AI agents OSINT analysis: how intelligence is changing

Maria Cattini | 31/03/2026 | AI

How AI Agents Could Help OSINT Analysts Monitor a Terrorist Attack on European Energy Infrastructure

At 03:12 CET, thousands of posts mention an explosion near an energy plant. Five minutes later, videos appear. Ten minutes later, a claim of responsibility circulates.

Now the real question:
Can a human analyst keep up with that pace?

This is exactly the scenario explored in a recent analysis by Ismael Alvarez — a simulated terrorist attack on European energy infrastructure.

The takeaway is blunt:
the problem is no longer finding data.
It's surviving the volume.

And this is where **AI agents** step in—not as replacements, but as operational partners.

How AI agents transform OSINT in real time

The article outlines a structured workflow that feels closer to a military intelligence pipeline than a traditional OSINT investigation.

Let's break it down.

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Event detection: spotting the signal before it explodes

When noise becomes a pattern

AI monitoring agents scan:

- social media spikes
- encrypted messaging channels
- local news reports
- satellite feeds
- infrastructure monitoring systems

Instead of reading everything, they look for anomalies.

A sudden spike of keywords like *“explosion”, “blackout”, “power plant”* triggers alerts.
In the scenario, over **1,200 posts appear in just 5 minutes**.

A human would scroll.
An AI agent flags.

That difference is everything.

Automated OSINT collection: from chaos to dataset

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The moment speed beats manual work

Once the event is confirmed, a second agent starts harvesting data.

Sources include:

- news outlets
- TikTok videos
- Telegram channels
- satellite imagery
- aviation and maritime tracking

The output is immediate:

- 27 news articles
- 2,843 social posts
- 63 videos
- 118 images

No tabs. No copy-paste. No delays.

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This is where **OSINT shifts from research to ingestion**.

Data structuring: turning fragments into intelligence

Raw data is messy. Different languages, formats, naming conventions.

AI agents reorganize everything through:

- entity recognition
- geolocation tagging
- timeline extraction
- duplicate filtering

The result looks like an intelligence table, not a social feed.

For example:

- *NorthSea Energy Plant* → target
- *Gaia Liberation Front* → actor
- *Rotterdam region* → location
- *Ministry of Energy* → response authority

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This is where OSINT stops being descriptive and becomes analytical.

Narrative analysis: understanding influence, not just facts

Who is shaping the story?

One of the most underestimated layers in OSINT is narrative tracking.

AI agents trained on extremist communication patterns can detect:

- propaganda framing
- coordinated amplification
- bot-driven messaging

In the simulated case, the primary narrative emerges fast:

> “Energy infrastructure is destroying the planet”

Secondary narratives follow:

- Europe cannot protect infrastructure

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- the attack will inspire others

This isn’t just monitoring.
It’s mapping influence in real time.

Geospatial verification: proving what is real

Images lie. Coordinates don’t.

Another agent focuses on visual intelligence:

- matching videos to real locations
- assessing damage
- mapping emergency response

In the example:

- a video is matched to a cooling tower
- confidence score: **87%**

This step separates:

- viral content
  from

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- verified evidence

And in crisis scenarios, that line matters.

Insight generation: from data to decisions

The final output isn’t data. It’s clarity.

Instead of raw feeds, AI agents produce:

- real-time timelines
- actor networks
- narrative maps
- key sources

Example timeline:

- 03:12 explosion reported
- 03:18 first video uploaded
- 03:31 claim appears

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- 03:42 authorities confirm

This is intelligence ready for action.

Not a spreadsheet.
A situation report.

Why AI agents matter in OSINT today

Large-scale events generate **information overload**.

Thousands of signals appear at once. Most are irrelevant. Some are dangerous. A few are critical.

AI agents help by:

- monitoring hundreds of sources simultaneously
- filtering noise
- detecting patterns early
- accelerating situational awareness

But here’s the uncomfortable truth.

They don’t understand context.

The human role: still the weakest link—or the strongest?

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The original analysis makes one point clear:

> Human analysts remain essential.

They:

- validate sources
- detect deception
- interpret context

AI can flag anomalies.
It can’t judge intent.

And in OSINT, intent is everything.

Pros and limits of AI in OSINT investigations

What works

AI agents excel at:

- speed

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- scale
- pattern recognition

They reduce hours of work to minutes.

What breaks

They struggle with:

- ambiguity
- deception tactics
- cultural nuance

And there’s a risk nobody likes to admit:

More data doesn’t always mean better intelligence.

Sometimes it just means louder noise.

The real question: faster intelligence or smarter confusion?

The article closes with a sharp dilemma:

If AI agents monitor thousands of sources in real time…
does OSINT become faster?

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Or just more chaotic?

There’s no clean answer.

Because speed without interpretation is just acceleration toward error.

Want to go deeper into OSINT and AI?
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- Newsletter: https://coondivido.substack.com/
- Telegram: https://t.me/osintaipertutti
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Because in OSINT, the difference isn’t access to data.
It’s knowing what actually matters.

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