



SEARCH HIGH-TECH CRIME TRAINING SERVICES

ONLINE TRAINING COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Social Networking Sites: Investigative Tools and Techniques

The ever-growing popularity of social networking websites has created a vast network of investigative resources. Not only can information about suspects, victims, witnesses and possible co-conspirators be obtained, but a virtual goldmine of evidence of various criminal activities can be unearthed. MySpace.com alone has more than 200 million user profiles that can be tapped for critical information, evidence and leads.

Dealing with the content and construct of social networking sites are some of the most significant challenges investigators face today. Sites such as MySpace and Facebook present major challenges for investigators who need to locate information, find linkages between people and use the sites for law enforcement purposes. Many crimes are committed and/or evidence of criminal activity is stored on these sites—the list ranges from stalking to identity theft to vandalism and child pornography. Predators gain access to children via these sites; gangs and terrorists are conducting criminal planning via these networks; and

a variety of evidence is posted on these sites, such as data, photos and video. To make these investigations even more challenging, social networking sites are not constructed similar to, nor navigated like, traditional websites. SEARCH has become a knowledge leader in this specific area, having provided dozens of agencies nationwide with technical assistance, made presentations at many national events, and prepared nationally disseminated investigative guides on social networking sites.

Who should attend

Information available on social networking sites has the potential to impact every area of an investigation. **All investigators**, whether high-tech crime, gangs, homicide, vice, property crimes, narcotics or other details, need to learn how to find and gather information from social networking sites to aid in their investigations. Although this course addresses using Internet technology, this course is non-technical in nature, so all investigators—regardless of their technical background—are encouraged to attend.

What you will learn

This course will help investigators:

- Understand the variations and history of social networking
- Understand how profiles are created
- Understand the need to have multiple profiles
- Understand how to utilize various search tools
- Understand the nuances of MySpace pages
- Understand the various tools and resources required for MySpace investigations
- Understand the process required to conduct successful investigations
- Successfully search, locate and replicate information

Investigators must request this online training at <http://www.search.org/programs/hightech/>. Proof of a law enforcement affiliation is required for enrollment.

**Enrollment in this online course is limited to law enforcement personnel.
Submit your training request today at www.search.org/programs/hightech/**

SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics
7311 Greenhaven Drive, Suite 145 • Sacramento, CA 95831 • 916/392-2550 • www.search.org