

JOURNAL ENTRY 8

Media can significantly influence the perception and understanding of cybersecurity, especially movies that portray certain hacking concepts or computer security unrealistically. These deceptions often distort reality, creating misconceptions and misleading impressions, especially for those who aren't technologically inclined. Media is an easy means to convey information, whether good or bad. While some elements of realism are added to these contents, the depicted scenarios do not reflect how they occur in the real world. They sometimes instill fear or downplay actual cybersecurity vulnerability, threats, and incidents. For instance, in the hacking involving a stolen ATM card in Terminator 2: Judgement Day, the card was inserted into a device, and a brute force attack was conducted to determine the PIN and withdraw money. According to the professional, some aspects could be possible. In the real world, to extract the PIN code or data from a credit card using brute force requires plugging the card into a different system to attempt the attack than what was depicted in the movie. This glamorizes hacking and gives a perception that it isn't as complex as it seems. Additionally the scene which tries to depict a denial of service attack where manipulative duplication was used to create altercations, when in actual sense a DOS attack ultimately shuts down a system and disrupts services or operations.

There are a lot of misconceptions about hacking and cybersecurity, all of them stemming from depictions in media, particularly television and movies. The glamorous view of it entices a lot of people and some become drawn into it enough to want to try it and feel the rush as shown in these media. The view of cybersecurity has somewhat improved partly due to the interest sparked by the media, but also there is more information on programming, security tools and networking out on the internet and on media, which paints a clearer picture of the reality, at least in part. It is clear that hacking is very difficult and not glamorous work,

but this clarity is available only to people with a real and true passion for the art of cybersecurity. For those with a passing interest or just the media-enticed bunch, a quick peek into some of the readily available information of the facts is enough to show that cybersecurity and hacking is painstaking work. I believe the view of cybersecurity has improved and it will continue to improve as more people feel the need to satisfy their curiosity and technology advances.

As shown in some of the videos, older media has some basic terminology correct, as networking and security systems were not as advanced as it is now. The media lost their way again after the first advancements came to security systems. After these advancements, media producers just threw jargon around and hoped some would stick. That was when the introduction of graphically and visually pleasing scenes came in to better hold viewers' attention. In present media a better picture is painted using real world-terminologies, this gives an idea of what the reality is. Newer media's biggest flaw is that the visual depictions of hacking show graphics and 3D models, whereas in reality, it is just a bunch of hexadecimal code on a kernel backed up by a ton of code on a console.

The picture of cybersecurity as painted by the media is flawed, giving misconceptions about what it is and how it works. Thankfully, with the improvement of technology and accessibility of the Internet, this opinion has been slow and gradually improving. Media creators and producers get to learn the basics of cybersecurity to use the correct terminology, but the need to captivate the attention of their viewers causes them to use visually stunning and graphic images, which give a wrong misleading information on the reality.

References

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