

# Organic bodies versus digital bodies: the differences between hacktivism and cyberterrorism

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## **Abstract**

The following research aims at identifying the differences between cyberterrorism and hacktivism. In traditional media, both terms have been used as synonymous. Furthermore, in academia there is still no consensus upon the definition of both of these terms. As a result, there is still an unclear understanding of both phenomena.

Through concept analysis, the study discusses different definitions and approaches to both ideas. Authors of the conceptualisation range from civil society, academics and formal institutions. After identifying the key components of hacktivism and cyberterrorism, through a qualitative case study, three different net disruption cases are studied. The cases selected are: the digital Zapatistas and FloodNet, Ferizi's hacking trial and Operation Payback and Avenge Assange. All of the cases were selected due to their notoriety, impact and importance in the field.

Thus, this study seeks to contribute to the current literature and discussion about net disruption, through a critical point of view.