

Character	Appearances
Iron Man	9
Captain America	9
Nick Fury	8
Thor	7
Hulk	6
Black Widow	6
Hawkeye	5
Bucky Barnes	5
Scarlet Witch	4
Ant-Man	4
VIsion	3
Star-Lord	3
Spider-Man	3
Doctor Strange	3
Black Panther	3
Captain Marvel	1

Hypothesis - If you were a super villain in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, it would be most effective to focus on attacking a few key heroes, rather than engage in targeting all MCU heroes equally. There are only a few central heroes on which the MCU repeatedly depends.

Conclusion - I used the Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki to find all the heroes in the MCU. By creating a network graph of the appearances of each hero in the movies, I was able to see which heroes appeared together the most. I limited the number of movies and characters from the MCU in order to not clutter the data, so many recent movies are missing, but it would be much harder to discern. We can see that the network graph shows us a core group of heroes, the ones who appear together frequently. If you were a villain, concentrating on those characters would be more fruitful than outlier characters like Captain Marvel who is only tangentially related. By charting the frequency of appearances, we see that Iron Man and Captain America are the lynch pins of the whole MCU, and would be the most profitable to target.

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