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Procedural Programming

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<p style="text-align:center">Good vs. Bad Hacker</p>

Whether you're Christian or not, normally when people think of hackers it's the bad kind. The kind of hackers that steal identities or other information. Today it's important to install malware protection into our computers and or phones in order to prevent hackers from going through your files or spreading viruses. Webroot, a malware protection program is one of the many we use to protect ourselves from hackers. On their website they list how important it is to have an anti-virus and have their own definition for hackers, "Computer hackers are unauthorized users who break into computer systems in order to steal, change or destroy information, often by installing dangerous malware without your knowledge or consent. Their clever tactics and detailed technical knowledge help them access the information you really don't want them to have" (Webroot). This is more like the definition of what most people would say what a hacker is as it's more common and you're more likely to find a person who's dealt with this type of hacker than the good kind. But then everyone would wonder what the good kind would be.

While there is more knowledge of bad hackers in the world, there are those who use such a skill to better the world. Those who do would probably prefer a different definition of hacking, "A person who delights in having an intimate understanding of the internal workings of a system,

computers and computer networks in particular."(Malkin). This is a much better suited term for those who have chosen hacking as a job to help others. For example, trying to help point out flaws in a system like the man featured in this CNBC story, "Dahan -- a so-called "ethical hacker" who find security holes at a company and tells them about it – was especially shocked because United Airlines had recently launched a program which rewards security researchers with air miles for finding security flaws in its network"(CNBC). He chooses to point out flaws in companies' systems in order to aid in protecting them even though he faces opposition so often as most people think only of a bad hacker. An unfortunate case as it seems like a great idea to hire good hackers to protect a company.

To be honest, before this assignment I had no idea there were good hackers other than the few that work in the FBI or other places in government. It was interesting to know that it is even a paid profession on its own. As a firm believer in Luke's book in the bible, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."(Luke 6:31, ESV). To me I think it would be extremely ethical to actually have positions in companies for good hackers not only to make the systems more protected but to also paint hackers in a better light. However, when it comes to hacking for fun, I still think it's important to ask for permission first. For instance, suppose something wrong happens while your hacking or someone else trying to hack it for bad reasons comes in at the same time, you wouldn't be held liable for the issues that occurred. In circumstances where a good hacker does find a problem, they should immediately ask for permission to hack just to ensure security and then give feedback if and only if they agree to accepting the help. While I believe that there's no clear line for a good or bad hacker, I feel that with better representation for both parties that this line can become clearer to see.

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