

Lesson 15 DefCon – Segment

On the eve of the biggest hacking conference in the world, DEF CON in Las Vegas, hackers who enjoys shooting as a hobby meet in the desert.

[INAUDIBLE] is it clear?

[GUNFIRE]

Cyberweapons can steal technology, divert politics, get your privacy, learn things about you that they shouldn't know, right now. As the internet of things, to use that term, gets more and more common, the reality of this kind of thing and computer security in general may invade into the physical world. So when we talk about smart cars or linked up cars that have drive by wire systems, braking systems, if they don't do it right, they don't segregate those systems or those things are linked in, the reality of guns being able to kill and cyberweapons being able to kill converge. And I think that we're getting closer and closer to that reality.

By now, we are aware that our personal data, bank information, and online privacy are not entirely safe. But can our physical safety also be hacked in the future? How big is the gap between real guns and hackers who pull the trigger online?

Inside the hat, there's a Wi-Fi router. And if you can log onto the Wi-Fi router and load any web page, it gives you a scoreboard and a list of 40 usernames and password hashes. If you can crack any one of those, you can get on the scoreboard, and you can make the hat say anything that you want.

DEF CON is the largest hacker conference in the world. This is its 22nd year. I think they're expecting 20,000 people this year. And it's a collection of hackers that are good, bad, or indifferent. I know a lot of people think hackers are a menace, but most of us are white hats. In other words, we use our talents and our curiosity and our technical skills to make the world a safer place.

Joshua Corman is a pioneer within the hacking community. He founded I am the Cavalry, a movement that tries to motivate hackers to use their talents to make software safer.