# Cyber - Affirmative

## Space Advantage

### Impact – Economy

#### Satellites vulnerable to attacks from state and non-state actors that could wreak havoc across the economy

Marks 21 [Joseph, cybersecurity journalist for the Washington Post, “Space could be the next frontier for cyber threats,” 11/08/21, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/11/08/space-could-be-next-frontier-cyber-threats/>, accessed 07/09/22, GDI-JCR]

Cyber analysts are pushing the Department of Homeland Security to ramp up cyber protections for satellites and other space-based systems, which they say are far too vulnerable to hacks that could upend large parts of the economy. For example: A hack that disrupted satellite-assisted navigation could jam up things from shipping and trucking to farms that rely on precision navigation tools, wreaking havoc on the economy. “Almost every critical function ... is dependent on space,” said Sam Visner, a technical fellow at the MITRE Corp., speaking on a panel focused on cyberthreats to space that I moderated at the Aspen Security Forum. “Other countries see this as an advantage for themselves. … They see our vulnerabilities in space and space systems as a way of gaining an advantage over us amid great power competition.” The danger has escalated as the number of space systems has proliferated and as more of it is being run by private companies such as Elon Musk’s SpaceX and Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin. (Bezos owns The Washington Post). The IT that run most space systems is complex and requires specialized knowledge that few hackers have. But those back-end systems are increasingly linked (sometimes intentionally) with commercial front-end systems that hackers are expert at cracking into. Such hacks could be launched by criminal gangs that demand a ransom to unlock them or by adversary nations looking to damage the U.S. economy. A worst case scenario: Hackers might disrupt the command and control of satellites themselves, forcing them to crash into each other with ripple effects across industry sectors.