The Hero Hacker who saved the Internet

Marcus Hutchins

cybersafeschools

Age Today: 30   Age at time of arrest 23

Introduction:

Marcus Hutchins, also known by his online alias **MalwareTech**, is a British cybersecurity expert who became famous in 2017 for stopping one of the most devastating cyberattacks in history, the **WannaCry ransomware** attack. Despite facing legal issues later on, Hutchins' story is one of redemption and highlights the importance of using hacking skills for good. His journey offers valuable lessons

Who is Marcus Hutchins?

Born in **1994**, Marcus Hutchins grew up fascinated by computers and taught himself how to hack as a teenager. He initially explored hacking for fun but later turned his skills toward helping others by working in **cybersecurity**. Hutchins specialized in malware analysis, which involves understanding how malicious software (malware) works and finding ways to stop it.

Stopping WannaCry:

The WannaCry attack began in May 2017, affecting computers around the world by locking users out of their systems and demanding ransom payments in exchange for access. This ransomware crippled hospitals, businesses, and governments, especially in the UK, where the **NHS (National Health Service)** was severely impacted.

Hutchins analysed the malware and discovered a **"kill switch"**, a hidden code that could stop WannaCry from spreading further. By activating this kill switch, he managed to halt the global attack, preventing further damage and saving countless organizations from further harm.

His quick thinking and technical skills earned him worldwide recognition as the hacker who "saved the internet."

Interesting Fact:

Humble Background

Marcus Hutchins grew up in a small town in the UK (Devon) and didn't have formal cybersecurity education. His rise to fame came purely from his curiosity and dedication to understanding computers and malware.

Legal Troubles:

Despite his heroic actions, Marcus Hutchins faced legal issues shortly after. In 2017, U.S. authorities arrested him for his involvement in creating a piece of malware called **Kronos** when he was younger. Hutchins admitted that he had written the malware before becoming a cybersecurity professional and later expressed deep regret for his past actions. He cooperated with authorities and used the experience to turn his life around.

In **2019**, he avoided jail time, as the court recognized his significant contributions to stopping cybercrime after the WannaCry incident. These cyberattacks showed just how much damage hackers can cause, even when they

Conclusion:

Marcus Hutchins' journey from a young hacker to a cybersecurity hero shows how important it is to use technology responsibly. His story inspires students to explore the world of ethical hacking, reminding them that with great power comes great responsibility. By using their skills for good, young people can help create a safer digital world for everyone.