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.

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

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.

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

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
• 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 contentfrom
• 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
• 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?

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
• 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?

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?
Explore real tools, case studies and breakdowns:

• 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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