

## 21st Century Hackers

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21st Century Hackers, a documentary about “white hat” the good guys of the world's hackers. I learned there are 3 types of hackers today, the white hats (good guys who help), black hats (those trying to steal or knife), and the grey hats (those who lie in the middle. The documentary's notion that white hats make the majority of the hacking community is a comforting one however it is unsatisfactory to think about how much damage these few can do.

Another thing I learned is the US Secret Services double mission, one being the absolute protection of the president, while also investigating financial crime. These financial crimes are very common in the hacking world because many of those black hats are there to steal information to sell or to blackmail. Modern thieves now know that robbery isn't done in the physical, it is done through hacking and vulnerabilities. One group in 2013 was able to steal 45 million dollars from a bank by stealing credit card numbers, printing them, and through a network of people withdrawing money from the cards simultaneously.

Another big scandal happened after the production of The Interview, a movie released by Sony as a comedy about the tyrant Kim Jung Un. North Koreans hated this movie because it belittled their culture and leader. Their response, to hack the Sony company and release Sony's upcoming projects on the internet for all to see.

Much of the world of hackers is about trust. Essentially anyone can see your information. The biggest intrusion of our personal information in the United States of America is by our own government. After 9/11 the government upgraded their ability to see what any United States citizen is doing. This is in part by how the internet was built with the ability to be monitored. It is also in part by how products are made by companies such as Google, Apple, and Samsung. These products both physically and through software allow personal information to be seen by the government.

This documentary has helped me understand just how little privacy that we have and just how vulnerable that we are, while still being safe because of the infrastructure

built around us. It is truly amazing how this market has exploded in the last decades. I am curious how it will continue to transform the world around us in the near future.