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Journal Entry 8: Media Influence on Cybersecurity

Objective: Describe how the media influences our understanding about cybersecurity.

The media massively influences our understanding of cybersecurity. Since most people ingest media without researching if it is realistic/factual, they can be misinformed, which can then be spread even further. I've seen countless depictions of hackers in movies simply typing away on their keyboards and managing to break into systems to capture top-secret information. This type of situation is possible, but its short time frame is not. I've taken classes that go over networking and basic cybersecurity principles, and I can confirm that it takes more time and effort to hack than what is depicted in the media.

I don't believe that the media is fear-mongering. I think some depictions will be possible in the future (like in the video where it shows vehicles being hacked). The level of realism and accuracy of cybersecurity in the media usually depends on how much of a focus is placed on cybersecurity and also the level of realism the media is striving for. Science-fiction deep into the future would not put as much emphasis on accurate hacking; they may create a farcical way of hacking instead. Also, cybersecurity and hacking itself may not be the focus of the show or movie; it acts more as a tool to show what matters: the results (rewards). The focus is on the story, not the technicality unless it's crucial to understand, or realism is the goal.