

= Live Free or Die Hard =

Live Free or Die Hard (also known as Die Hard 4 and released as Die Hard 4 @. @ 0 outside North America) is a 2007 American action film , and the fourth installment in the Die Hard film series . The film was directed by Len Wiseman and stars Bruce Willis as John McClane . The film 's name was adapted from New Hampshire 's state motto , " Live Free or Die " .

McClane is attempting to stop cyber terrorists who hack into government and commercial computers across the United States with the goal to start a " fire sale " of financial assets . The film was based on the 1997 article " A Farewell to Arms " written for Wired magazine by John Carlin . The film 's North American release date was June 27 , 2007 .

The project was initially stalled due to the 9 / 11 terrorist attacks , and when production eventually began , the film 's title was changed several times . A variety of visual effects were used for action sequences , even though Wiseman and Willis stated that they wanted to limit the amount of CGI in the film . In separate incidents during filming , both Willis and his stunt double were injured .

Unlike the prior three films in the series , the U.S. rating was PG @-@ 13 rather than R. An unrated version contained more strong profanity and violence not shown in the theatrical version , and was included in the DVD release .

Reviews were positive with an 82 % approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes and a 69 / 100 score from Metacritic . The film earned total international box office gross receipts of \$ 383 @. @ 4 million , making it the highest @-@ grossing film in the Die Hard series . It debuted at # 2 at the U.S. box office .

For the DVD release , 20th Century Fox pioneered a new kind of DRM , Digital Copy protection that tries to weaken the incentives for consumers to learn how to rip discs by offering them a downloadable version with studio @-@ imposed restrictions . The score for the film was released on July 2 , 2007 . The fifth film in the series , titled A Good Day to Die Hard , was released on February 14 , 2013 .

= = Plot = =

The FBI responds to a brief computer outage at their Cyber @-@ Security Division by tracking down top computer hackers , finding several of them have been killed . Taking others into protective custody , the FBI asks New York City Police Department detective John McClane (Bruce Willis) to bring in Matthew " Matt " Farrell (Justin Long) , one of the targeted hackers . McClane finally arrives just in time to prevent Farrell from being killed by assassins working for Mai Linh (Maggie Q) , a mysterious cyber @-@ terrorist who works for her boss and love interest , Thomas Gabriel (Timothy Olyphant) .

En route to Washington , D.C. with McClane , Farrell reveals that he received a large sum of money from Mai to write an algorithm that can crack a security system . As McClane and Farrell arrive in Washington , Gabriel orders his own crew of hackers to take control of the transportation grids and stock market , while nationally broadcasting a message threatening the United States . Farrell recognizes this as the start of a " fire sale " , an attack designed to target the nation 's reliance on computer controls , such that " everything must go " . McClane and Farrell are taken by police escort to the secure FBI headquarters , but Mai reroutes the convoy into the path of an assault helicopter . McClane takes down the helicopter by launching a police car over a damaged toll booth into it .

As McClane and Farrell finally recover , Gabriel initiates a second broadcast by showing a simulated explosion of the U.S. Capitol building , sending the public into panic . Farrell recognizes that his next target of the " fire sale " is likely the power grid , and the two drive to a utility superstation in West Virginia . When they arrive , a team led by Mai is breaking in and taking over the station 's controls . McClane kills all of them , and sends Mai to her death in a vehicle at the bottom of an elevator shaft . He obtains video footage of Gabriel which he relays to the FBI . Enraged over Mai 's death , Gabriel takes remote control of the natural gas distribution system and redirects all of the gas into the station . McClane and Farrell manage to escape before the station explodes , leaving much of the eastern seaboard of United States and Canada without power .

Farrell connects McClane with a fellow hacker , Frederick " Warlock " Kaludis (Kevin Smith) , in Baltimore . Running his computer systems from several generators , Warlock identifies the piece of code Farrell wrote as a means to access data at a master Social Security Administration building at Woodlawn , Maryland . They realize the building is actually a cover @-@ up NSA facility , designed by Gabriel when he worked for the NSA as a backup facility for the nation 's entire personal and financial records to be used in the event of a cyber attack similar to the one Gabriel has created . Warlock tells McClane and Matt that Gabriel is an extremely talented programmer who was a top security expert for the U.S. Department of Defense . Gabriel tried to alert the politicians and military leadership to critical weaknesses that left America 's network infrastructure open to cyberwarfare , but his methods led to his dismissal . Warlock runs a traceroute and attempts to identify Gabriel 's location , but Gabriel detects the intrusion .

Gabriel taps into their connection and speaks with Warlock , Farrell , and McClane . Gabriel reveals that he had successfully located McClane 's estranged daughter , Lucy (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) , and intends to kidnap her . McClane and Farrell race to the Woodlawn facility , where Farrell soon discovers that Gabriel is downloading all the information onto his portable computer system in order to blackmail the U.S government , and he manages to encrypt the data before all of Gabriel 's henchmen can access it . However , Gabriel kidnaps Farrell as he tries to escape the facility . McClane pursues Gabriel , hijacking his semi and enlists Warlock to trace Gabriel 's vehicle . With McClane in pursuit , Gabriel accesses the communication system of a U.S. Marine Corps F @-@ 35B Lightning II .

Pretending to be an air traffic controller , Gabriel orders the pilot to attack the truck McClane is driving . McClane manages to escape the assault when debris from the damaged truck falls into the jet intake of the aircraft from a highway exit ramp . McClane makes his way to a nearby warehouse where Warlock has successfully tracked Gabriel and is installing the remaining files , holding Lucy . Although McClane kills most of Gabriel 's remaining henchmen , Emerson (Edoardo Costa) shoots him in the right shoulder , injuring him .

While Gabriel tries to hold McClane from behind , McClane manages to gain control of Gabriel 's weapon and fatally shoots him through his own shoulder , killing Gabriel ; McClane survives his injury . Farrell then kills Emerson in the ensuing confusion . As the FBI finally arrives to tend to his wounds and clean up the scene , recovering the stolen files in the process , McClane pretends to be displeased with the romantic feelings developing between Farrell and Lucy as he sits with her in the ambulance .

= = Cast = =

Bruce Willis as Detective John McClane

Justin Long as Matthew " Matt " Farrell , a computer hacker from Camden , New Jersey

Timothy Olyphant as Thomas Gabriel , a former U.S. Defense Department analyst who leads a group of cyber @-@ terrorists systematically shutting down the entire U.S. infrastructure . Olyphant filmed his role within three weeks .

Mary Elizabeth Winstead as Lucy Gennero @-@ McClane , McClane 's estranged daughter who , along with Farrell , is kidnapped by Thomas Gabriel and his henchmen . The inclusion of McClane 's daughter was previously considered for the third film , and she was in the video game Die Hard : Vendetta . It was speculated that Willis ' real life daughter Rumer , who was born the same year that Die Hard was released , was a prime candidate for the part of McClane 's daughter . Jessica Simpson , Britney Spears , and Taylor Fry , who played McClane 's daughter in Die Hard , had all previously auditioned for the role .

Maggie Q as Mai Linh , Gabriel 's primary accomplice and love interest

Kevin Smith as Frederick " Warlock " Kaludis , Farrell 's hacker friend . Smith , a noted screenwriter and film director , did uncredited rewrites to the scenes in which he appears , as Willis and Wiseman thought the dialogue and exposition " didn 't make sense " .

Cliff Curtis as Miguel Bowman , Deputy Director of the F.B.I. ' s Cyber Crime Division

Jonathan Sadowski as Trey , Gabriel 's main hacker

Edoardo Costa as Emerson , Gabriel 's main henchman
Cyril Raffaelli as Rand , Gabriel 's henchman
Yorgo Constantine as Russo , Gabriel 's henchman
Chris Palermo as Del , Gabriel 's henchman
Andrew Friedman as Casper , a computer hacker who is working with Gabriel
?eljko Ivanek as Agent Molina , Bowman 's assistant
Christina Chang as Taylor , an F.B.I. agent working for Bowman
Sung Kang as Raj , an F.B.I. agent
Allen Maldonado as Goatee
Tim Russ as Agent Summer
Matt McColm as Gabriel 's henchman (uncredited)

= = Production = =

= = = Script and title = = =

The film 's plot is based on an earlier script entitled WW3.com by David Marconi , screenwriter of the 1998 film Enemy of the State . Using John Carlin 's Wired magazine article entitled " A Farewell to Arms " , Marconi crafted a screenplay about a cyber @-@ terrorist attack on the United States . The attack procedure is known as a " fire sale " , depicting a three @-@ stage coordinated attack on a country 's transportation , telecommunications , financial , and utilities infrastructure systems . After the September 11 , 2001 attacks , the project was stalled , only to be resurrected several years later and rewritten into Live Free or Die Hard by Doug Richardson and eventually by Mark Bomback .

Willis said in 2005 that the film would be called Die Hard 4 @.@ 0 , as it revolves around computers and cyber @-@ terrorism . IGN later reported the film was to be called Die Hard : Reset instead . 20th Century Fox later announced the title as Live Free or Die Hard and set a release date of June 29 , 2007 with filming to begin in September 2006 . The title is based on New Hampshire 's state motto , " Live Free or Die " , which is attributed to a quote from General John Stark . International trailers use the Die Hard 4 @.@ 0 title , as the film was released outside North America with that title . Early into the film 's DVD commentary , both Wiseman and Willis note a preference for Die Hard 4 @.@ 0 , and subtly mock the Live Free or Die Hard title .

= = = Visual effects = = =

For the visual effects used throughout the film , actor Bruce Willis and director Len Wiseman stated that they wanted to use a limited amount of CGI . One VFX producer said that " Len was insisting on the fact that , because we ? ve got Transformers and other big CG movies coming out , this one has to feel more real . It has to be embedded in some kind of practical reality in order to give it that edge of being a Die Hard . " Companies such as Digital Dimension , The Orphanage , R ! ot , Pixel Magic , and Amalgamated Pixels assisted in the film 's visual effects .

Digital Dimension worked on 200 visual effects shots in the film , including the sequence that shows characters John McClane and Matt Farrell crouching between two cars as another car lands on top of the other cars . To achieve this effect , a crane yanked the car and threw it in the air onto the two cars that were also being pulled by cables . The shot was completed when the two characters were integrated into the footage of the car stunt after the lighting was adjusted and CGI glass and debris were added . In the same sequence , John McClane destroys a helicopter that several of Gabriel 's henchman are riding in by ramming it with a car . This was accomplished by first filming one take where one of Gabriel 's henchman , Rand , jumps from the helicopter , and in the next take the car is propelled into the stationary helicopter as it is hoisted by wires . The final view of the shot overlays the two takes , with added CGI for the debris and moving rotor blades . The company also assisted in adding cars for traffic collisions and masses of people for evacuations from several government

buildings .

The Orphanage developed a multi @-@ level freeway interchange for use in one of the film 's final scenes by creating a digital environment and a 1 @,@ 000 @-@ foot (300 m) long spiral ramp that was built in front of a bluescreen . When a F @-@ 35 jet is chasing McClane on the freeway , a miniature model and a full @-@ size prop were both built to assist in digitally adding the jet into the scene . The nine @-@ foot model was constructed from November 2006 through February 2007 . When the jet is shown hovering near the freeway , editors used the software 3D graphics program Maya to blur the background and create a heat ripple effect .

= = = Filming and injuries = = =

Filming for Live Free or Die Hard started in downtown Baltimore , Maryland on September 23 , 2006 . Eight different sets were built on a large soundstage for filming many scenes throughout the film . When recording the sound for the semi trailer used in one of the film 's final scenes , 18 microphones were used to record the engine , tires , and damage to the vehicle . Post @-@ production for the film only took 16 weeks , when it was more common for similar films to use 26 weeks .

In order to prevent possible injuries and be in peak condition for the film , Willis worked out almost daily for several months prior to filming . Willis was injured January 24 , 2007 during a fight scene , when he was kicked above his right eye by a stunt double for actress Maggie Q who was wearing stiletto heels . Willis described the event as " no big deal " but when Len Wiseman inspected his injury , he noticed that the situation was much more serious than previously thought ? in the DVD commentary , Wiseman indicates in inspecting the wound that he could see bone . Willis was hospitalized and received seven stitches which ran through his right eyebrow and down into the corner of his eye . Due to the film 's non @-@ linear production schedule , these stitches can accidentally be seen in the scene where McClane first delivers Farrell to Bowman .

Throughout filming , between 200 and 250 stunt people were used . Bruce Willis ' stunt double , Larry Rippenkroeger , was knocked unconscious when he fell 25 feet (7 @.@ 6 m) from a fire escape to the pavement . Rippenkroeger suffered broken bones in his face , several broken ribs , a punctured lung , and fractures in both wrists . Due to his injuries , production was temporarily shut down . Willis personally paid the hotel bills for Rippenkroeger 's parents and visited him a number of times at the hospital .

Kevin Smith recalls rewriting scenes on the set of Live Free or Die Hard in his spoken word film Sold Out : A Threeevening with Kevin Smith .

= = Rating = =

In the United States , the first three films in the Die Hard series were rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America . Live Free or Die Hard , however , was edited to obtain a PG @-@ 13 rating . In some cases , alternate profanity @-@ free dialogue was shot and used or swearing was cut out in post @-@ production to reduce profanity . Director Len Wiseman commented on the rating , saying " It was about three months into it [production] , and I hadn 't even heard that it was PG @-@ 13 ... But in the end , it was just trying to make the best Die Hard movie , not really thinking so much about what the rating would be . " Bruce Willis was upset with the studio 's decision , stating , " I really wanted this one to live up to the promise of the first one , which I always thought was the only really good one . That 's a studio decision that is becoming more and more common , because they ? re trying to reach a broader audience . It seems almost a courageous move to give a picture an R rating these days . But we still made a pretty hardcore , smashmouth film . " Willis said he thought that viewers unaware that it was not an R @-@ rated film would not suspect so due to the level and intensity of the action as well as the usage of some profanity , although he admitted these elements were less intense than in the previous films . He also said that this film was the best of the four : " It 's unbelievable . I just saw it last week . I personally think , it 's better than the first one . "

In the United Kingdom , the British Board of Film Classification awarded the film a 15 rating (

including the unrated version , released later) , the same as Die Hard with a Vengeance and Die Hard 2 , albeit both were cut for both theatrical and video release , (the first film in the series originally received an 18 certificate) . All films have been re @-@ rated 15 uncut . Die Hard 4 @.@ 0 was released with no cuts made and the cinema version (i.e. US PG @-@ 13 version) consumer advice read that it " contains frequent action violence and one use of strong language " . The unrated version was released on DVD as the " Ultimate Action Edition " with the consumer advice " contains strong language and violence " .

In Australia , Die Hard 4 @.@ 0 was released with the PG @-@ 13 cut with an M rating , the same as the others in the series (The Australian Classification Board is less strict with regards to language and to a lesser extent , violence) . The unrated version was later released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray also with an M rating . The film notably was never released in home media with its theatrical cut , and has only been released in Australia as the extended edition .

= = Release = =

= = = Box office = = =

Live Free or Die Hard debuted at # 2 at the box office and made \$ 9 @.@ 1 million in its first day of release in 3 @,@ 172 theaters , the best opening day take of any film in the Die Hard series (not taking inflation into account) . On its opening weekend Live Free or Die Hard made \$ 33 @.@ 3 million (\$ 48 @.@ 3 million counting Wednesday and Thursday) . The film made \$ 134 @.@ 5 million domestically , and \$ 249 @.@ 0 million overseas for a total of \$ 383 @.@ 5 million , making it the twelfth highest @-@ grossing film of 2007 . To date , it is the most successful film in the series .

= = = Critical reception = = =

On Rotten Tomatoes , the film received an 82 % approval rating based on 206 reviews and an average rating of 6 @.@ 8 / 10 . The site 's critical consensus reads , " Live Free or Die Hard may be preposterous , but it 's an efficient , action @-@ packed summer popcorn flick with thrilling stunts and a commanding performance by Bruce Willis . Fans of the previous Die Hard films will not be disappointed " . On Metacritic , the film has a score of 69 out of 100 , based on 34 critics , indicating " generally favorable reviews " . A review on IGN stated " Like the recent Rocky Balboa , this new Die Hard works as both its own story about an over @-@ the @-@ hill but still vital hero and as a nostalgia trip for those who grew up with the original films . " On the television show Ebert & Roeper , film critic Richard Roeper and guest critic Katherine Tulich both gave the film " two thumbs up " , with Roeper stating that the film is " not the best or most exciting Die Hard , but it is a lot of fun " and that it is his favorite among the Die Hard sequels . Roeper also remarked , " Willis is in top form in his career @-@ defining role . " Michael Medved gave the film three and a half out of four stars , opining , " a smart script and spectacular special effects make this the best Die Hard of ' em all . "

Conversely , Lawrence Toppman of The Charlotte Observer stated : " I can safely say I 've never seen anything as ridiculous as Live Free or Die Hard . " Toppman also wrote that the film had a lack of memorable villains and referred to John McClane as " just a bald Terminator with better one @-@ liners " .

= = Soundtrack = =

The score for Live Free or Die Hard , written by Marco Beltrami , was released on July 2 , 2007 by Varèse Sarabande (which also released the soundtracks for the first two Die Hard films) , several days after the United States release of the film . This was the first film not to be scored by Michael Kamen , due to his death in 2003 ; Beltrami incorporates Kamen 's thematic material into his score , but Kamen is not credited on the film or the album . Other songs in the film include " Rock & Roll

Queen " by The Subways , " Fortunate Son " by Creedence Clearwater Revival and " I 'm So Sick " by Flyleaf . Eric Lichtenfeld , reviewing from Soundtrack.net , said of the score 's action cues " the entire orchestra seems percussive , flow well together . "

" Out of Bullets " (1 : 08)

" Shootout " (3 : 41)

" Leaving the Apartment " (2 : 08)

" Dead Hackers " (1 : 31)

" Traffic Jam " (4 : 13)

" It 's a Fire Sale " (2 : 57)

" The Break @-@ In " (2 : 28)

" Farrell to D.C. " (4 : 36)

" Copter Chase " (4 : 41)

" Blackout " (2 : 03)

" Illegal Broadcast " (3 : 48)

" Hurry Up ! " (1 : 23)

" The Power Plant " (2 : 01)

" Landing " (2 : 28)

" Cold Cuts " (2 : 00)

" Break a Neck " (2 : 47)

" Farrell Is In " (4 : 22)

" The F @-@ 35 " (4 : 13)

" Aftermath " (3 : 12)

" Live Free or Die Hard " (2 : 56)

= = Home media release = =

The Blu @-@ ray and DVD were released on October 29 , 2007 , in the United Kingdom , on October 31 in Hungary , November 20 in the United States , and December 12 in Australia . The DVD topped rental and sales charts in its opening week of release in the U.S. and Canada . There is an unrated version , which retains much of the original ' R @-@ rated ' dialogue , and a theatrical version of the film . However , the unrated version has a branching error resulted in one of the unrated changes to be omitted . The film briefly switches to the PG @-@ 13 version in the airbag scene ; McClane 's strong language is missing from this sequence (although international DVD releases of the unrated version are unaffected) . The Blu @-@ ray release features the PG @-@ 13 theatrical cut which runs at 128 minutes , while the Collector 's Edition DVD includes both the unrated and theatrical versions . Time magazine 's Richard Corliss named it one of the Top 10 DVDs of 2007 , ranking it at # 10 . The German Blu @-@ ray release of the " Die Hard Legacy Collection " features the unrated version for the first time in HD , and the disc is region @-@ free .

The DVD for the film was the first to include a Digital Copy of the film which could be played on a PC or Mac computer and could also be imported into several models of portable video players . Mike Dunn , a president for 20th Century Fox , stated " The industry has sold nearly 12 billion DVDs to date , and the release of Live Free or Die Hard is the first one that allows consumers to move their content to other devices . "