

# The Social Network: The loneliness of the Linux-based programmer

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Creation myths need a devil. So says one of The Social Network's minor characters in its final scene, unwittingly revealing both the film's greatest strength and its greatest weakness in but five words.

This story of the people behind the largest social and cultural phenomenon of our times is hugely compelling and clever, but one that lacks either hero or villain.

The Social Network begins in late 2003 with a jilted, drunken Mark Zuckerberg (the brilliant Jesse Eisenberg) simultaneously slandering his recent ex on an online blog and hacking Harvard college websites for pictures of girls to rate according to attractiveness. The resulting website, Facemash, goes viral in hours, crashes Harvard's network, pisses a lot of people off and garners plenty of attention for Zuckerberg. The story of Facebook plays out in much the same way. After introducing a few more of the key players, the film settles down into a steady pace until it reaches its inevitable conclusion.

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