

Malware-Ridden Searches



The Most Dangerous Pop Culture Search Terms

The internet is great, isn't it? It allows us to entertain and educate ourselves from wherever we are in the world, providing an abundance of information that's easily accessible, and right at your fingertips.

But that's also part of the problem. What's easy to access can also be easy to hack.

[Support](#)

computer systems.

Hackers try to lure internet users into visiting web pages or clicking download links that contain malicious software or malware that can result in any or all of these unwelcome actions. They achieve this by targeting keywords they know will get lots of interest and traffic. Terms they know have widespread appeal and are trending.

To give internet users the best chance at protecting themselves from falling into the cyberattack trap, Surfshark has discovered which pop culture search terms are the most dangerous to search for online - from celebrity names to TV shows.

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Our Methodology

We started by curating seed lists of the most popular search terms across a variety of pop culture categories. For example, the top Anime shows were pulled from the [MyAnimeList](#) popularity leaderboard, while the top [artists](#) and [songs](#) were in part sourced from Billboard end-of-year lists.

We then input these search terms into Google with different qualifiers depending on the category. "Torrent" and "Download" were added individually to all search terms to create new queries. In addition, "Stream" was added to TV shows, anime, and sports teams, while "MP3" was added to the songs.

that were flagged as "medium risk" or above by this tool.

Here's an example of the first page of Google results for those looking for a torrent site where to download Finding Dory:

The screenshot shows a Google search for "Finding Dory torrent". The search bar at the top contains the text "Finding Dory torrent" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, there are tabs for "All", "Videos", "Shopping", "News", "Images", and "More". The search results are displayed as a list of links, each with a risk assessment icon and text.

Google Finding Dory torrent

About 575,000 results (0.61 seconds)

Finding Dory 2016 · Family/Adventure · 1h 37m

Overview Cast Watch film Reviews

Results:

- <https://yts.torrentbay.to/movies/finding-dory-2016> : ⚠ Scan failed (Medium Risk)
Finding Dory (2016) YIFY - Download Movie TORRENT
17 Mar 2017 — With help from her friends Nemo and Marlin, Dory embarks on an epic adventure to find them. Her journey brings her to the Marine Life ...
- <https://ww1.ytsify.fun/movie/finding-dory-2016-e...> : ⚠ Malware detected by scan (Critical Risk)
Finding Dory (2016) Torrent - Download YTS YIFY Movie
Dory is reunited with her friends Nemo and Marlin in the search for answers about her past. What can she remember? Who are her parents?
- <https://yts2.cc/torrent/finding-dory-2016-hd-5101> : ⚠ Malware detected by scan (Critical Risk)
Download Finding Dory (2016) Torrent - YTS2
With help from her friends Nemo and Marlin, Dory embarks on an epic adventure to find them. Her journey brings her to the Marine Life Institute, a conservatory ...
- <https://www.imdb.com/title/> : ✅ No malware detected by scan (Low Risk)
Finding Dory (2016) - IMDb
Friendly but forgetful blue tang Dory begins a search for her long-lost parents, and everyone learns a few things about the real meaning of family along the ...
★ ★ ★ ★ Rating: 7.3/10 - 265,156 votes
- <https://ww1.yifymx.com/movie/finding-dory-2016-...> : ✅ No malware detected by scan (Low Risk)
Finding Dory (2016) YTS - Download Yify Movie Torrent - Yifymx
Finding Dory (2016) YTS Magnet - Download YTS movie torrent, Dory is reunited with her friends Nemo and Marlin in the search for answers about her past.
- <https://yts-movie.com/finding-dory-2016> : ✅ No malware detected by scan (Low Risk)

About

Finding Dory Official US Trailer 2 2:39

7.3/10 IMDb 77% Metacritic 94% Rotten Toma...

86% liked this film Google users

With vague memories of her past, an amnesiac blue tang fish, Dory, sets off in search of her long-lost parents with the help of her friends, clownfish Marlin and his son Nemo.

Release date: 17 June 2016 (USA)
Director: Andrew Stanton
Featured song: Finding Dory (Main Title)
Box office: 1.029 billion USD
Story by: Andrew Stanton
Awards: Kids' Choice Award for Favorite #Squad, MORE

Feedback

https://yts.land › finding-dory-2016-markstorrent100 : ⚠️ Malware detected by scan (Critical Risk)

Finding Dory (2016) YTS Movie Download

Finding Dory (2016). Trailer. Dory is reunited with her friends Nemo and Marlin in the search for answers about her past. What can ...

https://ytsyify2020.com › tor-11420-Finding-Doryyts-L... : ⚠️ Site issues detected (Medium Risk)

Finding Dory YTS Torrent - (2016) English Download YIFY ...

10 May 2020 — Download Finding Dory Torrent Download HDrip Bluray quality in smallest size 720p/1080p Films.. 2016 English movie from torrent downloads ...

https://www.yts.vc › movie › finding-dory-2016-c46dc4 : ⚠️ Site issues detected (Medium Risk)

Finding Dory (2016) Download YIFY Movie Torrent - YTS.vc

8 Apr 2019 — I definitely loved it more than the original Finding Nemo. Dory was a fan favorite in the original film and the sequel delivers more of Ellen's ...

https://yifymovies.one › movie › finding-dory-2016 : ✅ No malware detected by scan (Low Risk)

Finding Dory (2016) Yify Torrent - Download YTS Movie

Finding Dory (2016). Trailer. Dory is reunited with her friends Nemo and Marlin in the search for answers about her past. What can she remember?

People also search for



Finding Nemo
2003



The Good Dinosaur
2015



Inside Out
2015



WALL-E
2008



See more

Go o o o o o o o o o o o o g l e >
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Next

[Click to see full size image](#)

Key Findings

Support

- **39.6%** of **Breaking Bad** searches result in URLs with potential malware, making it the most dangerous TV show to search for. Sex Education is second with 39.2%.
- Well-loved **GTA V**, is the video game with the third highest malware risk (**43.5%**).
- Records reaching No.1 in the charts pose a high malware threat - such as **Industry Baby by Lil Nas X and Jack Harlow**.

Tom Hanks is Among Top 10 Most Dangerous Actors to Search For

Hollywood actors are among the most searched for celebrities in the world, in many cases outranking athletes, musicians, and politicians in internet search activity. As a result, they are a prime target for cybercriminals looking to boost their malicious websites with popular search terms. Even the names of the most **trustworthy** actors – Tom Hanks, for example – can be co-opted by hackers. Search results for Tom Hanks have a 51.6% probability of containing potential malware, one of the highest percentages of any actor.

The Most Dangerous

Q

Actors

to Search For Online



The most dangerous actor to search for is **Robert De Niro**, as **54.1%** of results for the actor include potential malware. But while cybercriminals often attach malware to the most popular search terms, malware risk does not closely correlate with general internet popularity. Keanu Reeves, for example, has the most daily average Wikipedia pageviews of any actor in our analysis but is the third safest actor to search for online.

Support



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Over Half of Kate Winslet Search Results are Malware-Ridden

dangerous actresses to search for made headlines in recent years. Search results for Margot Robbie, for example, started in three back-to-back hits from 2019 to 2021 — *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, *Birds of Prey*, and *The Suicide Squad* – are more likely to contain potential malware than not.

Some 52.0% of search results for Margot Robbie contain potential malware, the second-largest share of any actress. Searches for Faye Dunaway – the eighth most dangerous actress – spiked in summer 2019 when the actress was **fired from a Broadway play** which may have led hackers to seize on the increase in popularity.

The Most Dangerous

Female Actors

to Search For Online

Cybercriminals often attach malware to trending pop culture topics. **Kate Winslet** – whose show *Mare of Easttown* was the most-watched of any HBO Max original series – is the most dangerous actress to search for online. Some **52.6%** of search results for Kate Winslet contain potential malware, the most of any actress and the fourth most of any pop culture search term in our analysis.

 URLs with Potential Malware

1



2



3



4

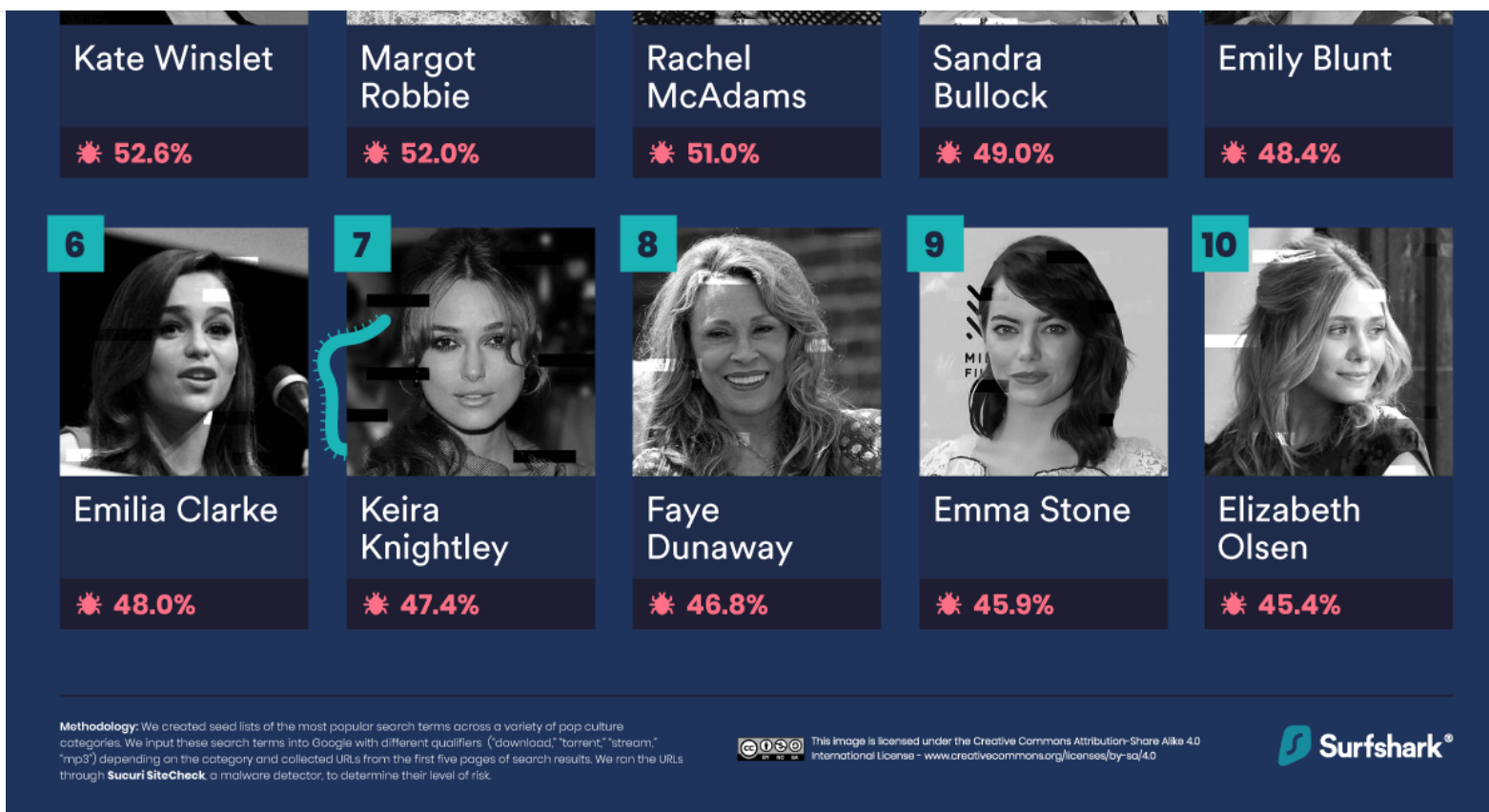


5





Support



[Click to see full size image](#)

“Finding Dory” Is the Most Dangerous Movie to Search for Online

While the **illegal downloading of movies declined** in tandem with the rise of streaming services, **visits to film piracy websites increased significantly during the COVID-19** pandemic. Cyber attackers have likely seized on the increase in film piracy to promote malicious software links within searches for movie downloads. Many of the most dangerous films to search for have younger audiences, who are more likely to click on links containing malicious software. Of the 10 most dangerous movies to search for, six are animated: The Lion King, Despicable Me 3, Zootopia, Toy Story 3, Beauty and the Beast, and Finding Dory.

The Most Dangerous

Movies

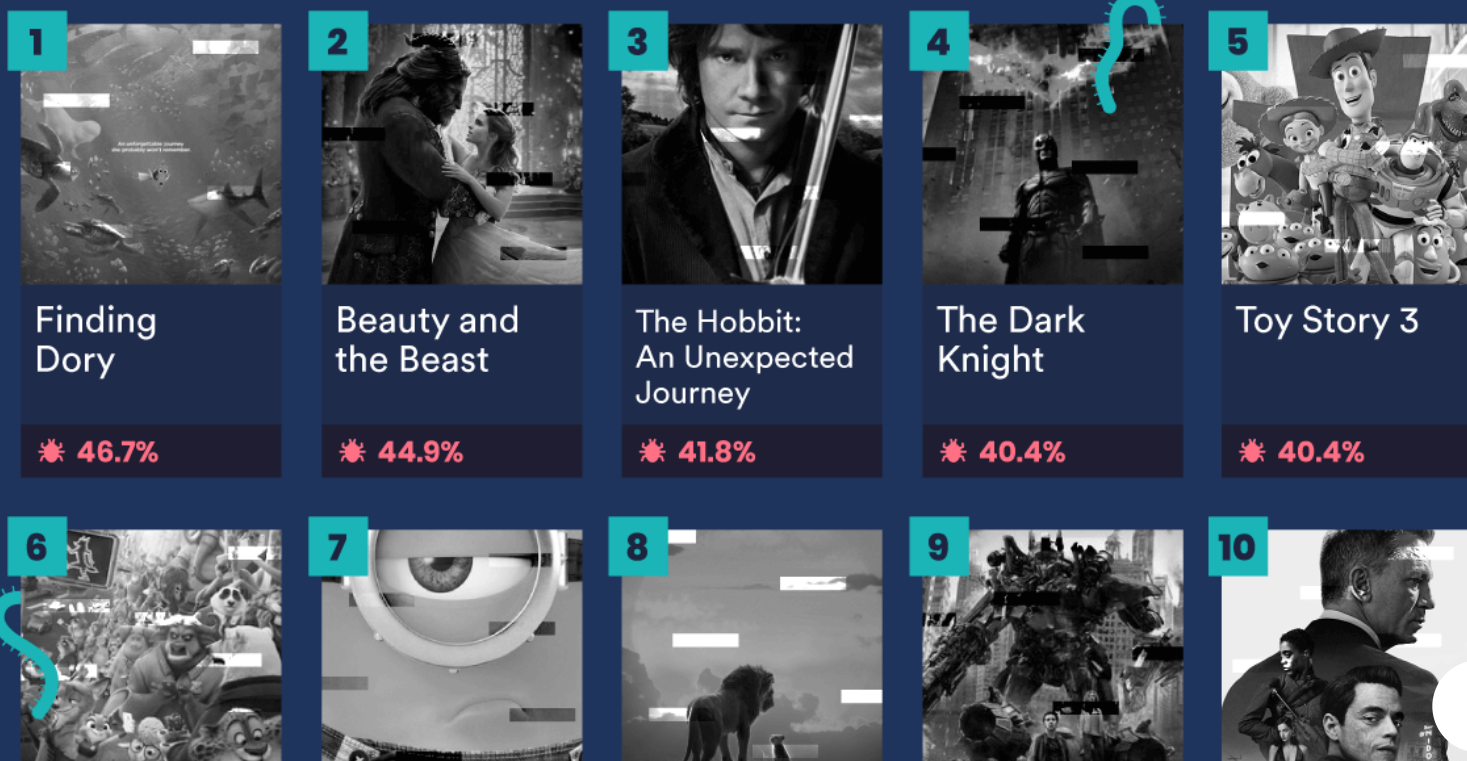
to Search For Online

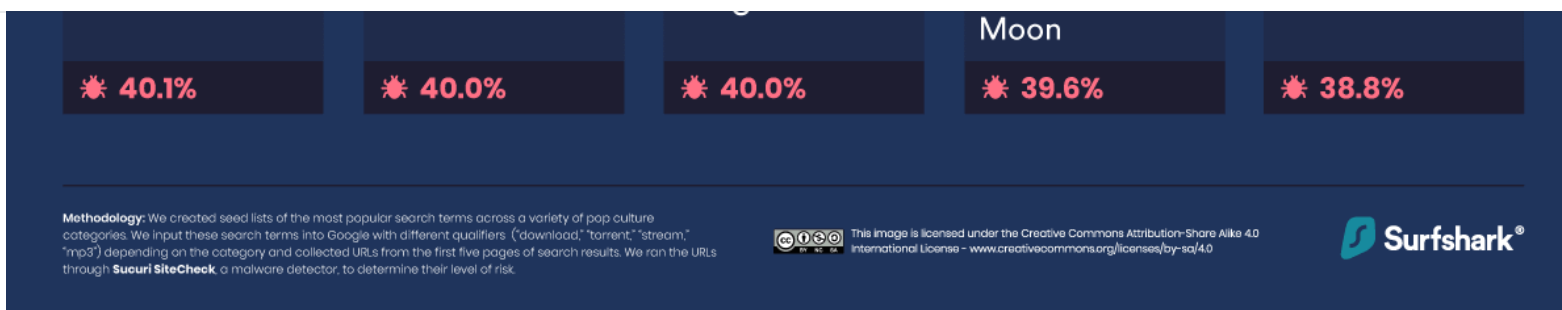


Younger internet users are more likely to click on links and download malware, which may be one reason why the most dangerous films to search for are kids movies. Some **46.7%** of search results for **Finding Dory** contain potential malware, the most of any movie in our analysis. Similarly, 44.9% of results for Beauty and the Beast contain potential malware, the second-largest share.



URLs with Potential Malware





[Click to see full size image](#)

“Breaking Bad” Is the Most Dangerous TV Show to Search For Online

According to online piracy tracker MUSO, during the COVID-19 lockdowns, **piracy of TV increased 12% in the United States and 30% in the UK**. This could be a result of people looking for series to binge as means of making the most of an unspecified time period of staying indoors. Hackers likely exploited the increase in piracy activity by attaching more malware to search results related to popular “binge-worthy” television shows, such as Breaking Bad. Look through the table below to see which shows are the most dangerous to search for online.

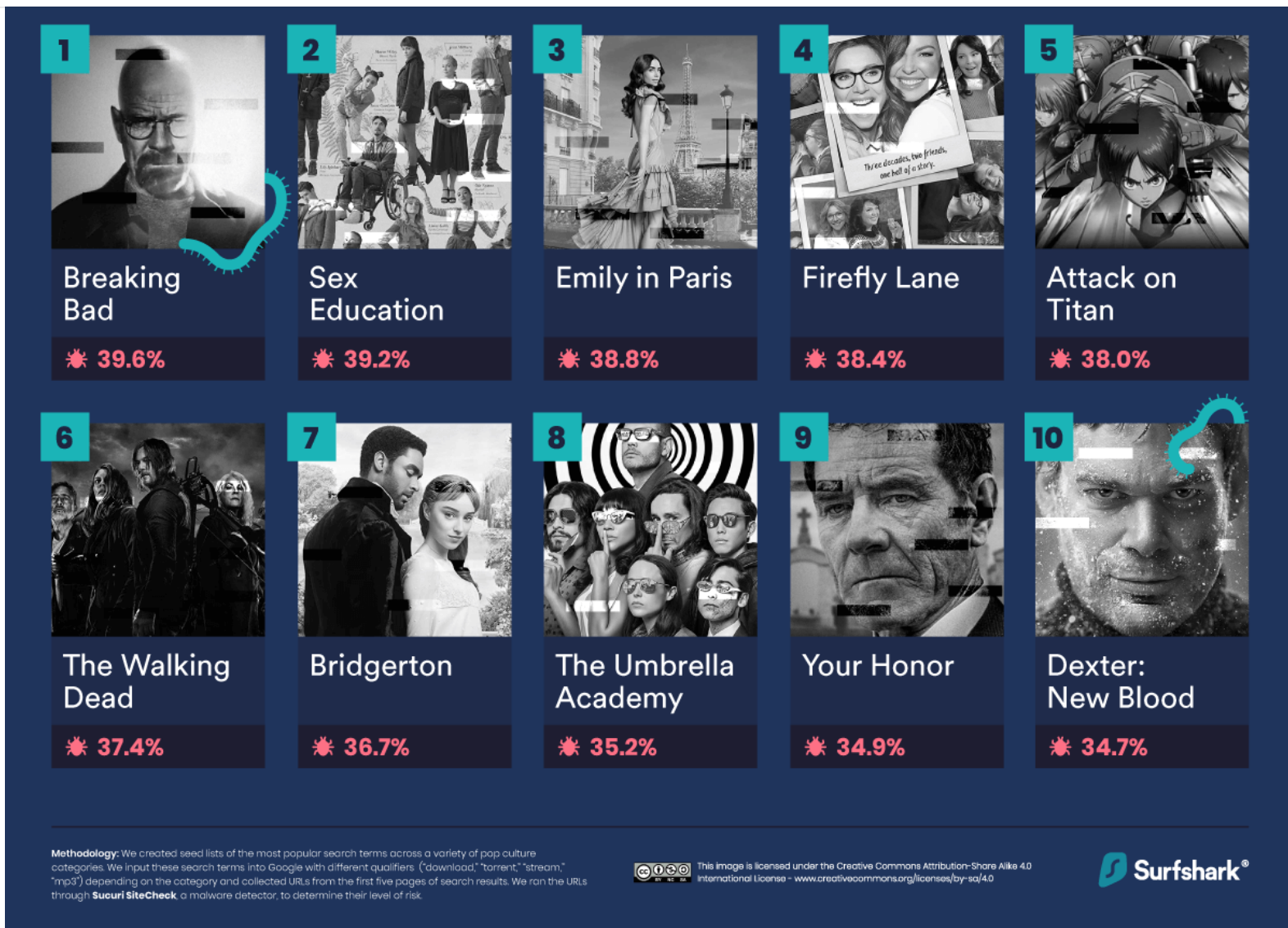
The Most Dangerous

TV Shows

to Search For Online

Cybercriminals often target internet users searching for TV shows, luring them with download links containing malicious software. Some **39.6%** of search results for **Breaking Bad** contain potential malware, the largest share of any show in our analysis. And while WandaVision was the most pirated show in 2021, just 21.9% of search results for the Disney+ series contain potential malware, one of the smallest shares of any pop culture term in our analysis.

Support



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Hard-to-Find Anime Poses the Greatest Malware Risk

Support

Yowamushi Pedal, *Ace of Diamond*, *Aldnoah.Zero*, and *Blast of Tempest*, are relatively obscure, with fewer than 500 average daily Wikipedia page views each – a fraction of the daily page views of a mainstream show like *Breaking Bad*, which wouldn't even rank among the top 10 most dangerous anime to search for online.

The Most Dangerous

Anime

to Search For Online



A Japanese art form with a global fan base, anime is often torrented or illegally downloaded in countries where certain series or versions are unavailable. As a result, anime websites are a major target for cybercriminals looking to lure victims to malware links. The most dangerous anime to search for is **Yowamushi Pedal**, a series about bicycle racing with several seasons of television and a live-action film adaptation, with **49.7%** of searches for the program containing potential malware.



URLs with Potential Malware

1

Yowamushi
Pedal

🐛 49.7%

2

Dragon Ball
Z Kai

🐛 46.6%

3

Aldnoah.
Zero

🐛 43.4%

4

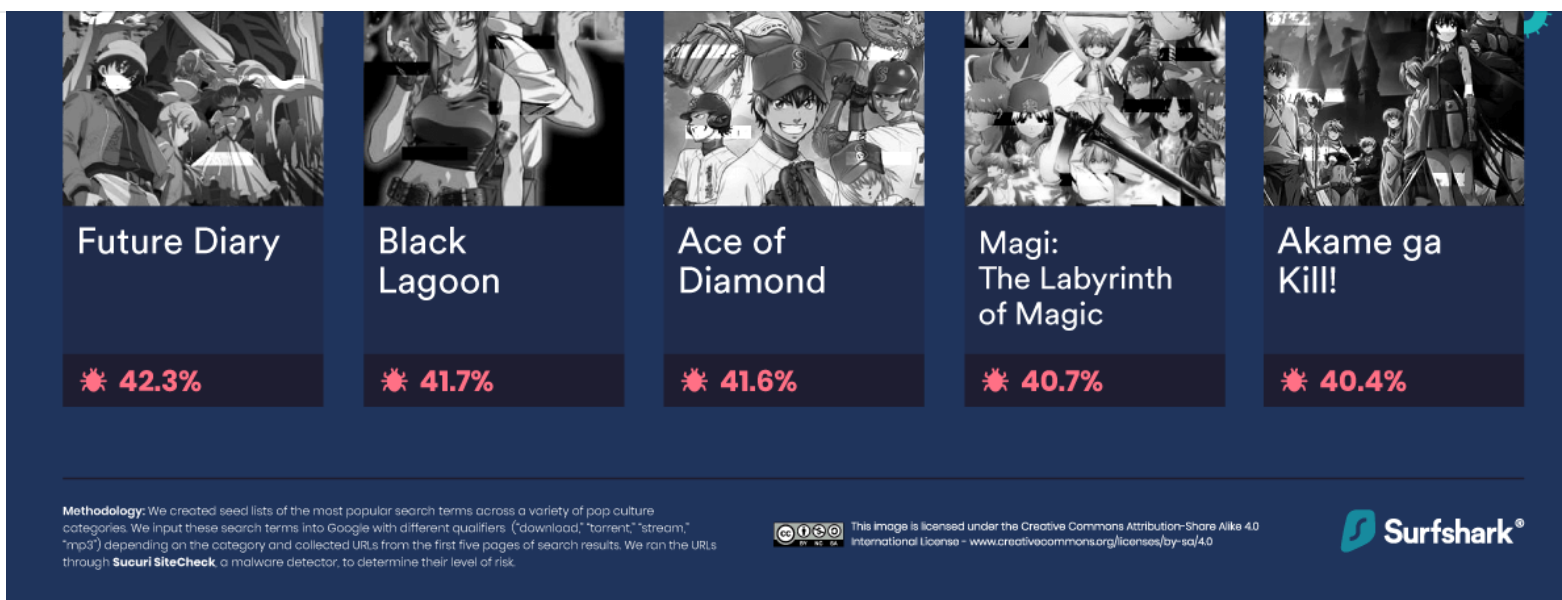
Rurouni
Kenshin

🐛 43.3%

5

Blast
Tempest

🐛 42.3%



[Click to see full size image](#)

Three Books Penned by Dan Brown are High-Risk Searches

Younger internet users are more likely to click on links containing malware, leading many cybercriminals to marry URLs with harmful downloads to search terms popular with children. This may be one reason why nearly half of all search results for *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold – a novel with a 14-year-old female protagonist **popular among teenage girls** – contain potential malware, the most of any book in our analysis. Other dangerous books to search for with young audiences include *Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer and *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling. Fans of Dan Brown may want to hold off on searching altogether, as three of the top 10 highest-risk searches are books penned by the *Da Vinci Code* author.

The Most Dangerous



Support

BOOKS

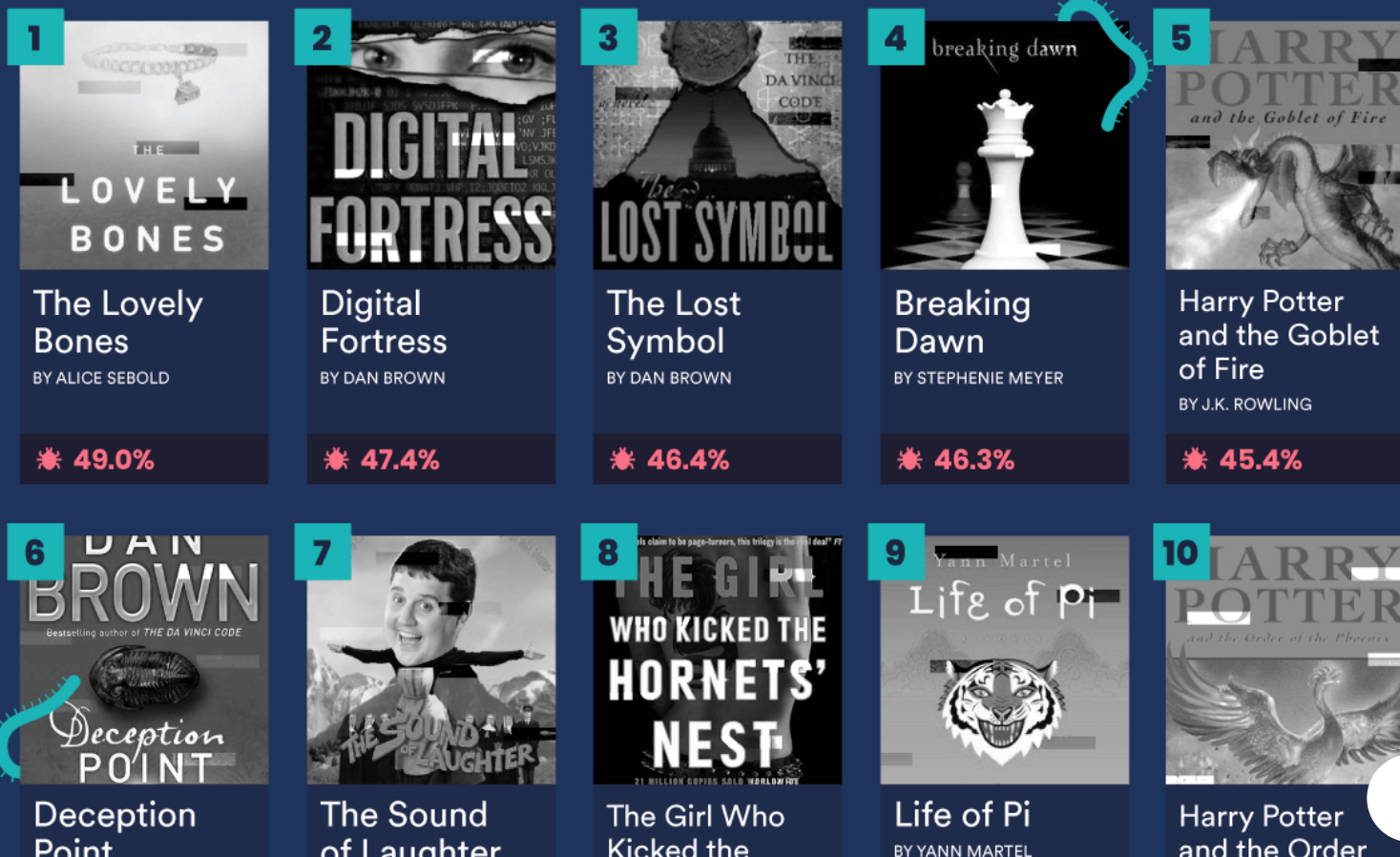
to Search For Online

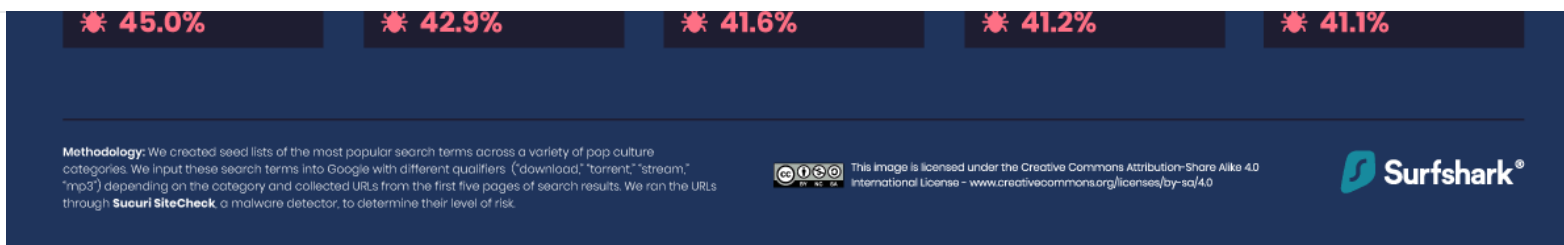


Books are increasingly being digitized and read online and, as a result, are the frequent target of cyberattackers. Some **49.0%** of search results for **The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold contain potential malware, the largest share of any book. And while hackers often attach malware to the most popular search terms, only 26.8% of search result URLs for The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown – the best-selling book of the 21st century – contain potential malware, the second smallest share of any book in our analysis.



URLs with Potential Malware





[Click to see full size image](#)

GTA V is 3rd Most Dangerous Game to Search For

With the rise of digital video game distribution – digital sales of PlayStation 4 and Xbox One games **surpassed physical sales** for the first time in 2020 – video game companies have taken strong measures to prevent online piracy. But while efforts to stem piracy may make video games less of a target for cybercriminals, downloadable mods – new in-game content that independent developers create and distribute to players – allow hackers a major opportunity to lure gamers to malware. The best-selling Grand Theft Auto V ranks as the third most dangerous video game to search for, with 43.5% of URL results containing potential malware. In 2015, **several popular GTA V mods were found to contain malware** that logged computer activity and sent and received data across the web.

The Most Dangerous

Games

to Search For Online

The rise of digital rights management tools has made it relatively difficult to pirate video games compared to movies

Support

results for **Mortal Kombat II** – a fighting game with hundreds of available mods – are likely to contain malware, the largest share of any game in our analysis.



URLs with Potential Malware

1



Mortal
Kombat 11

☀ 46.5%

2



Fall Guys

☀ 46.4%

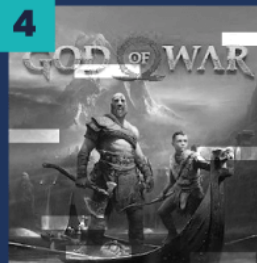
3



Grand Theft
Auto V

☀ 43.5%

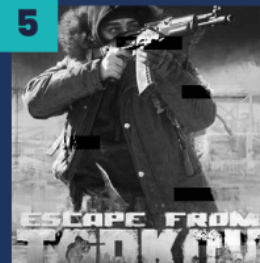
4



God of War

☀ 41.8%

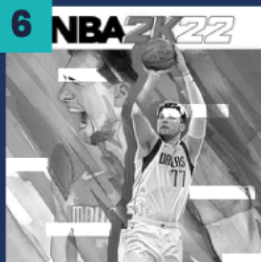
5



Escape From
Tarkov

☀ 41.8%

6



NBA 2K22

☀ 41.7%

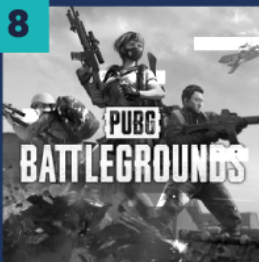
7



Titanfall 2

☀ 41.4%

8



PUBG

☀ 40.8%

9



Forza
Horizon 5

☀ 40.0%

10



Counter
Strike: GO

☀ 39.8%

Methodology: We created seed lists of the most popular search terms across a variety of pop culture categories. We input these search terms into Google with different qualifiers ("download," "torrent," "stream," "mp3") depending on the category and collected URLs from the first five pages of search results. We ran the URLs through **Sucuri SiteCheck**, a malware detector, to determine their level of risk.



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While music piracy has declined in concert with the proliferation of music streaming services, cyberattackers still use mp3 download links to lure internet users to malicious software. As a result, many of the most popular musical artists are also the most dangerous search terms. Drake, who has had **the most singles on the Billboard Hot 100 of any artist**, ranks as the 7th most dangerous artist to search for, with 41.7% of URL results containing potential malware. Musicians with younger fans, who are perhaps a little less clued-up on internet safety and more likely to click on malicious download links, may be particularly dangerous to search for.

The Most Dangerous Musicians to Search For Online



Billie Eilish is one of the most searched for artists on the internet – with more daily average Wikipedia pageviews than any musician in our analysis – and poses a relatively high risk in terms of malware. Some **47.1%** of searches for Billie Eilish contain potential malicious software, the largest share of any musician in this ranking.



URLs with Potential Malware

1



Billie Eilish

2



The Weeknd

3



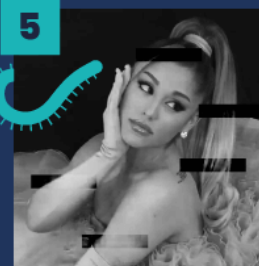
Eminem

4



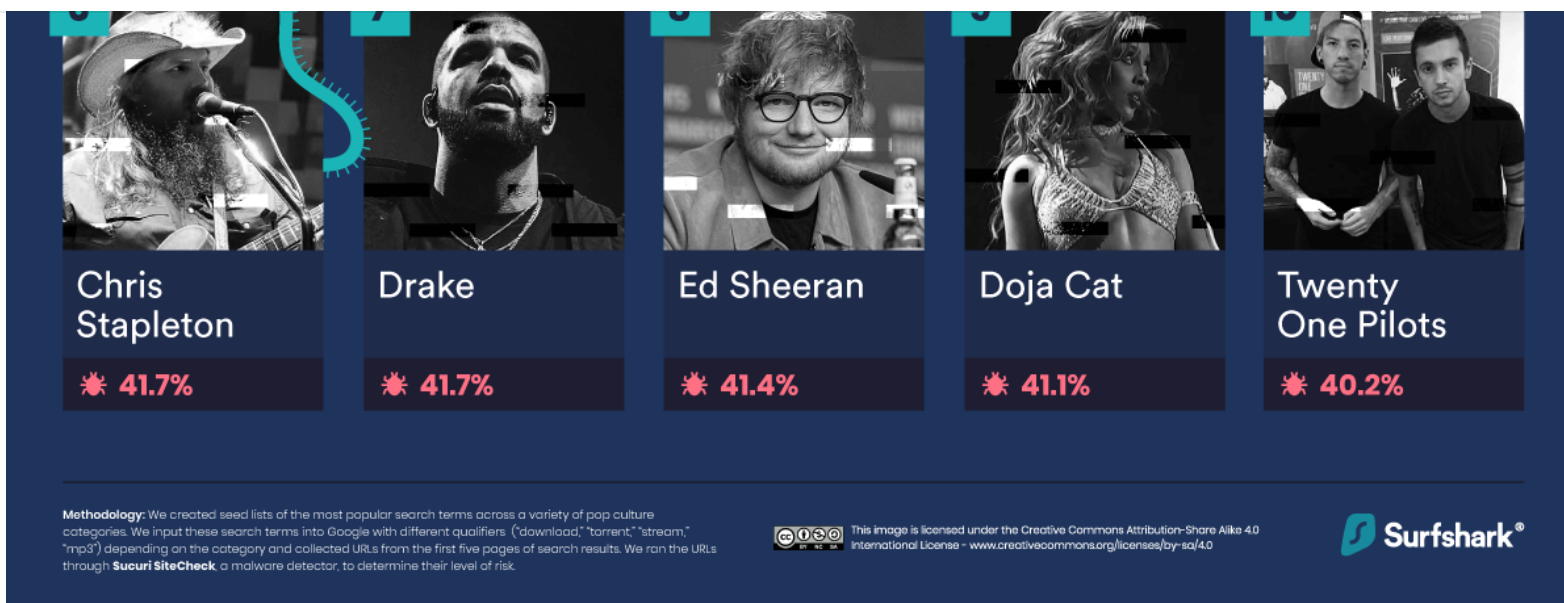
Justin Bieber

5



Ariana Grande

Support



[Click to see full size image](#)

No.1 Chart Hits Pose the Highest Malware Risk

While music piracy has declined in recent years, **more than one-third of music consumers still pirate music**, according to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry. The vast music piracy industry offers cybercriminals an opportunity to coax music consumers into clicking on malicious download links, attaching malware to some of the most popular songs of today. The 10 most dangerous songs to search for have collectively spent over 200 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100, and three of those songs – “Industry Baby” by Lil Nas X and Jack Harlow, “Stay” by The Kid LAROI and Justin Bieber, and “Good 4 U” by Olivia Rodrigo – reached No. 1 on the chart.

The Most Dangerous 🔍

Support

Songs

to Search For Online

Piracy is a major problem for the music industry, and a major opportunity for cybercriminals to use search results for popular songs to lure potential victims to links containing malicious software. Some **50.8%** of search results for **"Industry Baby"** by Lil Nas X and Jack Harlow contain potential malware, the most of any of the top 50 songs from 2021. Other dangerous songs to search for include "Thinking 'Bout You" By Dustin Lynch, "Levitating" by Dua Lipa, and "Cold Heart" by Elton John and Dua Lipa.



URLs with Potential Malware

1

Industry Baby

BY LIL NAS X AND JACK HARLOW

☀ **50.8%**

2

Thinking 'Bout You

BY DUSTIN LYNCH FEAT. LAUREN ALAINA OR MACKENZIE PORTER

☀ **47.9%**

3

Levitating

BY DUA LIPA

☀ **44.9%**

4

Cold Heart (PNAU Remix)

BY ELTON JOHN AND DUA LIPA

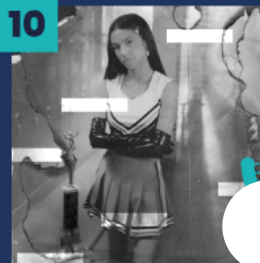
☀ **44.4%**

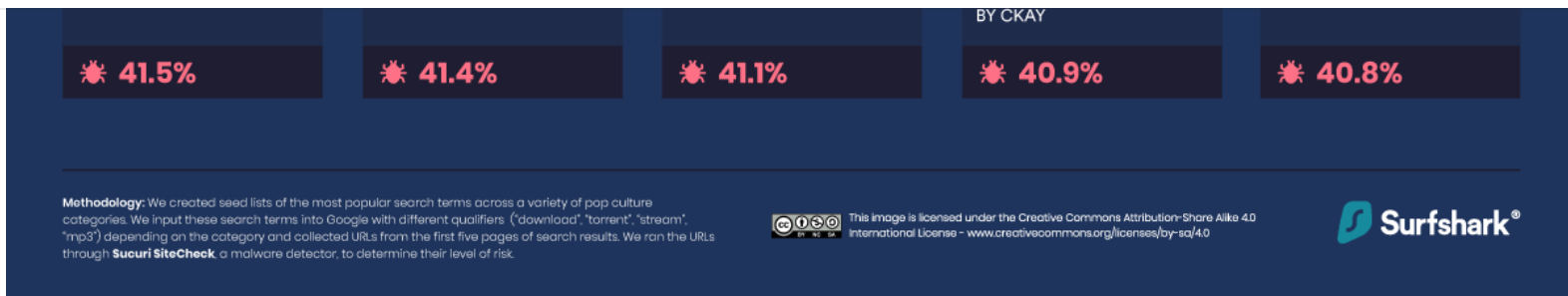
5

You Should Probably Leave

BY CHRIS STAPLETON

☀ **42.2%**

6**7****8****9****10**



[Click to see full size image](#)

The Most Dangerous Pop Culture Search Terms

Search terms can be dangerous for different reasons. Any entity whose search results are likely to provoke online actions like clicking a download link is likely to be a bigger target for hackers. Illegal streams of professional sports, video games with downloadable mods, or hard-to-find anime are all targets with a high likelihood of malware. Click through the table below to find out the most dangerous search terms across every category of pop culture.

Overall

Male Actors

Female Actors

Anime

Books

Games

Musicians

Movies

Songs

TV Shows

MLB Teams

NBA Teams

NFL Teams

Premier League Teams

SEARCH TERM



URLs with Potential Malware

Robert De Niro	54.1%
Jake Gyllenhaal	53.6%
Anthony Hopkins	52.6%
Kate Winslet	52.6%
Margot Robbie	52.0%
Tom Hanks	51.6%
Liam Neeson	51.0%
Rachel McAdams	51.0%
Industry Baby - Lil Nas X and Jack Harlow	51.0%

SHOW MORE



As malware attacks increase in both frequency and sophistication, knowing how to avoid malicious software becomes more important than ever. Hackers attach malware to search terms that are most likely to get traffic and attract users who take online actions like clicking on download links or divulging sensitive information.

Knowing the risks behind some of the most popular Google searches and what hackers are targeting is an essential part of online safety that all savvy internet users should know. But there's also actions you can take to ensure you're browsing the internet in a safe way:

1. If you're searching for news, stick to trusted sources

Video game releases, upcoming movies and celebrity gossip offer fertile ground for cyber criminals to exploit search engines by taking advantage of trending news stories. When looking for information on breaking news, make sure you only click on results from known websites.

2. Avoid clicking on HTTP websites (http://)

Every URL that begins with HTTP uses a basic type of "hypertext transfer protocol" created in the early 1990s. Nowadays, HTTP is considered outdated and you'd be best to avoid clicking on http:// websites as this is an unencrypted internet protocol that could be intercepted.

The alternative are HTTPS (or https://) websites that guarantee an encrypted connection where your data is secure. Before clicking on a search result, have a quick glance at the URL to ensure you're only clicking HTTPS sites.

such updates is that they open the door to exploits where hackers take advantage of a vulnerability to breach the security of your browser. It is imperative that you keep your browser always up-to-date.

4. **Use a reputable adblocker to stop malicious software**

You might think of adblockers as a way to block annoying popups, but they are also excellent tools for blocking links to deceptive websites and downloads of malicious software. If you're a Surfshark user, make sure to activate **CleanWeb** to block ads and malware before they can load.

5. **Consider using an antivirus**

A good, reputable **antivirus** will not only prevent malware from injecting itself into your device but also help remove the malicious software if it's already installed.

For more information on internet safety, read our best **10 tips to browse safely** and protect yourself online.

Surfshark VPN



Other products



Surfshark



Programs



Support

Tools



Support



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Linux



Chrome