictures.

[00:00:25] I will share my screen again to look at Google Image Reverse together, so we are doing a reverse search on Google, Bing, and TinEye. I selected three pictures to do this, and let me begin by saying that most people have never used Google Images. We have the camera icon right here, and it is pretty helpful. It is also available on mobiles. So everything we see here works both on desktops and mobile phones. If I click here, I see a new window requesting the URL, the link of the image I want to check, or the file if I have the photo saved. I have a picture here on my desktop of President Obama and the President of Iran, Rouhani. So let me upload the image; I'm uploading it, and let me zoom in so you can see my screen better. This is the picture I am working with. If we scroll down, we can see that some fact-checks have already been posted, but we're not looking at the texts. This picture is fake, and we'll study this section on Google. The visually similar images. This one is very similar to the one we have, and there's another one, and the third one is very similar. It is identical/ And here there's another one, the fifth. So there are two similar pictures. We would then continue checking, but as you can see, in less than 1.21 seconds, we learned that it's quite possible this picture is not real.

[00:02:17] Okay, now let's look at Bing. There is also a camera icon; I chose a picture of a very popular figure in Brazil, a minister in the Federal Supreme Court, who is wearing different clothes. We'll see in a minute; he's wearing an astrologer's clothes. I chose this picture because Bing does something very interesting; it tells us the person's name, it tries to identify the person in the image and their title. It is great, isn't it? It also shows us where the picture is featured, some sites, so this one, humorpolitico.com.br, is a political humor site in Brazil. So we can already tell that this is a joke, as we didn't already know, but oh well. What else can we do on Bing? It also has a similar image section. It's interesting because the similar images shown on Bing are not necessarily the same images displayed on Google. So it's always worth it to check here and there as they complement one another. And of course, we can see this man usually wears suits and ties. He's not usually seen in pictures wearing astrologers' clothes. So, of course, this leads me to think this picture is most likely not real. And finally, I wanted to show you this on Bing, the Visual Search. If you click here, you can choose a section of the picture to find out more. I will select this bit right here, and let's see...it shows that this is probably Twitter's bird. The similar images section shows me Twitter's bird. This is really helpful when, for example, we have a picture, and we don't know who the people in it are; if I select this part here, this feature helps us find similar images. And it shows the face of Minister Gilmar Mendes.

[00:04:16] Okay, this is Bing, and it is extremely helpful. But I like TinEye.

This is the last tool I want to show you today. It works the same way; we can either paste a URL or upload a picture. I chose an image that went around the globe of two children who were allegedly the last survivors of an earthquake in Nepal. And why TinEye? Because TinEye has an additional feature, a very useful filter. If we choose this dropdown and select "sort by oldest," it doesn't matter what picture we are using; we can see that this picture has been circulating online since, at least, May 30th, 2012. So it is not a 2021 picture, right? It's not recent; it is almost ten years old. It is interesting and important to remember that this does not mean that the picture was taken that day. This means the image has been online since at least that date. So when writing our copy and always keeping the transparency of our sources in mind, this is how we need to go about the information.

[00:05:28] Of course, there are many other tools. For those of you who want to find out more, I encourage you to google OSINT content, that is, O-S-I-N-T, and you will see the wide variety of tools, just like these, that are available for fact-checkers to do their work. Goodbye everyone and I'll see you soon. See you.