

Swordfish

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Computer Ethics
Movie Review of Ethics
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Stanley Jobson (played by Hugh Jackman) was a very talented computer hacker who got brought down for computer-related felonies after hacking into and making public an FBI e-mail surveillance operation. Because of this he was forbidden to ever touch another computer for the rest of his life. He was also a devoted father who was forbidden to see his daughter who was being raised by her drunken mother. Stanley was desperate to be a part of his daughter's life, but lacked the money to hire a lawyer to fight for her on his behalf. The DEA had a dummy corporation operation codenamed SWORDFISH, which it shut down in. This corporation generated \$400 million which sat around for years collecting compound interest making it grow to a whopping 9.5 billion dollars. Gabriel Shear (played by John Travolta) headed a counter-terrorist unit called Black Cell which wants the money to help finance their vengeance war against international terrorism, but it's all locked away behind super-encryption. Knowing that Jobson is desperately needing money to fight for his daughter, Shear recruits him to hack into the government system.

Jobson knows that what he is about to do is wrong, but also knows it is wrong to not be a part of his daughter's life. He is now stuck between a rock and a hard place when it comes to deciding the right thing to do. Then there is Shear who could hardly be accused of sinister motives because he is fighting a war against terrorism. Of course the way he goes about it is wrong. He used innocent lives to supposedly save other lives. I

wondered if Shear wanted the money for himself after seeing him sail away with the girl in a brand new boat at the end of the movie. I doubt that the boat was used for fighting terrorism. My opinion of this movie is that Shear wanted money and power while all Jobson wanted was his daughter. The question here is whether Jobson was ethically right and was Shear ethically right. I believe that Jobson was ethically right in doing what he had to do as a father expected to protect his child. As for Shear, I believe he was ethically wrong in killing innocent people to gain money that was to be used to fight terrorism so that lives would not be lost.