

What is a Digital Investigation Tool?

Bellingcat Hackathon

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For the purposes of this hackathon, a tool is any piece of software that can aid a digital investigation. These can include:

- Social media scrapers (e.g. [Snsrape](#), [Pushshift](#), [YouTube-DL](#))
- Image analysis and verification software (e.g. [InVID-WeVerify](#), [TinEye Reverse Image Search](#), [PimEyes Facial Recognition](#))
- Geolocation aids (e.g. [SunCalc](#), [PeakVisor](#), [Google Earth](#))
- Investigation platforms (e.g. [spiderfoot](#), [Maltego](#))

For more examples, see Bellingcat's curated list of tools at bit.ly/bcatttools and this [article](#) that lists a number of Bellingcat's own tools and suggested areas of further development.

As you can see from the list above, “digital investigation tools” is a very broad category, running the gamut of applications, levels of complexity (one-off script vs. software suite), and software types (open source vs. proprietary).

If you don't have a specific idea for a tool to develop during the hackathon, here are a few pointers to get you started:

- An easy-to-use web interface or graphical user interface for an existing tool that is useful but difficult for non-technical researchers to use. A good example of this is [EPIEOS](#), which is a web interface for [holehe](#)
- An easy-to-user web interface for browsing a dataset/data leak that is useful but difficult for non-technical researchers to use, for example
- A tool that reads a Gephi-exported GEXF file and generates an interactive network visualization using a library such as [d3](#), [Sigma.js](#) or [HoloViews](#). See the [following list](#) of GEXF example files to use as inputs for this tool idea. See the [What is a Social Network Analysis Tool](#) document for more information.

These are just a few examples and should by no means constrain other suggestions – in fact, we welcome broader, imaginative proposals.