

Dramatization of Cybersecurity

Abdias Noel

July 13, 2026

Movies and TV Shows play a major role in shaping the perception of the non-initiated about cybersecurity. For people whose careers are not adjacent to IT or cybersecurity, fictional media often become their primary source of exposure to concepts like hacking, malware, cybercrime, and digital surveillance. These portrayals however may have both positive and negative influences on regular folks, and junior IT professionals, and corporate leaders alike.

Positive influences

Popular films and television series introduce audiences of diverse backgrounds to cybersecurity threats that they might not otherwise consider such as identity theft, data breaches, government surveillance, social engineering, and Nation-state cyber warfare.

Examples such as *Minority Report*, *The Matrix*, and *Mr. Robot* have helped familiarize audiences with concepts like penetration testing, encryption, and operational security. Aside from increasing awareness, these media may sometimes inspire many to choose cybersecurity as a choice of career by sparking curiosity that later developed into self-taught skills or formal education.

Negative influences

The benefits of dramatization of Cybersecurity are, however, not without some negative influences as well. Some of the misconceptions about Cyber security and Hacking is that hacking is extremely fast, always involves colorful terminal or Graphical User Interface, is performed only by geniuses, and it is successful within seconds.

These depictions may lead to an oversimplification of the various skills which are part of cybersecurity in the general public and uninformed executives. As well as unrealistic expectations from entry level cybersecurity specialists because the many sides of cybersecurity jobs involving planning, analysis, communication, and documentation are not portrayed, that is with the Exception of *Mr. Robot* which depicts many technical details more accurately than typical films

Conclusion

Corporate media strongly influences the vernacular understanding of cybersecurity by making technical topics accessible and engaging. It has helped raise awareness, inspire careers, and normalize discussions about digital security. At the same time, dramatic storytelling often prioritizes entertainment over accuracy, leading to misconceptions about how cyberattacks occur, who conducts them, and what cybersecurity professionals actually do. So, while they may be a useful starting point for discussion, but they should be complemented with proper education to bridge the gap between popular perception and professional practice.

References

Insider. (2021, March 16). *Hacker rates 12 hacking scenes in movies and TV | How real is it?* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BqpU4V0Ypk>

Wired. (2021, April 29). *Hacker Breaks Down Hacking Scenes From Movies & TV* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BqpU4V0Ypk>

Wired. (2018, November 13). *Hacker Breaks Down 26 Hacking Scenes From Movies & TV* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZQz9tkEHlg>