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TITLE: BLACKHAT
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DIRECTOR: MICHAEL MANN

INTRODUCTION

The movie "Blackhat" is more on about cybercrime and hacking, and identifying the potential threats of cyber-attacks to anyone. A convicted hacker named "Nicholas Hathaway was released from prison to help track down a cybercriminal network responsible for a series of attacks on financial markets and critical infrastructure. The movie shows relevance to the theme of information and assurance security by the portrayal of real-world danger impacts of cyber-attacks. It serves as a reminder of the ever-evolving nature of cyber threats and the ongoing efforts required to safeguard against them.

Blackhat also shows the importance of having a strong and secured protection of sensitive information and some critical infrastructure from cyber threats. The movie also portrays the improper use of browsing the internet in our lives that can also be a potential for cyber criminals to exploit our data and do some kind of cyber-attacks on our computers for their benefit. The movie shows the negative effects of cyberattacks on our sensitive information. Cyberattacks such as malware, spam, spyware, and other computer attacks can lead to information theft and unauthorized access to important data. It is important to have proper and secure protection for our data, especially in large organizations where many people could be affected.

PLOT SUMMARY

The story began with Nicholas Hathaway, a convicted hacker that was released from the prison by the help of his friend to track down cybercriminal networks responsible for series of attacks on financial markets. Alongside an American and Chinese task force, Hathaway sets out to find the hackers, leading to a global chase that takes them from Chicago to Los Angeles to Hong Kong. The main highlight of the story is when Nicholas delves deeper into the code that was sent to them, as he tracks down the suspect behind the cyberattack. This scene not only highlights Nicholas's skill and resolve but also emphasizes the complex nature of cybercrime and the difficulties in addressing it in our digital era.

Another highlight of the story is when a staff member of the organization demonstrates improper handling of the company's important data. This staff member was tasked with safeguarding and storing sensitive information on a flash drive that could only be accessed using their fingerprint. However, they trusted a friend and allowed them to use it. From that point on, the company encountered problems and experienced various cyberattacks. The film explores themes of cybercrime, hacking, and international espionage, highlighting the vulnerabilities of interconnected digital systems and the importance of cybersecurity measures. Hathaway's expertise in hacking proves invaluable as he and the task force race against time to stop the cybercriminals before they cause further damage.

THEMES

Blackhat portraying the potential consequences of cybercrime and the importance of strong cybersecurity measures. The movie explores several key concepts related to information security such as in terms of data privacy, cybersecurity, surveillance and ethical implications of technology.

In terms of data privacy, the film shows the vulnerability of personal and sensitive data in today's digital age. It portrays some consequences and effects of cyberattacks in an organization's data and information. One example is that cybercriminals can exploit weaknesses in cybersecurity to gain access to confidential information, emphasizing the need for stronger data protection measures. Data can also be prone to unauthorized access, which may lead them to do some unusual act on the computer such as information or financial theft.

Moreover, the film also explores concepts about cybersecurity. It shows the importance of it in terms safeguarding or protecting the data against cyberthreats. It demonstrates the complex impacts of cyberattacks and the challenges faced by security professionals in defending against them. The movie shows

the importance of having a strong and secured protection of data that will ensure the safety of it in all usage scenarios.

In addition to that, the movie also demonstrates the idea of surveillance and ethical implications of technology. It showcases how the technology can be used properly to avoid those any kind of cyberattacks. It raises questions about the ethical implications of widespread surveillance and the balance between security and privacy. It also shows how the technology was used for both good and malicious purposes, highlighting the importance of ethical considerations in technological development and use.

Overall, "Blackhat" serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of information and assurance security in an increasingly digital world. The film showcases various scenarios that illustrate both the positive and negative impacts of technology in our lives. It highlights the need for individuals and organizations to take proactive measures to prevent cyberattacks by safeguarding their sensitive information and implementing robust security practices. This message resonates strongly in today's interconnected world, where cyber threats are ever-present and the protection of digital assets is needed. It underscores the need for vigilance, preparedness, and ethical awareness in the face of evolving cyber threats in the world.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

In Blackhat, the characters interact with information security in various ways, highlighting both the risks and efforts to protect sensitive information.

- **Nicholas Hathaway (Protagonist):** As a convicted hacker with a deep understanding of cybersecurity. He is recruited by authorities to help track down the cybercriminals responsible for the attacks. Hathaway's expertise in hacking is crucial in understanding the methods used by the hackers and devising strategies to stop them.
- **Chen Dawai (Protagonist):** Chen Dawai, a Chinese military officer, works closely with Hathaway to track down the cybercriminals. He represents the collaborative efforts between nations to combat cyber threats and protect sensitive information.
- **Lien Chen (Protagonist):** Lien Chen, a Chinese cybersecurity expert and Dawai's sister, also plays a key role in the investigation. She provides technical expertise and aids in the efforts to identify and apprehend the cybercriminals.
- **Kassar (Antagonist):** Kassar is the main antagonist in the film, leading the cybercriminal network responsible for the attacks. He represents the malicious use of technology to breach data security and disrupt critical infrastructure for personal gain.
- **The Blackhat Hacker (Antagonist):** The unidentified Blackhat hacker is another antagonist who is initially responsible for the cyber-attacks. Their actions highlight the ease with which skilled hackers can breach information security and the challenges faced in identifying and apprehending them.

Overall, the characters in "Blackhat" interact with information security in a complex and dynamic manner, reflecting the ongoing battle between cybercriminals and those working to protect sensitive information. The film underscores the importance of vigilance, collaboration, and expertise in combating cyber threats.

PERFORMANCE

In Blackhat, the cast delivers strong performances, particularly in portraying characters dealing with information security challenges.

- **Chris Hemsworth as Nicholas Hathaway:** Hemsworth gives a compelling performance as Hathaway, effectively portraying the character's expertise in hacking and his determination to stop the cybercriminals. His portrayal adds depth to the character, highlighting Hathaway's moral complexities and personal stakes in the investigation.
- **Wei Tang as Lien Chen:** Tang delivers a standout performance as Lien Chen, bringing a sense of intelligence and resilience to the character. Her interactions with other characters, particularly her brother Dawai and Hathaway, add depth to the film's exploration of teamwork and collaboration in combating cyber threats.
- **Leehom Wang as Chen Dawai:** Wang gives a solid performance as Dawai, effectively conveying the character's sense of duty and commitment to protecting sensitive information. His dynamic with

his sister Lien Chen adds an emotional layer to the film, highlighting the personal sacrifices made in the pursuit of justice.

- **Viola Davis as FBI Agent Carol Barrett:** Davis brings her trademark intensity to the role of Agent Barrett, portraying a no-nonsense approach to combating cybercrime. Her interactions with Hathaway and other characters demonstrate the high stakes involved in the investigation.

Overall, the cast of "Blackhat" delivers strong performances that effectively convey the complexities of characters dealing with information security challenges. Their performances add depth to the film's exploration of cybercrime, highlighting the importance of teamwork, expertise, and determination in protecting sensitive information.

IMPACT AND RELEVANCE

Blackhat has a significant impact on the audience's understanding of information assurance and security by portraying the real-world threats and challenges faced in cybersecurity. The film reflects on current happenings and concerns about cyber-attacks and their prevention. In a nutshell, Blackhat shows the world how complex cyber-attacks are. Digital systems can be used by criminals for launching major attacks in critical infrastructures as well as financial markets. This is also reminiscent of real-life worries about growing numbers and intricacies of such cyber-attacks like ransomware or data leakage.

Moreover, Blackhat underscores the global collaboration that should be employed to address these online dangers committed across borders. Hence, this film demonstrates how American and Chinese authorities join hands in locating these hackers exemplifying how international this crime is.

In addition, the film makes visible the ethical issues that arise due to technology and the required strong measures to secure information from unauthorized access. By showing what can happen when a cyber-attack strikes, Blackhat stresses the need for being alert and ready to any threat of cybercrime.

The internet is a dangerous place and that is the main theme of Blackhat. This movie has a significant message which is, an awareness of information assurance and security in a world that is becoming more interconnected through technology. It therefore becomes more interesting and relevant for individuals who are worried about their digital information safety and security in this present world for the reason that it forces serious creativity while at the same time highlighting how internet, technology and globalization have connected people throughout the world making them vulnerable to cyberattacks.