

In this journal we will discuss how media influences understanding about cybersecurity, how that understanding has changed over time, and the difference in the older pieces of media related to cyber vs more current media. I think it's important to note that media, whether the movies discussed in the videos, websites or articles is the sole information source most Americans turn to for an understanding of cybersecurity. The subject matter encompassing everything from the social, privacy and surveillance issues created by our digital world, to the technology and ongoing "arms race"/cyberconflict involving law enforcement, cybercriminals and peer competitors is immense. That means, at least in my experience that people turn more easily digestible sources of information, msnbc, cnn, bbc etc. which can effectively shape their perception on complex subjects, sometimes without the deeper understanding required to avoid a skewed perception of reality. A five-hundred-word article for example detailing part of the cyberconflict between Iran and Israel (Middle East Monitor, 2021) only partially captures just how damaging un-restricted cyberwarfare between nation states can be nor does it adequately convey the critical need for an international law of cyberwarfare. Two important subjects that can't be adequately covered in a short article or five-minute-long video.

So how our understanding has changed over time? Well, the development of mature technologies combined with the ubiquitous nature of our shared digital space over the last twenty-five years have made an awareness of cybersecurity a more commonplace part of daily life. The threats we see today: ransomware, unregulated data collection, cyberwarfare. were virtually unheard of in 1999. But now some level of cyber awareness is necessary, to maintain privacy and security.

As for the differences in older media related to cyber vs new media, specifically the movies reviewed, Hollywood loves buzzwords, that's what they know, tidbits designed to make

things a little more exciting, but it seems neither the producers, actors nor directors a solid understanding the subject matter. That's true of the older movies like hacker or the net with Sandra Bullock. However, some of the newer media like Mr. Robot and Snowden at least try to be somewhat accurate. The bottom line is each one of those movies is some form of drama, not a documentary on the realities of cybersecurity.

References

Middle East Monitor. (2021, November 8). *The cyberwar between Israel and Iran is heating up*.
<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20211108-the-cyberwar-between-israel-and-iran-is-heating-up/>