

Using Babel Street to Track Wanted Persons and Fugitives

After rioters stormed the United States Capitol in early 2021 — committing crimes ranging from unlawful entry to seditious conspiracy¹ — law enforcement was left with an overriding challenge: identifying the perpetrators. Of the hundreds eventually convicted, very few were immediately known to the police. To identify and track these criminals, law enforcement turned to social media. They found and identified perpetrators by their text-based posts, photos, videos, and hashtags.

This is just one example of how open-source intelligence (OSINT) — or intelligence gleaned from the processing and analysis of publicly and commercially available information (PAI/CAI) — can help law enforcement find wanted persons and fugitives.

How Babel Street can help

Babel Street offers the technology needed for this type of intelligence. Babel Street Insights is an AI-powered data analytics platform providing multilingual, persistent search of thousands of sources of PAI and CAI worldwide. These sources include hard-to-reach sites on the deep and dark web. Insights understands information published in more than 200 languages, then translates it into the user's language of choice.

Its social media-monitoring capabilities help law enforcement search a broad array of platforms — including text- and video-based — in near real time. The system alerts law enforcement when criminals inadvertently reveal their location through posts, photos, videos, or check-ins. The system can also alert when friends and family tag the criminal in their posts. Insights further searches dark web forums where crimes are planned and discussed.

In addition, Insights provides the type of public records searches that can help pinpoint a criminal's likely whereabouts. For example, a permanent address and other properties

associated with a wanted person — such as a vacation property — are good places to start an investigation. Court records searches may reveal aliases.

Babel Street Insights Synthesis offers enhanced social network and relationship mapping capabilities. Synthesis can rapidly chart key relationships within social networks. This capability can deepen investigative insight by helping law enforcement find associates of the criminal: these associates may be sheltering or otherwise aiding the wanted person or fugitive.

Similar capabilities help law enforcement find missing persons, including missing children. Current social media posts can provide proof of life. Information on where a person last posted can give law enforcement a starting point in their investigations and provide insight into the missing person's mental state. In the case of parental kidnapping, law enforcement may find information posted by the non-custodial parent about day-to-day family life, enabling police to track down the children.

Using Babel Street to find wanted persons

Here’s a step-by-step example of how Babel Street can help identify and find wanted persons, criminals, and fugitives.

Conduct a People Search on the person of interest

A People Search in Babel Street Insights initiates a comprehensive search against data sources connected to public profiles, including credit history, criminal history, and watchlist data. A People Search can yield key identifiers to further an investigation on a fugitive or wanted person by illuminating current and previous addresses, phone numbers, associates, and family members.

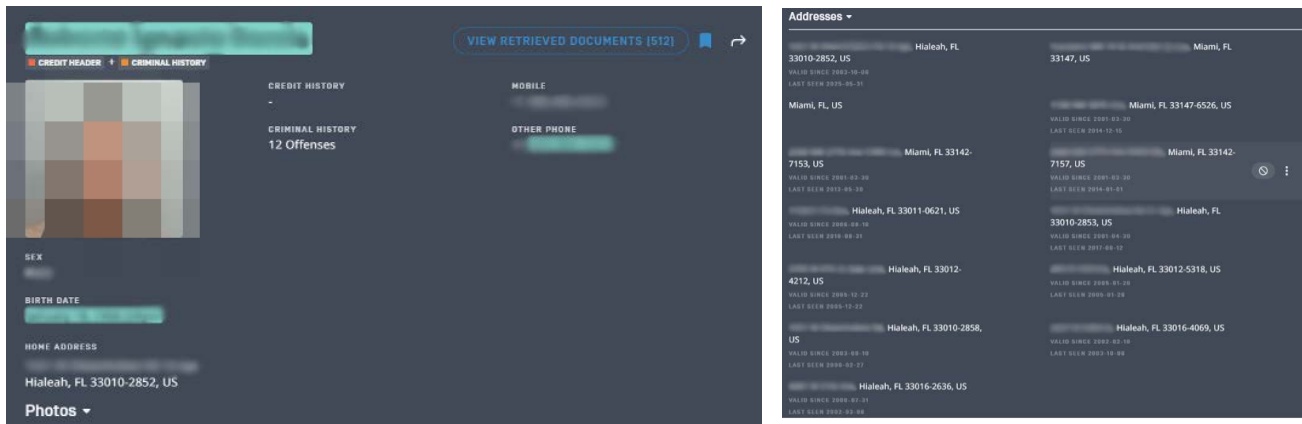


Figure 1: A detailed address history returned by People Search

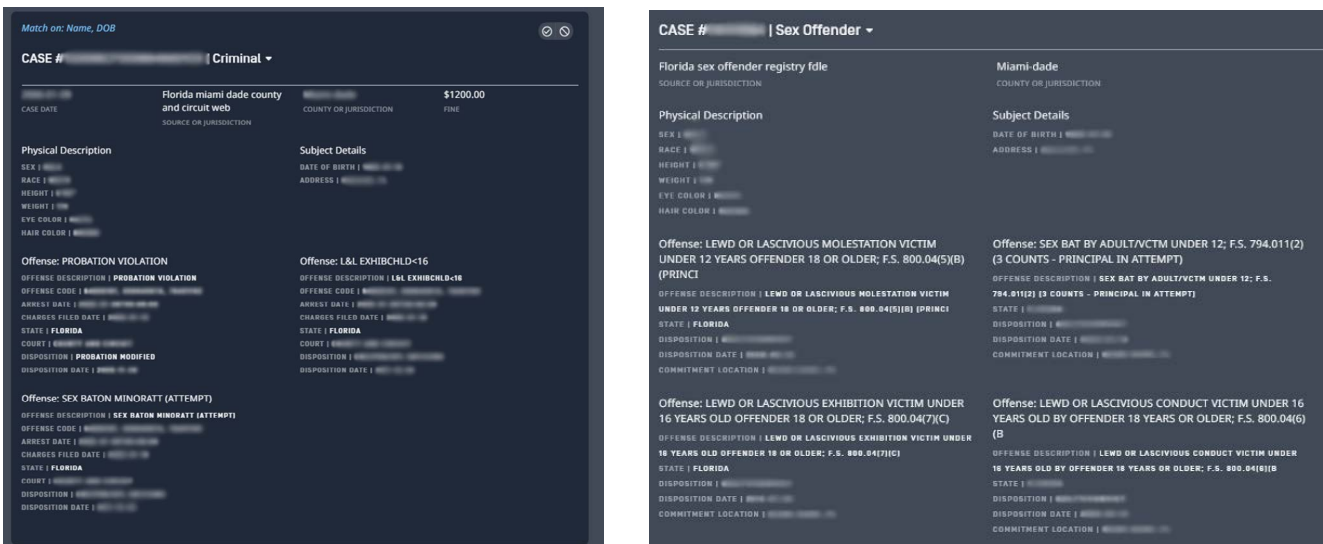


Figure 2: Criminal record and sex offender registry entry for the subject

Explore address information

After identifying addresses using People Search, investigators can use Babel Street Insights Document Search to further explore addresses of interest. Information may include property records, images, and other amplifying details. Using deep and dark web sources, investigators can query if addresses have been published in leaked and breached data. This can help corroborate if an address has been associated with a specific individual, the types of accounts connected, dates, and other potential identifiers.

Map social networks

Lastly, users can enter social media handles or key words into Babel Street Synthesis to map social networks that can illuminate previously unknown relationships or corroborate known relationships. Synthesis can provide the nature of relationships by showing if two accounts follow each other, repost content, like posts, or mention one another in a post. This capability complements other functions of the platform, from identifying new leads and increasing understanding of where a fugitive or wanted individual is located.

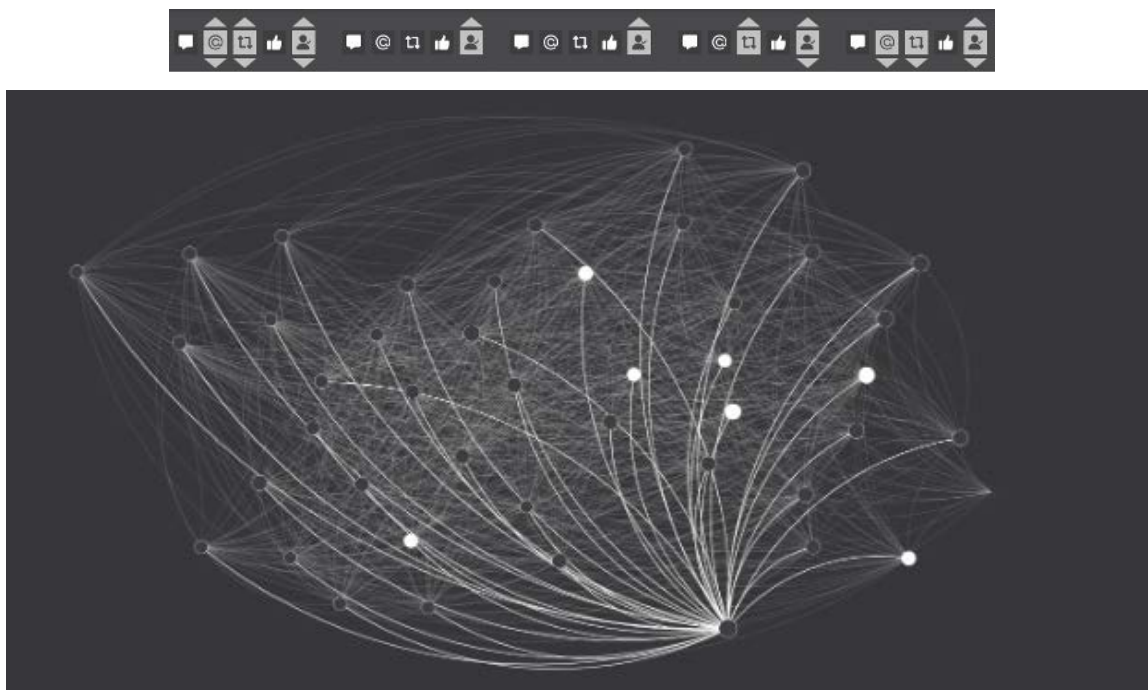


Figure 3: An anonymized network map in Babel Street Synthesis showing connections and relationships

Endnotes

1. Durkin Richer, Alanna and Kunzelman, Michael, "Here's where Jan. 6 trials stand on the fourth anniversary of the Capitol riot," January 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/heres-where-jan-6-trials-stand-on-the-fourth-anniversary-of-the-capitol-riot>

Babel Street is the trusted technology partner for the world's most advanced identity intelligence and risk operations. The Babel Street Insights platform delivers advanced AI and data analytics solutions to close the Risk-Confidence Gap.

Babel Street provides unmatched, analysis-ready data regardless of language, proactive risk identification, 360-degree insights, high-speed automation, and seamless integration into existing systems. We empower government and commercial organizations to transform high-stakes identity and risk operations into a strategic advantage.

Learn more at **babelstreet.com**.