

Web Archive OSINT:

The web archive is a priceless online resource for investigators. It allows for users to archive a web page anonymously as well as other forms of online media such as books, paywalled news articles, etc. I have used this tool to view profiles that were made private, view content from deleted profiles, view deleted/disabled websites, track website changes over time, etc. Other web archive tools will be listed below; however, due to the Web Archives status as the OG of all things web archiving the focus will be where its due. I'll be going step by step.

Usage: 1

1. Navigate to website <https://web.archive.org/>
2. Enter URL or keyword to search
3. View resulting URLS if any captures exist

Homepage:

INTERNET ARCHIVE
WayBackMachine

Explore more than 916 billion web pages saved over time

Enter a URL or words related to a site's home page

Subscription Service

-It enables you to capture, manage and search collections of content without any technical expertise or hosting facilities. Visit
-It to build and browse the collections.

Collection Search

Enter any keyword .gov PDFs

SEARCH

This service is based on indexes of specific data from selected Collections.

- Two search options

INTERNET ARCHIVE
WayBackMachine

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vrcinvestigations.com

[Calendar](#) · [Collections](#) · [Changes](#) · [Summary](#) · [Site Map](#) · [URLs](#)

1,478 URLs have been captured for this URL prefix.

URL ↑	MIME Type	From	To	Captures	Duplicates	Uniques
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1083	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	Apr 13, 2017	3	0	3
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1113	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1203	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1213	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1233	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1243	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1313	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1393	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1443	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	May 6, 2016	2	0	2
http://vrcinvestigations.com/application2.php?jobid=1543	text/html	Apr 20, 2016	Apr 13, 2017	3	0	3

- Select URLS for easiest view

Usage: 2

1. Take any URL and add the following before it – https://web.archive.org/*/
2. Example: https://web.archive.org/web/20240000000000*/vrcinvestigations.com

Usage: 3

1. Download the following Chrome Extension
2. <https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/wayback-machine/fpnmgdkabkmnadcjpehmlllkndpkmiak>
3. On any webpage select the tool
4. Select Search option (URLS being a standard search)
5. View Results

COMMON FINDS AND TRICKS:

- The archive is often used to bypass paywalls for news articles. Check for captures when encountering paywalled articles
- All private profiles should be checked with the archive
- If a username doesn't appear during a search try manually manipulating the URL. With Twitter, I often find that banned/deleted accounts will only show this way. If the page says "account deleted" or "account suspended" this is a tell to check the archive. Inflammatory behavior often leads to people archiving said behavior.
- Old scanned paper news articles can be found for older cases/subjects or events.

OTHER ARCHIVE SERVICES:

- <https://oldweb.today/#19960101/http://geocities.com/>
- <https://webcitation.org/query>
- <https://swap.stanford.edu/was/>
- <https://www.loc.gov/web-archives/>
- <https://archive.is/>
- <https://megalodon.jp/>

OTHER CHROME EXTENSIONS:

- <https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/web-archive-viewer/cbqncbhpfjkcpihgcpiekmfafpokabb>

- <https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/web-archive/obffcbmimfeagglkonmdmnhcolhjcobf>
- <https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/web-archives/hkligngkgcpcolhcnkgccglchdafcnao>

OSINT:

- I can scrape the archive for usernames and queries
- I can enumerate subdomains and then scrape them all in the archive
- Source code can be scraped for historic profiles found via the archived pages