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<div align="center">Can Hackers Use Their Knowledge for Good?</div>

When most people hear the word "hacker," a negative connotation usually comes to mind and I believe that has to do with how our world portrays hackers. For example, Merriam-Webster dictionary writes the term hacker is: "a person who illegally gains access to and sometimes tampers with information in a computer system." In my personal opinion, I believe that the mainstream definition allows us as a society to think that hackers are nothing but destructive. Yes, hackers can break into systems and steal or tamper with your information, but there are other instances that can be done legally where it can actually help a company and its users. Those may include private companies or even social platforms such as HackerOne.

Hackers can find security breaches in software to better protect companies and keep their customers safe. For example, in the CNBC story on ethical hacking, it discusses how a researcher named Yosi Dahan "found a vulnerability" in the United Airlines website. "Although it took a while for the company to respond, they did fix this flaw" (Kharpal). In my opinion, if more companies, like United Airlines, were open to taking advice from people who can find ways to hurt them and don't but instead get rewarded with some kind of incentive, it would lead to better safety, reliability and security. Hackers could get rewarded for their work by approaching the company, and hopefully the company could give them some kind of incentive for making their security safer and keep them helping instead of hurting. Ultimately in this story, the hacker was actually able to better help society without breaking the law (Kharpal). I still

believe there are cases in which hacking can be negative, but I do not agree that it is always that way.

From my view as a Christian, I believe in a case such as the one described, the "hacker" is only helping the company and its users. This brought to mind a bible verse from 1 Peter 4:10 which says: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (NIV) If a hacker is able to serve a company and/or it's people in a respectful and legal manner, I believe that it is ethical to use their gifts in a way to better protect other brothers and sisters in Christ. If a hacker stumbles upon a security vulnerability in a company's software in a legal manner and approaches the company to tell them their issue. The company and its users become safer. The hacker can serve their community and even profit from it (Kharpal). Once the hacker addresses the issue to the company, I do not believe they have any obligation to go any further, unless the company specifically asks for the hacker's help. Conclusively, if a hacker is able to impactive their community in a positive way, then it seems ethical that they should use their gifts for the purpose of helping those around them.

In an article by HackerOne, they had hackers describe what hacking meant to them. A hacker by the name of Joel Margolis says, "Hackers work 'to preserve the security of everything around us' by finding 'every way they can be broken, then tell you how to fix them" (HackerOne). I believe a common misjudgment of what hacking is, such as the definition defined by Merriam-Webster, takes away how beneficial hacking can be to society when they can do it in a legal and safe manner. When done correctly and considerately, I believe that hacking is not necessarily a bad thing. Hacking can be seen as ethical in my eyes if what they are doing is not illegal and does not have a negative impact on anyone. When a hacker breaks the law, it creates a bigger problem than the one they were trying to solve in the first place and is something that I do not consider ethical.

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