



AOC Movie Review: **Blackhat**

[Blackhat \(2015\)](#) - **Blackhat** is an action thriller mystery film by Michael Mann that stars Chris Hemsworth (also known as Thor). According to Wikipedia, “*Blackhat* was a box office bomb, earning only \$19.6 million at the box office against a budget of \$70 million.” which makes sense when you look at its ratings (as of January 17, 2016).

5.4/10 · IMDb
34% · Rotten Tomatoes
51% · Metacritic

As it turns out, hackers think it is the greatest hacking movie of all time.

<http://www.wired.com/2015/01/blackhat-the-best-cyber-movie/> There is social engineering, removable media issues, targeted phishing, and the list goes on. The technical accuracy goes far beyond the 1996 movie Hackers, where typing “Cookie” does not really stop viruses. So where do electronic warfare concepts come in?

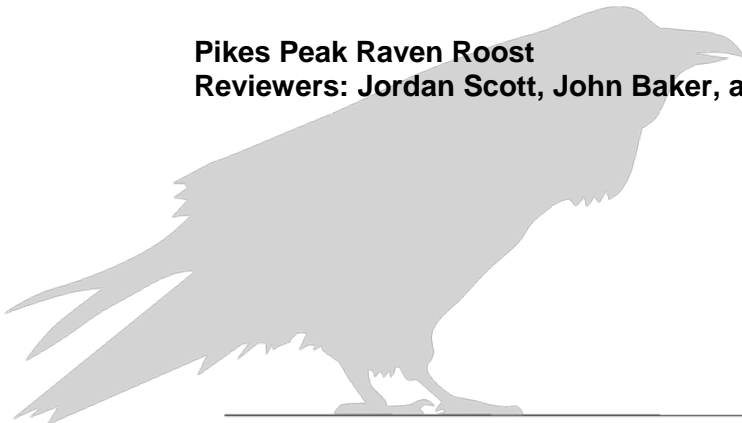
The movie starts off with a cyberattack on a nuclear power plant. Boom. Stopping a systems power source is one way to turn it off. Stuxnet is a very real thing that does exactly that. When military systems use unhardened commercial components, they can be just as vulnerable. GPS strongly comes to mind. There are many references throughout the film that tie commercial infrastructure and military organizations. As well as references of how organizations don’t collaborate well. Sound familiar?

Some fun aspects in the film were when the prison guards physically searched Chris Hemsworth’s cell for a cellular device but later Hemsworth uses a cell phone to triangulate the location of a wifi repeater. They also fly across the world to have a 30 second conversation about the nuclear plant, but then use a cell phone and phishing email to hack into a super top secret NSA program hosted at the headquarters. There are many policies we follow and training requirements we all take annually on phishing emails-- remember the module you clicked through in ten minutes to get to the end? In it, it would say to encrypt and digitally sign all outbound emails. It also says not to open attachments in unsigned emails.

By the way, the super classified NSA program had a password that was too short and probably should have been PKI enabled to begin with.

Pikes Peak Raven Roost

Reviewers: Jordan Scott, John Baker, and Nicholle Briggs



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