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The Immune System of the Internet

This paper will discuss how black-hat hackers, white-hat hackers, and every shade of grey between them are vital to creating a robust internet and better technologies that are associated with the internet. Though the word hacker usually comes with the idea of something negative (which only focuses on the black-hat hackers), there are noticeable benefits to constantly testing and sometimes breaking our infrastructure. By using the opinions and data collected by experts and specialists in the field of cyber security and computer science a clear benefit of persistent, active hackers will be shown.

In contrast this paper will show how hackers that have a grasp on human psychology pose a unique threat to users that is not being addressed and possibly a different approach to individual security needs to be examined. This contrast is much like that of an immune system with many attackers constantly trying damage the system and a defense that is constantly pushing back (sometimes by other hackers). This is not a perfect analogy because the defense of technology security needs to be the job of every user, not just the policy enforcers. Hackers have motives that range from benign mischief to devastating shutdowns and stolen identities but also from the curiosity of how technologies work to the protection of fellow users. This paper will show how the average person needs to be more educated on how these technologies work as to protect themselves from an ever evolving attack force.