

OPSEC HOT TIP

December 2023

The holiday season is here, so sit down and watch your favorite Christmas movies. Some watch the greatly debated Die Hard and many will watch one of the all-time greatest Christmas movies, Home Alone. Home Alone is not only a classic, but also a good example of OPSEC in action. Look below for a few examples of how we can see OPSEC throughout the movie.

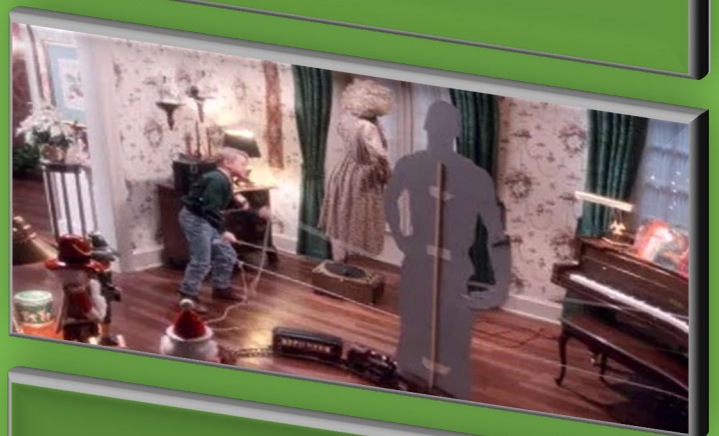
Our first example is at the beginning of the movie and a great example of Social Engineering when Harry dresses up like a police officer. He goes into the home and asks questions. Mr. McAllister tells him all the family plans and safety features.



Harry talking to Marv in the van, "Check it out, all the houses with nobody home have automatic timers on their lights. And I have it all figured out. Number 664 will be going on, right about NOW..." They confirmed the houses were empty by observing patterns, specifically the timing of the Christmas lights.



Unfortunately for the 'Wet Bandits', Kevin's security was just a little bit better. He had disguises, deception, and his physical security was flawless.



The next time you watch Home Alone, like I know all of you do, try to think about OPSEC lessons that can be learned from it. And by the way, be careful of what you throw away!



Happy Holidays!