

Week 8 Journal Entry

After watching the video, write a journal entry about how you think the media influences our understanding about cybersecurity.

When it comes to how media influences public understanding of cybersecurity, it is essential to understand this influence occurs over multiple media types. The video provided mostly looked at film. For the time frame of some of the earliest films shown, like *The Matrix Reloaded*, this would have been a primary way that such an idea would have been brought into the public eye, as many of the technologies we have today to communicate thoughts and ideas didn't exist then. Nowadays, the perception of cybersecurity is influenced by film and television, blogs, social media, podcasts, digital newspapers and magazines, and other formats and media types.

The media influences today leave individuals needing to be more literate when understanding cybersecurity. Tech magazines and magazines reporting on cyber incidents go into detail, and sometimes the news does. However, I can't tell you how many times someone has told me, either a friend or family member, that their social media account has been hacked. They say this because this is what everyone else says, and it has caught on. What happened is that someone created an account, grabbed some of their information and pictures off their profile, and pretended to be them. That isn't hacking; it is impersonation.

The media often sensationalizes cybersecurity incidents or technology-related incidents. For example, when someone's computer gets hacked and ransomware is present, the individual is sometimes depicted as able to get their files back or the malware removed without incident. The reality is that most individuals don't do data or entire system backups, and these shows and scenes don't do anything to raise cybersecurity awareness. They make for a good show. These media companies typically don't take cybersecurity seriously. Why would they? They are doing these scenes, articles, and books. It's designed as entertainment and not to educate people. It can be harmful as it doesn't encourage people to take a severe approach to cybersecurity. The fictional media influences, with their depictions of cybersecurity, do more harm than good.