

Don't Be Evil

by

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Based on

"In the Plex" by Steven Levy & "I'm Feeling Lucky" by
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CLOSE ON GOOGLE SEARCH BOX

The letters "N-i-k-o" are typed into the search engine. "Nikola Tesla" pops up as the top suggestion. The cursor clicks on it.

INSERT:

The WIKIPEDIA ENTRY for Tesla.

The froggy soft voice of LARRY PAGE, weakened from vocal cord paralysis, narrates.

LARRY (V.O.)
Nikola Tesla.

OVER IMAGES and WORDS from the Wikipedia article.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Inventor. Scientist. Genius, whose ideas changed the world. And a real shit businessman.

INSERT:

PICTURE of Thomas Edison with the creepy talking doll he invented.

SLARRY (V.O.)
This is Thomas Edison. Engineer of Modern Life and inventor of this creepy talking doll, among other things.

The creepy talking doll talks creepily.

LARRY (V.O.)
Also, noted asshole. Seriously, just ask Topsy the elephant.

INSERT:

YOUTUBE VIDEO: Topsy the elephant being electrocuted.

LARRY (V.O.)
Edison electrocuted her as a publicity stunt to prove that Alternating Current was more dangerous than Direct Current. He also filmed it... you know, for posterity. Anyway...

INT. THOMAS EDISON'S OFFICE - 1880S - DAY

NIKOLA TESLA (late-20s) walks in. THOMAS EDISON (late-30s) sits at his desk.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
One day Tesla goes to Edison and says...

Larry does the voices as the actors mouth the words.

TESLA

Hey, Edison, I think I can improve your motors and generators in a really cool way and it'll be super great for humanity.

EDISON

Wow. Yeah, Tesla. That sounds amazing. I'll totally give you fifty-thousand dollars if you can do that.

TESLA

Awesome. Should we get that in writing?

EDISON

Nah. I'm good for it.

TESLA

Yeah. Cool. Cool. I trust you.

INT. EDISON'S LAB - 1880S - DAY

Tesla stands triumphantly looking at the camera as motors and generators hum behind him.

VFX: Animated graph shows "Motor/Generator Efficiency" growing.

LARRY (V.O.)
Tesla does it. He increases productivity and saves Edison a ton of money.

INT. THOMAS EDISON'S OFFICE - 1880S - DAY

Telsa bursts in.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
So he goes back to Edison and says...

TESLA

Hey, Edison, about that fifty grand you owe me?

LARRY (V.O.)
And Edison says...

EDISON
Tesla. I'm not giving you fifty grand.
I'm an asshole, remember?

EXT. EDISON'S LAB - 1880S - DAY

Tesla storms away from the building carrying his things.

LARRY (V.O.)
So Tesla quits.

EXT. TESLA ELECTRIC LIGHT & MANUFACTURING - 1880S - DAY

Tesla stands triumphantly in front of the building. A sign reads "Tesla Electric Light & Manufacturing."

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Starts his own company.

INT. TESLA ELECTRIC LIGHT & MANUFACTURING - 1880S - DAY

Tesla pitches some moonshot ideas for: Anti-Gravity Airships, Peace/Death Ray, Weather Control, teleportation.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He wanted to shoot for the moon. Change the world. Solve huge problems with radical new technologies, he didn't care about short-term profits.

REVERSE ON: Skeptical-looking OLD BANKER TYPES look at Tesla like he just served them a turd for a snack.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But his investors didn't want moonshots.
They wanted low risk, incremental change.

EXT. TESLA ELECTRIC LIGHT & MANUFACTURING - 1880S - DAY

Tesla storms out, carrying his personal belongings.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They forced him out of his own company, leaving him penniless.

EXT. DITCH - 1880S - DAY

Tesla, furious and humiliated, digs ditches.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He dug ditches for two dollars a day. But
he'd go on to invent amazing things...

As Tesla digs we **INTERCUT WITH:**

INSERT:

STOCK IMAGES and FOOTAGE of Tesla's inventions.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Alternating current, lasers, fluorescents,
remote control, wireless communication.

BACK TO:

EXT. DITCH - 1880S - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Tesla in raggedy clothes, digs a ditch.

LARRY (V.O.)

But he could never commercialize anything.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY PARK - 1930S - DAY

OLD TESLA (80s), dressed in clothes from the turn of the century while the bustling city passes him by, feeds pigeons.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He died a penniless, lonely, old man...

CUT TO:

INT. PAGE FAMILY STATION WAGON - 1985 - DAY

A young LARRY '85 (12) finishes reading the last page of Tesla's autobiography "My Inventions."

A tear rolls down his face, he wipes it away.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That's twelve-year-old me.

CARL PAGE catches Larry '85 crying in the rearview mirror.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And my parents, Carl and Gloria.

Carl taps GLORIA PAGE in the passenger seat and motions for her to look in the back.

Carl turns the Grateful Dead down on the tape player.

GLORIA

It's sad, huh? What happened to Tesla...

LARRY '85

He had so many ideas. He could have changed the world.

CARL

Well, sometimes it's not enough to be a genius. You've gotta be good at the business part too.

Larry '85 gazes out the window. Determined not to fall into the same traps that Tesla did.

LARRY (V.O.)

And just like that my entire life's mission was encapsulated in this one childhood moment. You know, like in those reductive Hollywood bio pics that force people's lives into a nice three act structure--

ERIC (PRE-LAP)

Larry...

CUT TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - DAY

A face pokes up from behind a laptop. This is LARRY PAGE (36), a socially awkward genius with a messy salt-and-pepper mop of hair, who has difficulty maintaining eye contact.

A pock-faced man in glasses and a stuffy suit looks at Larry. He's ERIC SCHMIDT (54). He makes eye contact just fine.

ERIC

Larry, can we have your attention?

Larry shuts his laptop. He's been reading an article "Where are the flying cars we were promised?"

ERIC (CONT'D)

(satisfied he has Larry's attention)

Now then. Heather?

CAMERA PANS to HEATHER ADKINS (32), short red hair, wearing a "Do Know Evil!" T-shirt, and not bothering too much with makeup or any of your bullshit.

HEATHER

Well-

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up around her face and text identifies her as "*Heather Adkins, Head of Google Information Security.*"

LARRY (V.O.)

Heather Adkins. Head of Google Information Security.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOOGLEPLEX - DAY

TABLEAU: Heather and her INFORMATION SECURITY TEAM look at the camera, arms crossed. It looks like they're posing for a Wired Magazine photo shoot.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Right now it's a team of a few dozen people.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry looks a little embarrassed, turns to camera, and talks to us Ferris Bueller-style.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Which, in retrospect, may not have been enough to safeguard a large portion of the world's personal data.

UNFREEZE.

HEATHER

We've been hacked.

LARRY

(whispers to CAMERA)

I'm Larry Page, by the way. I cofounded a little company called Google.

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up around his face and text identifies him as "*Larry Page, Co-founder Google.*"

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

And by little I mean, one of the most valuable and innovative companies in the world. Perhaps you've heard of it?

INT. GOOGLE MANUFACTURING PLANT - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

SMILING WORKERS, wearing clean-room "bunny" suits in a Foxconn-like assembly line, build server components as Larry walks through. It looks like a slick corporate promotional video.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Google is the number one manufacturer of computers in the world. Not computers for sale...

INT. GOOGLE SERVER FARM - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Servers as far as the eye can see. It looks like something out of a sci-fi movie. Larry passes a sign that reads, "Voldemort Industries."

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Computers made by Google for Google. Servers to hold all the world's data. Your data.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Smiling GOOGLE USER #1 sends an email from his Gmail account on his smart phone.

LARRY (V.O.)

So we can keep you connected...

CAMERA FOLLOWS Smiling GOOGLE USER #2 who coasts past on her vintage Schwinn bicycle. Google Maps on her phone. **VFX:** A blue dot hovering over her head follows her to her red-dot destination.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)

Get you where you want to go...

CAMERA LANDS on Smiling GOOGLE USER #3. She types in the Google Search box. Clicks.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And find the information you need when
you need it...

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE SERVER FARM - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Larry walks down an aisle of servers.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Among other products.

VFX: A momentary flash lists all the hundreds of Google products.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Google is all the world's information
organized and made universally accessible
and useful. A modern-day Library of
Alexandria. Something Nikola Tesla might
have thought of if he were alive today.

ERIC (PRE-LAP)
LARRY.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry turns back to the meeting.

LARRY
Yep. Listening. I am.

Eric frowns.

ERIC
What did Heather just say?

LARRY
She saaaaaid... the hack originated from
the Beijing office.

ERIC
And?

LARRY
Aaaaaand...

CUT TO:

INT. GOOGLE CHINA OFFICES - 2009 - DAY

It's an uncanny imitation of the Mountain View offices. A Chinese Googler, XUMEI FAN (30s), long hair with straight blunt bangs and quick to a smile, works at her desk.

LARRY (V.O.)

The hackers used Facebook and Twitter to identify a useful target.

INT. CHINESE HACKING FACILITY - 2009 - DAY

An ARMY OF HACKERS type on computers. HACKER #1 scours Xumei's Facebook page.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They gathered knowledge about her friends and colleagues.

We see the Hackers doing what Larry describes.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then they set up a phony photo-sharing website pulling pictures from Facebook, and sent her a link via Microsoft Instant Messenger, of course, that appeared to be from another Googler.

INT. GOOGLE CHINA OFFICES - 2009 - DAY

Xumei clicks on the link.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

When she clicked the link...

CRASH ZOOM into the computer. **VFX: MALWARE** infects the system.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The trap sprang, injecting her computer with malicious software...

INT. CHINESE HACKING FACILITY - 2009 - DAY

Hackers scream and high five.

SLOW MOTION:

Like football players dousing the coach after winning the Super Bowl, SEVERAL HACKERS dump a cooler of Gatorade over Hacker #1's head in triumph.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Allowing the attackers to take control of
her computer and secretly breach Google's
network.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry looks at Eric.

LARRY
Did I miss anything?

Eric gives Larry a hard stare, turns to go back to the meeting, looks back at Larry, trying to catch him talking to camera again. Larry looks innocently back.

ERIC
(turns to Heather)
Why didn't our security systems detect it?

LARRY
(turns to CAMERA)
It all started with a dream.

CUT TO:

INT. LARRY'S STANFORD DORM ROOM - 1995 - NIGHT

LARRY PAGE '95 (22), no salt and pepper in his bad haircut, wakes from a dream.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Like an actual wake-up-in-the-middle-of-the-night-with-an-idea dream.

LARRY '95
Download the entire Internet and analyze the backlinks.

Larry '95 scribbles down a note on a post-it.

LARRY (V.O.)
Backlinks. Before Google, search engine's would do things like...

INSERT:

VFX: ANIMATION illustrates Larry's explanation.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Count how many times a search term appeared on a webpage to rank their results. That worked fine until a few million websites exploded into a few hundred million. It was a mess. A disaster. Chaos.

BACK TO:

INT. LARRY'S STANFORD DORM ROOM - 1995 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry '95 looks up from his notes.

LARRY '95

Backlinks are the key.

WIDER. Larry in foreground, Larry '95 behind him.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

You see, backlinks are like citations in an academic paper.

INSERT:

VFX: ANIMATION of an academic paper. **CRASH ZOOMS** and **WHIP-PANS** from citation to citation.

LARRY (V.O.)

The more times one paper is cited by other papers, the more important it is. Also, if someone influential like Feynman or Hawking cites the paper, the more important it is.

BACK TO:

INT. LARRY'S STANFORD DORM ROOM - 1995 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Same with websites. More backlinks, better backlinks, more important. The higher it shows up in the search results.

Larry '95 finishes writing his notes.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

That's it. That was my big idea. It made the internet you know today.

LARRY '95
I shall call it...

INSERT:

A WEB PAGE for the pre-Google search engine. There's a picture of Larry's hand (dirty cuticles, black arm hair, and all) on someone's naked back. Over the hand are red letters spelling out...

LARRY '95 (V.O.)
Backrub!

BACK TO:

INT. LARRY'S STANFORD DORM ROOM - 1995 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE
Larry shakes his head at Larry '95.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
So branding wasn't my strong suit. Or
haircuts apparently. But it worked.

CUT TO:

EXT. EXCITE TECH CAMPUS - 1997 - DAY

Larry stands in the center of a large grass circle bordered by stark white gravel and pointy cypress trees. Squat blue and white buildings with the "Excite" logo on top await him.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Let's do a comparison between Backrub and
an early search engine we tried to sell
the technology to.

INSERT:

COMPUTER SCREEN circa '97. One window has the Excite search engine, another has Backrub.

LARRY (V.O.)
Let's look up the word "Internet."

"Internet" is typed into the Excite engine. The results are...

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
Excite gives us some Chinese web pages
where the English word "Internet" stands
out among a jumble of Chinese characters.
Not very helpful.

"Internet" is typed into Backrub.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now let's try Backrub... The first two results are pages that tell you how to use browsers.

BACK TO:

EXT. EXCITE TECH CAMPUS - 1997 - DAY - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry in the middle of the grass circle.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Pretty good, right?

CUT TO:

INT. EXCITE TECH CAMPUS - 1997 - DAY

GEORGE BELL (30s), CEO of Excite, sits at his desk in a suit.

GEORGE BELL

Yeah. It's too good.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him.

LARRY (V.O.)

George Bell, CEO of Excite.

LARRY '97 sits opposite Bell.

UNFREEZE.

LARRY '97

Too good? What does that even mean?

GEORGE BELL

Look, our ad revenue comes from people staying on the site. If we instantly give people the information they want, they'll leave instantly.

SERGEY '97 (O.S.)

Wait a minute...

CAMERA PANS to SERGEY BRIN '97, a slightly abrasive math whiz with messy bed head and tired eyes.

SERGEY '97 (CONT'D)

In order to be competitive your product needs to be worse than your competition?

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him.

LARRY (V.O.)

That's Sergey. We created Backrub together.

UNFREEZE.

GEORGE BELL

Yes, in order to be competitive my product needs to be worse than my competition. Twenty percent worse is the sweet spot.

SERGEY '97

That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard.

GEORGE BELL

That's business. Twerp.

LARRY '97

I don't think you understand the importance of Search on the Internet.

GEORGE BELL

I don't think you understand the real world. There's no money in Search. It's a loser. Now get the fuck out of my office.

REVERSE ON: Larry '97, undone. A Tesla in a world of Edisons.

EXT. EXCITE TECH CAMPUS - 1997 - DAY

Larry '97 and Sergey '97 storm out of the building, Larry '97 looking a lot like a frustrated Nikola Tesla.

SERGEY '97 (PRE-LAP)

Maybe we should just give it away.

INT. COMPUTER LAB, STANFORD - 1997 - NIGHT

Larry '97 sits in front of his monitor. The BackRub search page has been replaced by a minimalist white page with "Google!" written in blue-red-yellow-green letters over a gray search box.

LARRY '97

How?

SERGEY '97 (O.S.)

A non-profit?

The voice of Sergey '97 comes from under the desk, where he loads drives stuffed into a server rack they made out of Legos.

LARRY '97

Donations would never buy enough server space.

Larry '97 flips the switch on the Google crawler. Sergey '97 climbs out from under the desk.

SERGEY '97

Well, we can't just do it ourselves.

LARRY '97

Why not?

SERGEY '97

You mean start a company?

LARRY '97

Yeah.

SERGEY '97

Because corporations are evil.

LARRY '97

Not all corporations.

SERGEY '97

Just successful ones.

LARRY '97

It's not enough to invent things if nobody uses them.

SERGEY '97

Corporations are at odds with the public good. Look at Standard Oil. Microsoft. Monsanto.

LARRY '97

Someday everyone will get information from the Internet. Whoever controls search is going to control access. Who would you rather trust with that responsibility? Some suit? Some government official? Or us?

SERGEY '97

Definitely us. But can a company, any company, whose sole reason for existence is growth and profit, be trustworthy?

LARRY '97

Why not?

SERGEY '97

Other than the fact that it's never been done? How about organizational theory?

Larry gives him a look.

SERGEY '97 (CONT'D)

Bureaucratic bullshit.

LARRY '97

Look at grad school. Stanford takes a cut of the profits of innovation they subsidize and they use that money to subsidize more innovation. Why can't we use that model for a business?

The idealism hangs in the air for a moment.

SERGEY '97

You really want to give up on our PhDs?

LARRY '97

Not give up. Just... postpone. Once the business is up and running we'll come back and finish.

SERGEY '97

A company that values morals over profits.

LARRY '97

A force for good in the world.

SERGEY '97

And we won't sell ads?

LARRY '97

Ugh. Definitely no ads.

The scene **PAUSES**.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL:

EXT. GOOGLE CAMPUS - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

The previous scene is a paused YOUTUBE VIDEO on Larry's phone.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

So, we decided to start our own company. An unconventional company.

Larry walks through the beautiful Mountain View Campus.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Built by engineers, for engineers.

INT. GOOGLE ENGINEERING BULLPEN - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Larry walks past a bunch of Google ENGINEERS tinkering with hardware and code.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Built for innovation. Backed by half a trillion dollars and the most computational power the world has ever seen.

Google's beleaguered HR head, STACY SULLIVAN (30s), falls in line beside him.

STACY SULLIVAN
Larry, we just lost another engineer to Facebook...

Larry speed walks away.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
But that's not all!

INT. CHARLIE'S CAFE - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

The Google cafeteria.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
We've got free food!

A puckish engineer, AMIT PATEL (30s), tries to get Larry's attention.

AMIT
Hey, Larry! Can I borrow you for a minute?

Larry ignores him.

INT. GOOGLE MASSAGE ROOM - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

SUSAN WOJCICKI (40s), VP of Product Management, naked under a towel, gets a massage.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Massage rooms.

SUSAN WOJCICKI
Oh, Larry--

Larry motions for her to lie back down and relax.

INT. HALLWAY - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Susan chases Larry out the door and down the hallway, gripping a towel. Larry passes a DRY CLEANING facility.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Dry cleaning.

SUSAN WOJCICKI
Steve Jobs says we stole iPhone technology for Android.

He passes a DAY CARE full of screaming children.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Day care.

Stacy Sullivan joins Susan in chasing after Larry.

STACY SULLIVAN
Larry!

Larry passes a FREE TECH station where a GOOGLER is being given a laptop.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Free tech!

Amit joins the chase.

AMIT
Larry, the FTC launched an antitrust--

LARRY
And so much more!

Larry breaks into a run.

INT. GOOGLE GYM - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Larry runs past sporty Googlers, working out.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Gyms.

DOUG EDWARDS on the rowing machine--

DOUG EDWARDS
Larry!

Larry dives out a window.

EXT. PARKING LOT - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Larry lands, tucks and rolls, and then jumps up in the middle of a Roller Hockey game. Susan, Stacy, et al rush to the window.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Roller hockey.

MONTAGE:

QUICK SHOTS of our tour guide Larry on the Google campus showing off the following perks.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Volleyball. Doctors. Endless pools.

A mob has formed looking for Larry.

STACY SULLIVAN

Larry sees the gaggle of Googlers chasing after him and runs.

LARRY
Talk to Eric!
(to CAMERA)
It's a nerd's paradise. Where you work.
Where you play...

The mob runs past a corridor. Larry pokes his head out of a bathroom door.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Where all your needs are met!

THE SHOTS become more dystopian as glassy-eyed Googlers who haven't seen the sun in years type code under increasingly harsh lighting and ominous camera angles.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
You never have to leave. You never want to leave. You never have to stop working--

ERIC (PRE-LAP)
LARRY.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Eric glares at Larry. Larry kind of shrugs.

LARRY
Yeah, I totally wasn't paying attention that time.

Eric sighs.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION circle pops up and identifies him.

LARRY (V.O.)
This is Eric. Schmidt.

Larry turns to camera.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
He replaced me as CEO of Google. But it's fine. I don't mind. Really. I prefer it this way. Eric's a good guy.

INSERT:

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH of Eric. **CRASH ZOOM** on a corporate photo of Eric in a suit.

LARRY (V.O.)
Even if he does wear a suit.

CRASH ZOOM on a picture of Eric at Burning Man in a ridiculous top hat, mirrored vest, and goggles.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
And wears THIS to Burning Man...

INSERT:

Eric's INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT. An unflattering picture of Eric in a bathing suit with bikini clad twenty-something MODELS draped on him. These pictures are real. You can Google them.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
And wears these young ladies on his
Instagram...

INSERT:

QUICK TABLEAUS: women in various intimate poses with Eric: a BRUNETTE WOMAN at Burning Man, a DARK-HAIRED VIETNAMESE WOMAN at a swanky Manhattan restaurant, a BLONDE WOMAN walking along the Croisette in Cannes, and a REDHEADED WOMAN sunbathing on Eric's yacht.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
And brings these ladies on vacation when
his wife can't make it.

INSERT:

NEWS FOOTAGE of Eric being interviewed by a JOURNALIST.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
And even though he says things like this
to journalists...

ERIC
There is what I call the creepy line. The Google policy on a lot of things is to get right up to the creepy line and not cross it.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

The scene still in FREEZE FRAME.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Other than all that stuff he is great and I totally don't mind that he's CEO and I'm totally not dead inside and I don't want to talk about it anymore.

Larry turns back to Eric.

UNFREEZE.

Eric finishes his sigh. Larry looks to Heather.

HEATHER

The trail dead ends in Taiwan. A company called Era Digital Media.

LARRY

So what's the damage?

HEATHER

We don't know yet. It looks like the computer in the Beijing office remotely accessed a computer here in Mountain View belonging to Ms. Lai.

Everyone in the room looks at RANI LAI (20s), fresh out of law school suddenly thrust in the middle of an international incident. She smiles sheepishly and waves.

RANI

Hi.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies her.

LARRY (V.O.)

Rani Lai. Actually, not really. She's a composite character but one I'm sure you'll grow to love.

UNFREEZE.

Everyone looks back at Heather.

HEATHER

From Rani's computer the attackers made a beeline for LERS and queried a bunch of Chinese names.

There's a silence in the room. Larry turns to the camera.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

You're probably wondering what a LERS is...

LOWER THIRD: *"Law Enforcement Request System"* types out.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
You see, after 9/11 there was this thing
called...

INSERT:

FOOTAGE of Congress passing the Patriot Act.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The Patriot Act.

INSERT:

QUICK SHOTS of law enforcement requests, pictures of
suspected criminals and spies.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And now every year we get tens of thousands
of FISA requests, search warrants, and
other terrifying demands from government
agencies for user data on suspected
criminals, terrorists, and spies.

PICTURES of journalists, activists, and Gen. David Patreaus
frowning.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And the occasional journalist,
activist, or Four-Star General.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry still talking to camera.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
So we built an online encrypted system to
provide access to user data.

ERIC
LERS? The system for NSA, and FBI
surveillance requests? We're sure?

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Well. I guess that was a quicker way to
give you the same exposition.

CAMERA PANS to DAVID DRUMMOND (40s), one of the "grown-ups"
in the room but just Googley enough for Larry and Sergey.

DAVID

Oh, yeah.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him.

LARRY (V.O.)

David Drummond. Chief Legal officer and
Google's very first lawyer.

UNFREEZE.

DAVID

We're sure.

ERIC

Shit.

The room grows quiet. Rani raises her hand.

RANI

Um...

Everyone looks at her again.

RANI (CONT'D)

This might be a dumb question but who
would do this?

ERIC

The question isn't who did it so much as how
do we patch it up as quickly as possible.

HEATHER

The attack hit our Beijing office first.
The Taiwanese servers it came from are most
likely a proxy. It could be the Chinese.

ERIC

Oh, God. Do we have to tell Sergey?

SERGEY (O.S.)

Tell me what?

Everyone turns to see Sergey, looking ridiculous in lycra
bike shorts and web-toed shoes, ride in on a weird
elliptical bicycle.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Sergey's Russian.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIN APARTMENT, SOVIET UNION - 1977 - NIGHT

SOVIET POLICE rummage through drawers, file cabinets. GENIA BRIN holds her six-year-old son, SERGEY '77, as he cries with his arms around her neck. His father MICHAEL, sits stoic.

LARRY (V.O.)

He spent his childhood living under government suppression of information in the Soviet Union.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry scrolls through YOUTUBE "RELATED VIDEOS" on his phone.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

It's made him uncomfortable with Google doing business in countries with authoritarian communist regimes...

Larry presses play on a YOUTUBE VIDEO entitled "Google China Meeting '04."

ZOOM INTO THE YOUTUBE VIDEO:

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2004 - DAY

Sergey '04, Larry '04, Eric '04, David '04, and the rest of the GOOGLE OPERATING COMMITTEE '04 sit around a table.

SERGEY '04

I'm uncomfortable doing business with this authoritarian communist regime.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

He's the moral conscience of Google.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOOGLE MASSAGE ROOM - 1999 - DAY

MASSAGE THERAPIST opens the door to the massage room to find Sergey '99 having sex with a FEMALE GOOGLER on the massage table. They stop and look up like deer in headlights.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

When he's not having sex with employees in the massage room.

MASSAGE THERAPIST
I'll come back.

The Massage Therapist closes the door.

SERGEY '99
(a beat)
You good?

FEMALE GOOGLER
Yeah. Just finish.

INT. GOOGLEPLEX - CHARLIE'S CAFE - 2001 - DAY

The first Google cafeteria. Fifteen Googlers sit around drinking smoothies in the background. *We won't freeze frame on all of them, but GOOGLE FACE RECOGNITION CIRCLES will pop up and identify them when they're featured.*

Larry in foreground.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
You see, here at Google, we have an
unofficial motto...

CHARLIE AYERS, Google's Head Chef, turns a high-powered blender on to make a smoothie, interrupting Larry. Larry gives him a look. Charlie turns the blender off.

CHARLIE
Sorry.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
You see, here at Google, we have an
unofficial motto...

PAUL BUCHHEIT (30s) sits with his arms crossed, bored with this corporate bullshit.

PAUL BUCHHEIT
Don't be evil.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Maybe you've noticed it's the name of the movie?

PAUL BUCHHEIT
Isn't all of this covered by "Don't be evil?"

Everyone laughs.

LARRY
 (to CAMERA)
 This guy just blurted it out during a lame meeting I didn't attend to hammer out our company's corporate values.

Stacy stands at a whiteboard with a bunch of words like "Respect," "Integrity," and "Excellence" written on it.

STACY SULLIVAN
 (hurt by Larry's narration)
 This is my job, Larry.

PAUL BUCHHEIT
 No, really. Do we want to be another Evil Corporate Empire crushing innovation and screwing users?

Paul holds up a newspaper with the headline "Microsoft Anti-Trust" with a big photo of Bill Gates. Paul has drawn devil horns on him. There are some giggles.

MARISSA (O.C.)
 Um...

CAMERA PANS to MARISSA MAYER (30s), probably smarter than them all, but too conventional for this unconventional company.

MARISSA (CONT'D)
 We can't have "Don't Be Evil" as one of our corporate values. If it got out, we'd never live it down.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies her.

LARRY (V.O.)
 Ah, Marissa Meyer. SVP of Google. Also, future former CEO of Yahoo. Also, my future former girlfriend...

UNFREEZE.

Larry is now next to Marissa.

LARRY
 (to CAMERA)
 If you want to know more about her you're going to have to wait for the Yahoo movie. This one's mine.

Marissa looks to CAMERA and smiles through gritted teeth.

STACY SULLIVAN

Can't we phrase it as "Do the right thing" or something more positive?

AMIT (O.C.)

No.

CAMERA PANS to Amit, sitting next to Paul.

AMIT (CONT'D)

It's got to be: "Don't be evil."

Stacy reluctantly writes "Don't be evil" in tiny letters amongst all the other things on the whiteboard.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

It might have ended there, just one of any number of things on an otherwise timid list of company values.

Amit stares at the words, looking inspired.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Except THIS GUY took it upon himself to write...

CUT TO:

INT. GOOGLEPLEX - VARIOUS - 2001 - NIGHT

Amit writes "Don't Be Evil" in a Tolkein-esque script in permanent marker on every whiteboard.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

"Don't be evil" on every whiteboard on campus.

AMIT PATEL

(smiles to CAMERA)

In permanent marker.

Amit continues writing "Don't Be Evil" on a whiteboard in the background while Larry in the foreground talks to us.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

And it kind of stuck. "Don't Be Evil" came to dominate every decision we made.

INT. GOOGLE MICRO-KITCHEN - 2001 - DAY

Marissa reaches into the refrigerator but stops. There is a piece of chocolate cake with a note on it that says, "Don't Be Evil."

LARRY (V.O.)
From little things like don't take
someone's leftovers...

She sadly closes the refrigerator.

EXT. PARKING LOT - 2001 - DAY

Amit and Paul sit in their cars next to an open parking spot. They each gesture to the other to take the spot.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
Or don't steal parking spots...

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2004 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

The meeting continues.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
To bigger things like maintaining a stiff
demarcation between advertising and
search results or protecting user's
personal information.

ON SERGEY as he continues his thought from earlier.

SERGEY '04
Doing business in China is evil.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
To much, *much* bigger things like resisting the
oppressive actions of the Chinese government.

DAVID '04
Agreed. It's degrading to the company.
Their record on human rights is abysmal,
and they'd force us to censor our own
search results to do business there.

ERIC '04
It's the biggest growing market on earth.
We can't ignore it.

DAVID '04
Life is short, focus on other markets.

SERGEY '04
I spent my childhood under this kind of
government suppression of information...

CUT TO:

INT. BRIN APARTMENT, SOVIET UNION - 1977 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE
Same as before. Larry in the foreground.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
I believe I covered this, Sergey.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2004 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE
Sergey continues his thought.

SERGEY '04
It's evil.

ERIC '04
Let's look at the data.

WIDER. Larry in foreground. A whiteboard is wheeled in
behind him.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
This is how we make difficult decisions
at Google.

David writes "China Evil Scale" at the top.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
It's easy to know that you shouldn't eat
someone else's cake. But what if the cake
has been there for a few days. What if
that person quit and will never see that
cake again?

David draws two columns and writes "To be in China"
/"or"/ "Not to be in China."

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
So we break it down into ones and zeroes.
(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

Pros and cons. Binaries. Whichever choice is the least evil, we accept the collateral damage.

The board is now filled with pros and cons.

SERGEY '04

The Chinese Government's Great Firewall is sophisticated enough that it blocks the connection to roughly fifty percent of people trying to access Google dot com from China.

ERIC '04

So you can mark that as 'more information to Chinese web users' if we are operating there with Chinese Government permission.

David '04 writes it on the whiteboard.

LARRY '04

And the Chinese schools can't afford international bandwidth so if we were in China...

ERIC '04

Put up 'more affordable access to information'...

David '04 writes it on the whiteboard. The group pauses to take stock.

ERIC '04 (CONT'D)

Making Google available, even if it's not the hundred percent that we'd like, will ultimately give Chinese users more information and make China more open.

SERGEY '04

It. Is. Evil.

ERIC '04

If we're operating there, we can put pressure on the government to loosen censorship rules. Google can change China.

OFF Sergey '04's look...

The scene **PAUSES**.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - DAY - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

The previous scene is a paused YOUTUBE VIDEO on Larry's phone. Sergey continues his thought.

SERGEY

I told you this would fucking happen!

DAVID

To be fair, you said it was evil to do business with the Chinese government, not that it would lead to them hacking us.

ERIC

We don't know that it's the Chinese Government.

SERGEY

Of course it's the Chinese. Who else would it be?

ERIC

(shrugs)

Taiwanese hackers spying on the Chinese, North Korea, Russia pretending to be China, really there are lots of options.

SERGEY

Give me a fucking break!

LARRY

(to Heather)

How long have they been in the system?

HEATHER

Eight months--

SERGEY

Jesus.

ERIC

Christ.

LARRY

Fuck.

HEATHER

And counting.

Silence.

DAVID

Can we shut them out?

HEATHER

We don't want to do that.

RANI

Why not?

HEATHER

This laptop is just a foothold into other parts of our network. If they know we're on to them, they'll cover their tracks and burrow deeper.

SERGEY

Close one entry point, another pops up like whac-a-mole.

HEATHER

Or they lay dormant for months, years maybe, and strike us when we least expect it.

RANI

What if it was just a normal hacker who got lucky?

HEATHER

Not likely. This wasn't a botnet spamming a minefield across the Internet that some employee just happened to stumble upon. It was a surgical attack. They targeted Xumei because she has useful access credentials and a permeable social network.

DAVID

Hold on. You're suggesting we just leave the hackers in our system?

There is a general shifting in seats and several people start to talk but have nothing to say.

HEATHER

Yes. And we set up a blackbox recorder to monitor the attack in progress.

LARRY

But what about protecting our code?

HEATHER

It's too late, Larry. They're through the firewall. I'm sorry.

SERGEY

What'll it take to counter this?

HEATHER

I don't know. Two hundred of the world's
top security experts?

A beat.

LARRY

And?

MONTAGE:

GOOGLE OPERATIONS WORKERS mobilize with military precision,
open up storage lockers, unload computer equipment, etc.

Larry walks among them talking to camera but they don't see
or interact with him (*continue motif throughout montage*).

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

The War Room. A Google tradition.

Whenever we have a problem we set up a
room with a team dedicated to solving it.

CUT TO:

INT. GOOGLE GARAGE - 1998 - NIGHT

Larry '98, Sergey '98, and their TEAM write code for Google.com.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

From the Google garage...

INT. 165 UNIVERSITY AVE - 1999 - DAY

The 1999 TEAM is buried under two thousand new servers
they're trying to online.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

To our first offices above a bike shop...

INT. 2400 BAYSHORE - 2001 - NIGHT

Dozens of 2001 GOOGLERS work to fix a failing index.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

To the original Googleplex.

INTERCUT WITH: Examples from each location.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)

A small group of the world's smartest people working eighteen-hour days, sleeping on furniture bought at failed startup auctions, eating cold pizza, all dedicated to a singular purpose: making the world a better place.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - DAY

An empty building at the Googleplex. Operations staff open the building and turn on the lights.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
So we did the same with this problem.

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - CONTINUOUS

Operations sets up hundreds of computer stations.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
On a much bigger scale.

Heather and her team move in.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Heather's team got to work analyzing the network breach.

INT. FOUNDER'S LOFT - 2009 - DAY

Dorm room meets The National Air & Space Museum. Ping-pong table, astronaut's suit, AstroTurf flooring, electronic-gadgets. Sergey on the phone.

LARRY (V.O.)
While Sergey called every cyber security expert in the world himself...

INT. MORGAN MAYHEM'S APARTMENT - NEW ZEALAND - 2009 - DAY

A dingy warehouse apartment with far too many blinking lights and whirring things. Death metal plays.

A phone rings.

MORGAN MARQUIS-BOIRE "MAYHEM" (29), dressed in black with multiple hoop earrings and a do-rag over dreadlocks, stops making a sandwich and answers his phone.

MORGAN
(Kiwi accent)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH: Sergey in Founder's Loft.

SERGEY
Hello, may I please speak to Morgan Marquis-Boire aka Morgan Mayhem?

MORGAN
Never heard of him.

SERGEY
This is Sergey Brin from Google.

Morgan hangs up his phone.

SERGEY (CONT'D)
Hello?

Morgan takes his sandwich and walks **OFF CAMERA**.

INT. FOUNDER'S LOFT - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Sergey talks on the phone while operations moves his elliptical resistance pedals out from under his table.

LARRY (V.O.)
Sergey took a particular interest in the project, moving his workstation from the Founder's Loft...

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - DAY

Operations sets up Sergey's pedals under a desk and he puts a laptop on it. He's still talking on the phone.

SERGEY
We're offering a one-hundred-thousand dollar signing bonus.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
To the new war room. War Building, I should say. Housing the biggest security team a fortune 500 company ever put together.

The war building goes from being empty to full of the growing SECURITY TEAM typing furiously at workstations.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Here they are conducting systems forensics, back-tracing event logs, and doing malware analysis.

Pause. The Security Team stares intently at their computer screens behind him. Silence, except for the rhythmic clacking of keys.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Not exactly the most cinematic thing in the world but... uh... trust me, a lot is happening right now. Really exciting stuff.

Another pause.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
We'll check back with them later.

INT. GOOGLE RECEPTION - 2009 - DAY

JACKIE RUIZ (30s), giving off a real Agent Scully-vibe, sits stiffly on an exercise ball, waiting.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies her.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
This is Jacqueline Ruiz. NSA.

UNFREEZE.

WIDER. Jackie sits on a red couch. Larry stands next to her.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
She's completely fictional because there's no way anyone is giving the screenwriters any information about Google's very real relationship with the NSA.

CAMERA WIDENS to reveal NSA AGENT X.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
This is Jackie's partner.
(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

He's also fictional but totally unimportant to our narrative so he has no name.

Agent X frowns.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

In fact, I'm not sure what he's doing in this scene. There are enough white dudes in this story without giving lines to fictional ones.

NSA Agent X throws his hands up in the air in irritation and disappears in a VFX puff of smoke.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Here at Google we're committed to diversity, both in our company and movies about our company.

Jackie does a so-so gesture with her hand and scrunches her face a little.

HEATHER (O.S.)

Sorry to keep you waiting.

Jackie turns to see Heather approaching (*Narrator Larry has disappeared*). She stands and shakes her hand.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Heather Adkins, head of Google Information Security.

JACKIE

Jackie Ruiz, NSA.

HEATHER

Where's your partner?

JACKIE

He had to go.

HEATHER

All right. Why don't you come on back and we'll get you briefed.

INT. WAR BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - LATER

Jackie talks to Heather and David.

DAVID

So you're suggesting it's the Chinese
spying on Chinese spies?

JACKIE

That's right.

DAVID

Why would they do that?

JACKIE

Preemptive counterintelligence. They were
searching for court orders authorizing
surveillance on their agents with gmail
accounts.

HEATHER

Ah. So if there was a court order they'd
know their agent was blown?

JACKIE

Yep. They could destroy any evidence and
get that agent out of the country before
the process got any further along.

DAVID

Well, it's certainly--

Sergey enters the room in spandex bike shorts and
mirrored sunglasses.

SERGEY

Hey. Sorry I'm late. Sergey Brin.

Jackie forces a smile.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

What'd I miss?

HEATHER

Agent Ruiz was just giving us her analysis.

SERGEY

Uh-huh. It's the Chinese, right?

JACKIE

Well, as I was telling your colleagues--

Sergey starts stretching.

SERGEY

You mind if I stretch?

Sergey bends over in front of her, showing her his ass.

JACKIE

Sure.

SERGEY

You were saying?

Jackie turns back to David and Heather.

JACKIE

If you want to find out if your agents have been discovered, you have two choices: one, try and hack into the FBI or NSA networks, pretty hard to do and there are diplomatic repercussions...

DAVID

Or break into companies holding data on people the courts have served paper on.

JACKIE

Not as hard to do. No offense.

HEATHER

Hard to take offense. Considering.

JACKIE

It's rather ingenious when you think about it.

This gets looks from everyone.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

From an academic point of view.

SERGEY

So it's definitely the Chinese then.

JACKIE

Most likely. But we won't be able to determine that for sure until we get a good look at your network.

Sergey laughs.

SERGEY

Well, that's not happening.

Silence.

DAVID

What I think Sergey's trying to say is we welcome the NSA's assistance in assessing the breach of our Law Enforcement Request System, Agent Ruiz.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

And as this is obviously a National Security issue we will of course be keeping you briefed on our own internal investigation.

JACKIE

With all due respect, this is bigger than Google. This is about the safety of the Internet.

SERGEY

What was your GPA?

JACKIE

I'm sorry?

SERGEY

Your grade point average. In high school.

JACKIE

Yes, I know what a GPA is.

SERGEY

Also, your SAT scores would be helpful. You're asking to work with us. It's an important data point to determine how hard you work.

JACKIE

I'm not applying for a job, Mr. Brin. I'm here as a representative of the United States government offering to help you fight a military-grade cyber attack.

SERGEY

Yeah, but there's no way in hell we're giving the NSA access to our network.

JACKIE

Very well then. Here's my card.

He doesn't take it. She puts it down on the table.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

When you change your mind, give me a call.

Jackie walks to the door.

HEATHER

Thank you for your time, Agent Ruiz.

JACKIE

We all want the same thing: to protect your users.

SERGEY

Sure. And any domestic surveillance you're able to squeeze in is just icing on the cake.

DAVID

We'll walk you out.

David holds the door open for Jackie and Heather. He gives Sergey a look.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You don't always have to be an asshole, you know.

SERGEY

(stretching)

What? It's witty meet-cute banter. Like in a rom-com.

David leaves.

LARRY (V.O.)

Sergey's not just being an asshole...

SERGEY

(to CAMERA)

I'm not?

LARRY (V.O.)

Well, maybe he is.

The scene **PAUSES** on Sergey's perplexed look.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL:

INT. FOUNDER'S LOFT - 2009 - DAY

The previous scene is a paused **YOUTUBE VIDEO** on Larry's laptop.

Stacy Sullivan brings Larry a stack of new hires to sign off on.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

But we also have a very stringent screening process here at Google...

Stacy pulls a foam core presentation board on new hire metrics from behind the founders loft space suit and holds it up for Larry to point to.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)

We measure a number of metrics to determine analytical ability, overall intelligence, technical skills, resume, and culture fit.

Larry frowns at the stack of new hires and throws the top file in the trash.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Something we like to call "Googliness."

CUT TO:

INT. VAN - 1999 - DAY

Larry '99 drives with the window open while the other GOOGLERS smoke pot and try to solve a Rubik's Dodecahedron in the back.

LARRY (V.O.)
This was easier to screen for when all our employees used to fit in the back of a van.

CLOSE ON Larry '99 driving.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Back when I had my hands at the wheel...
I mean, look at me. My hands are LITERALLY on the wheel.

INT. 165 UNIVERSITY AVE - 1999 - DAY/NIGHT

The good old days. Jumping on bouncy balls. Eating pizza. Drinking beer. Working into the night. Laughing.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
We were like a family.

SERGEY '99
It will never be as good as it is right now.

OFF Larry, thinking about that...

INT. 165 UNIVERSITY AVE - 1999 - NIGHT

RAM SHIRIRAM (40s), jovial professor-type, explains to Larry '99 and Sergey '99...

RAM
We're running out of money.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him as "*Ram Shriram, Angel Investor.*"

UNFREEZE.

LARRY '99
(unconcerned)
Uh-huh.

RAM
We need more money if we don't want to go out of business.

SERGEY '99
Okay.

LARRY '99
So what do we do?

RAM
We need a business plan.

LARRY '99
What's a business plan?

RAM
(horrified)
Uh... Okay. A business plan is a plan... for your business... that you show to potential investors to convince them that you know what you're doing.

Larry and Sergey stare at him blankly.

RAM (CONT'D)
It states your business goals, reasons they are attainable, and your plan for reaching them.

SERGEY '99
Huh.

RAM
Things like: how we're going to make money off a product we're giving away for free when you refuse to put display ads on the homepage.

LARRY '99
Display ads are evil.

SERGEY '99
Display ads are evil.

RAM

Uh-huh.

SERGEY '99

Ads are obnoxious. Nobody likes them.

RAM

Yes, but having the best search engine in the world doesn't matter if you can't figure out a revenue stream.

LARRY '99

We can make money without being evil.

RAM

Can we?

LARRY '99

Licensing deals?

SERGEY '99 (V.O.)

Larry...

BACK TO:

INT. FOUNDER'S LOFT - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry looks up from his laptop. Sergey stands over him. Eric is on speakerphone.

SERGEY

Can you pay attention to the China storyline please?

LARRY

(closing the laptop)

Yup.

SERGEY

The NSA confirmed it's probably China.

ERIC (V.O.)

(filtered through speakerphone)

Uh-huh.

SERGEY

So what are we going to do about it?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. GOOGLE JET - 2009 - DAY

Eric's on a satellite phone, drinking a cocktail. He has note cards for a speech he's giving laid out in front of him. The card we can see best says: "21st Century Statecraft."

ERIC

What do you mean?

SERGEY

What's our response gonna be?

ERIC

Our response? We're a company, not a nation state. Not yet, anyway.

He crosses something out on one of the cards, rewrites it.

SERGEY

I think we should publicly rebuke the Chinese government and stop censoring search results on Google dot cn.

ERIC

Okay. Well, THAT's not happening.

SERGEY

Why not?

ERIC

You know why not, Sergey. If we stop filtering on Google dot cn the Chinese government will shut us down.

SERGEY

So?

ERIC

I'm not having this conversation with you again.

SERGEY

(to Larry)

Larry?

LARRY

Eric's right.

SERGEY

All the evidence points to the Chinese.

LARRY

Points to?

SERGEY

Of course we don't have anything definitive.
That would be next to impossible.

LARRY

Well, we can't go public if we don't have
proof.

ERIC

This is the cost of doing business in China,
Sergey. Let's assess the damage and figure
out how to patch the hole and move on.

Sergey gives Larry a look. Larry shrugs.

ERIC (CONT'D)

All right, boys. Good talk. I'll see you
when I get back from Washington.

Eric hangs up.

SERGEY

Asshole.

On the Google Jet, Eric crunches his ice, and goes back
to his cards.

ERIC

Asshole.

END INTERCUT.

SERGEY

Thanks for having my back there, Larry.

LARRY

(not really paying attention)

Sure.

SERGEY

I was being sarcastic.

LARRY

Oh. Right. Sorry.

Beat.

SERGEY

That's it?

LARRY

We're computer scientists, Sergey. We look
at data. See if the data has your back.

Sergey leaves. OFF Larry's look...

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, KLEINER PERKINS - 1999 - DAY

Larry '99 stands with Sergey '99 in front of a projection screen with the last slide of their presentation (*a Doonesberry comic strip*).

SERGEY '99

We deliver the world's information in one click.

A thin, rich, nerdy, white dude with an American accent, named JOHN DOERR (late 40s), sits at the head of the table with his STAFF.

JOHN DOERR

How big do you think this can be?

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him as *"John Doerr, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers"*

LARRY (V.O.)

John Doerr, one of the biggest venture capitalists in Silicon Valley.

UNFREEZE.

LARRY '99

Ten billion.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, SEQUOIA CAPITAL - 1999 - DAY

Yet another thin, rich, nerdy, white dude with a Welsh accent, named MIKE MORITZ (late 40s), sits at a similar table with his STAFF. He lets out a big laugh. Larry '99 is dead serious.

MIKE MORITZ

You expect a market cap of ten billion?

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him as *"Mike Moritz, Sequoia Capital."*

LARRY (V.O.)
Mike Mortiz. The other biggest venture
capitalist in Silicon Valley.

UNFREEZE.

LARRY '99
No. I don't mean market cap, I mean
revenues.

INTERCUT WITH: The two meetings.

JOHN DOERR
Come on, Larry, let's be serious.

LARRY '99
I am being serious.

MIKE MORITZ
Yahoo isn't even at one billion in revenue.

SERGEY '99
Soon every human being in the world will
be on the web. Billions of people
connected. Talking. Shopping. Learning.

LARRY '99
Eventually everything people do offline,
they'll do online.

SERGEY '99
As the web grows more and more complex,
people will need a simpler way to get
useful information.

LARRY '99
The Internet is chaos. And we've given
everyone a map.

Doerr shakes his head.

JOHN DOERR
Bullshit.

MIKE MORITZ
But I do believe in the Internet...

JOHN DOERR
But I'll bet big on any technology that
makes the Internet work better.

MIKE MORITZ
I'm in.

JOHN DOER
Let's do it.

MIKE MORITZ
One thing though...

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Here it comes...

SPLITSCREEN:

INT. MIKE MORITZ'S OFFICE/JOHN DOERR'S OFFICE - 1999 - DAY

Mike and John sit at their desks.

MIKE MORITZ
You boys need adult
supervision.

JOHN DOER
You boys need adult
supervision.

BACK TO:

INT. FOUNDER'S LOFT - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
"Adult supervision." The term for when
startup founders are replaced by someone
with more experience. Someone with an MBA.
Someone like...

CUT TO:

INT. EXCITE OFFICES - 1997 - FROM BEFORE

GEORGE BELL
There's no money in Search. It's a loser.

SPLITSCREEN:

INT. MIKE MORITZ'S OFFICE/JOHN DOERR'S OFFICE - 1999 - DAY

Mike and John sit at their desks.

MIKE MORITZ
No CEO...

JOHN DOER
No deal.

MIKE MORITZ
Nonnegotiable.

JOHN DOER (CONT'D)
Nonnegotiable.

CUT TO:

INT. 165 UNIVERSITY OFFICE - 1999 - DAY

Larry '99 and Sergey '99 debate.

LARRY '99

No way. Look what happened to Steve Jobs.

SERGEY '99

Yeah, but we're dead in the water without them.

LARRY '99

We don't need to hire a CEO. We can run this ourselves... (looks around) we are running this ourselves.

SERGEY '99

Maybe we can have it both ways. What if we agree to a CEO now and just put off hiring one till they see it's unnecessary?

LARRY (V.O.)

Sergey Brin, the moral conscience of Google.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR BUILDING - SERGEY'S OFFICE - 2009 - NIGHT

Sergey, wearing a Santa hat, drinks whiskey out of the bottle and talks on the phone.

SERGEY

Yeah. As soon as Eric's off the jet I want you back in Mountain View... Uh-huh... thanks.

Heather comes in.

HEATHER

Going somewhere?

SERGEY

No, I just want Eric to have to fly commercial home.

HEATHER

Real mature.

SERGEY

I'm nothing if not mature.

Heather sits down. She looks haggard.

SERGEY (CONT'D)
You look haggard.

HEATHER
Thanks. You too.

He pushes an old pizza box toward her.

SERGEY
Cold pizza du jour?

She takes a slice.

HEATHER
Merry fucking Christmas.

SERGEY
It's not Christmas, is it?

She gives him a look.

SERGEY (CONT'D)
Weird. I should probably call my wife.

HEATHER
Probably.

He doesn't call his wife.

SERGEY
I meant in general, not right this second.

She nods.

HEATHER
So we should talk at some point about
what we're going to do once this current
crisis is under control.

SERGEY
What do you mean?

HEATHER
Well, obviously I'm going to resign.

SERGEY
Why would you do that?

HEATHER
This happened on my watch.

SERGEY
None of us saw this coming.

HEATHER

I should have. That's my job.

SERGEY

(shrugs)

We were all naive. Now we're not.
Besides, if you quit, we'd have to hire
the best person in the business to
replace you and that person is you so
we'd waste a lot of time having you go
through the hiring process again.

She smiles. They share a moment. Broken by Sergey
breaking out into a loud yawn and stretch.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Ah, man. How are we going to get
definitive proof it was the Chinese?

HEATHER

I don't know. It's not like we can hack
the servers in Taiwan.

They look at each other. Can they?

SERGEY

Why can't we?

HEATHER

Hack the servers?

SERGEY

Yeah.

HEATHER

Technically or legally?

SERGEY

What's the issue? It's our data.

HEATHER

On a foreign company's server.

SERGEY

What if we just looked? They won't even
know we're there. At least we could see
what's been stolen.

HEATHER

Just look and don't delete anything?

SERGEY

Yes. We just document the evidence. Hell, we can even copy the data, it's our friggin data. Right?

Heather shrugs like, "I guess???"

HEATHER

If we're going to do this let's be discrete about it.

SERGEY

So don't tell David.

HEATHER

Definitely don't tell David. Only tell your lawyer after you commit a crime, never before.

SERGEY

Who should we get to do it?

INT. MORGAN MAYHEM'S APARTMENT - NEW ZEALAND - 2009 - DAY

Morgan eats a sandwich (*he loves sandwiches*). His phone rings. He answers.

MORGAN

Man, why you always call during meal times?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WAR BUILDING - SERGEY'S OFFICE - 2009 - NIGHT

SERGEY

What's the problem? I know it's not the money. We're offering way too much for it to be the money.

MORGAN

Nah, man. It's not the money.

SERGEY

What then?

MORGAN

You guys are evil.

SERGEY

Whoa. Slow your roll there, pal.

MORGAN

Don't say "slow your roll."

SERGEY

Sorry.

MORGAN

You're the only company to get Privacy International's "Hostile to Privacy" ranking.

SERGEY

Not recently.

MORGAN

You collect more communications than GCHQ and the NSA combined and you scan email for advertising purposes.

SERGEY

Targeted ads are useful to the user.

MORGAN

Keep telling yourself that, mate.

SERGEY

Do you find penetration-testing banks and power plants for rich multi-nationals spiritually fulfilling work?

MORGAN

Man's gotta eat.

SERGEY

Why not eat us?

Morgan makes a face.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

With us. That did not sound how I intended it to. But our cafeteria is--

MORGAN

Nah. I know, that's cool, but there's nothing you can say to make me work for Google.

SERGEY

I want you to hack the Chinese government.

MORGAN

All right. I'm in.

WIDER. Larry in foreground of Morgan's apartment.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Actually, Morgan had already been working for us for a year in Zurich but that seemed like a better scene than this.

INT. GOOGLE ZURICH - 2009 - DAY

Morgan plays video games on his laptop. A SWISS GOGLER walks up to him.

SWISS GOGLER

They want you in Mountain View.

Morgan keeps playing the video game.

MORGAN

Uh-huh. K.

INT. WAR BUILDING - SERGEY'S OFFICE - 2009 - NIGHT

Morgan's face is on a laptop. He's video conferencing with Sergey and Heather. Larry's in the foreground.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

If movies about hacking have taught us anything, it's that hacking is a very difficult thing to make visually interesting.

We see the exact SHOTS Larry mentions of Morgan hacking.

LARRY (V.O.)

You add camera pans. Close-ups of code. You use clunky techno-babble to explain what's going on even though everyone in the movie would already know what you were doing.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MORGAN MAYHEM'S APARTMENT - NEW ZEALAND - 2009 - DAY

MORGAN

Most malware, even written by the best hackers, is sloppy code. So I sent the GUI (gooey) a shit-ton of random commands and found an overflow bug to install our own trojan on their server.

WIDER. Larry in the foreground.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Followed by a simplified explanation for the benefit of the audience.

HEATHER

So you reverse-engineered the hack?

MORGAN

Exactly.

The trojan control panel installation finishes.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Okay, here we go.

HEATHER

Point of no return.

SERGEY

Do it.

Morgan pushes a button and pulls up the trojan horse control panel. He's in.

MORGAN

They're pwned.

WIDER. Larry in foreground.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Pwned. That's totally something hackers say, right? They're so jacked in. In any case, we hacked our hackers, copied all the data they'd stolen...

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - NIGHT

Larry in the foreground. An army of SYSTEMS EXPERTS analyze the data behind him.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

And our systems experts started combing through it all to see what they got.

Larry looks behind him at the Systems Experts working.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Again, very difficult to dramatize. I mean, this work took weeks.

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

It's not like you can just have a character say, "Oh, shit. I found something important."

Larry waits. Maybe someone will say, "Oh, shit. I found something important."

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

No one? Okay. Let's look at some boobs then.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE TAHOE - 2001 - NIGHT

A TOPLESS SALES GIRL rides on an ENGINEER's shoulders pouring top shelf tequila from a bottle into the open mouths of a line of Googlers waiting like hungry baby birds.

LARRY (V.O.)

The male gaze is very important in these types of movies.

TAHOE MONTAGE:

Lots of sexy shots of the SALES GIRLS partying with ENGINEERS in Lake Tahoe. Drinking. Hot tubs. Dancing. Boobs.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)

We need these shots for the trailer. Because at Google we believe in baking brand and marketing into the product.

CUT TO:

INT. MASSAGE ROOM - 1999 - DAY

Sergey '99 having sex with the female Googler from before.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)

Why do you think this was in the movie?

BACK TO:

EXT. LAKE TAHOE - 2001 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

A guy's NAKED BUTT.

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)

But here's a little something for the ladies and guys who like guys too. Not enough?

Now TWO NAKED MALE BUTTS.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Here are two naked male butts!

SEXY SHOTS of Sergey, David, Eric, and the REST OF OUR MALE CHARACTERS standing naked with their butts to the camera doing little pin-up poses.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Heck, here are the butts of all our male cast members!

WIDER. Larry, naked, covering his junk in the foreground as now the entire male cast poses behind him.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Super hot, right?
(beat)
What was my point?
(beat)
Right. The good old days.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, 2400 BAYSHORE DRIVE - 2001 - DAY

Larry '01 and Sergey '01 sit like scolded children across from Mike Moritz and John Doerr.

LARRY (V.O.)
But the party had to end sometime...

MIKE MORITZ
Seventy-five thousand dollars for beer and liquor, a private chef, and a masseuse for a goddamn ski trip?

SERGEY '01
We have the very smartest computer scientists in the world working for Google, a startup.

LARRY '01
They could be making more money elsewhere, but they love working for Google because of the culture and perks.

JOHN
Where are you with the CEO search?

LARRY '01
Actually, Sergey and I have been thinking about it...

SERGEY '01

Yeah. We've been thinking about it and...
uh ...the thing is... we were thinking.

LARRY '01

Yeah. We've come to the conclusion that
we think we can run the company.

SERGEY '01

By ourselves.

Mike and John sit quietly for a moment. Then...

JOHN

We had a very clear understanding.

SERGEY '01

But we feel with the Netscape and Yahoo
deals we've proven ourselves.

MIKE MORITZ

The deals are good but you still need
adult supervision.

JOHN

(flips through cash flow)
You're projecting about nineteen million in
revenue this year. But look at these
operation costs, over thirty-three million.

MIKE

You're going to run out of cash.

LARRY '01

We just don't think we need to bring
someone in.

Mike gets up.

MIKE MORITZ

Listen you little shits, you're looking
at over fourteen million in losses. If
you don't honor your commitment to hire a
CEO, I'll sue your pasty elitist J.R.R.
Tolkien-reading asses for the twelve-
point-five-million dollars I gave you and
throw your dead carcasses in a mass grave
with the rest of the festering failed dot
coms littering the Valley.

Mike slams the door on his way out. Beat.

JOHN

Here's an idea. I'll set up meetings for you with a few of the best CEOs in the industry so you can see what a battle-scarred CEO can offer. After that, if you still want to call off the hunt we can all see each other in court. How's that sound?

Larry '01 and Sergey '01 look to each other, a telepathic decision.

SERGEY '01

Yeah.

LARRY '01

All right.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON MORGAN MAYHEM

Morgan's eyes widen.

MORGAN

Oh, shit.

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. WAR BUILDING - HEATHER'S OFFICE - 2009 - DAY

Morgan bursts in.

MORGAN

I found something important.

SERGEY

I thought you were in New Zealand?

MORGAN

I came over during that flashback.

Heather nods.

HEATHER

Show me.

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. WAR BUILDING - SERGEY'S OFFICE - 2009 - LATER

Morgan and Heather report to Sergey.

MORGAN

Systemic corporate espionage. They got thirty-three other companies.

SERGEY

What do you mean?

HEATHER

We've found data from thirty-three other companies on the Taiwan server. At least.

SERGEY

You're kidding.

MORGAN

Intel, Morgan Stanley, Yahoo, Symantec, Adobe, Juniper Networks, Rackspace.

SERGEY

Wow.

MORGAN

Baker Hughes, ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, BP.

SERGEY

Uh-huh.

MORGAN

Conoco Phillips, Marathon Oil, Lockheed...

SERGEY

You're going to name all of them?

HEATHER

And that's not the worst of it.

SERGEY

What's the worst of it?

INT. DAVID DRUMMOND'S OFFICE - 2009 - DAY

Sergey bursts in with a laptop, sets it down in front of David.

SERGEY

Google user accounts have been hacked.

DAVID

Good morning, Sergey. How are you today?

Sergey puts the laptop down on David's desk. There's a picture and bio of TENZIN SELDON (early 20s) on a website for Students for a Free Tibet.

SERGEY

Tenzin Seldon. She's a student at Stanford and a Chinese Human Rights activist.

DAVID

Jesus.

SERGEY

She's one of two hacked users that we've found so far.

David gets his phone out.

DAVID

I'll call the President of Stanford. We'll find Ms. Seldon. See if we can analyze her laptop.

David places a call, holds the phone to his ear.

SERGEY

I want a security team sent to make sure she's okay.

DAVID

How did you guys find this out?

SERGEY

We may have done some light hacking of the Taiwanese servers that the hackers are using.

David covers his face with his hands.

DAVID

Oh, God. Sergey, tell me you didn't.

SERGEY

It's like following a burglar back to his apartment and breaking in to get your stuff back.

DAVID

That's not legal either. Like at all. Don't tell me anything else. And don't do anything else.

(into phone)

John. David Drummond. You got a minute?

SERGEY

Get the Operating Committee in here now. I'm calling an emergency meeting.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE JOBS' OFFICE, APPLE HQ - 2001 - DAY

STEVE JOBS (yes, that Steve Jobs) rhapsodizes. Larry '01 and Sergey '01 in awe.

STEVE JOBS

Whatchya gotta look out for is the B players. They attract more B players. Before you know it you've got C players dragging you down.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him as Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple.

Larry turns around and looks at the camera.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Yeah. I get it. You're tired of watching white dudes in turtlenecks pretending to be Steve Jobs. But this was seriously a life-changing moment for Sergey and me. Don't worry. He's only in this one scene.

UNFREEZE.

Steve continues.

STEVE JOBS

If you pay attention, ask questions and put in the work, you can pick up running a business pretty easy. But the right CEO can grow your company a hundred percent faster with ninety percent fewer mistakes.

LARRY '01

But what about losing control?

SERGEY '01

We've heard the stories.

STEVE JOBS

My story.

SERGEY '01

Yeah.

STEVE JOBS

You're lucky to come after. Learn from my mistakes. I hired the wrong guy. He destroyed everything I spent a decade building, including me.

LARRY '01

That's what we're afraid of.

STEVE JOBS

So don't give up control. And remember product is everything. Sculley was a marketing guy. After I left, Apple didn't invent anything new. It happened at Xerox too. And IBM...

Larry, eating it up, looks to Sergey.

STEVE JOBS (CONT'D)

Companies as they grow somehow insert layers of management between the people running the company and the people with the vision doing the work. That's what'll kill your company.

Larry and Sergey are totally enamoured.

INT. JOHN DOERR'S OFFICE, KLEINER PERKINS - 2001 - DAY

A repentant Larry '01 and Sergey '01 sit across from John.

SERGEY '01

Upon reflection, we have come to see the value of hiring a veteran CEO.

LARRY '01

Yes.

JOHN DOER

Did you have anyone in mind?

Larry '01 and Sergey '01 look at each other and back to John.

LARRY '01

Steve Jobs.

SERGEY '01

Steve Jobs.

John bursts out laughing.

JOHN DOER

Ah-hahahaha!

(realizes they're serious)

You're serious? Well, that's not happening. But I'm sure we can find someone almost as good...

CUT TO:

VIDEO CONFERENCE SCREEN

Eric's red angry face.

ERIC

Hello? Can you hear me? I can't hear you.
Goddamn it.

He is being projected onto the wall of--

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2009 - NIGHT

The GOOGLE OPERATING COMMITTEE is convened. Looking at Eric on the wall, it's hard not to think of Big Brother in "1984."

ERIC

You're frozen. Can you see me?

DAVID

Yes, we can see you, Eric.

ERIC

I can't hear you. Can you hear me?

DAVID

Yes.

Sergey and Larry exchange amused glances.

ERIC

I don't have any video. Can you hear me?
Hello? We're the biggest fucking tech company in the world and we can't video conference. I'm hanging up and trying again.

The screen goes blank.

INT. COAT ROOM, STATE DEPARTMENT - 2009 - NIGHT

Eric, in a tuxedo, is sitting on a stool nestled in the fancy coats messing with his laptop.

ERIC

God damn, fucking fuck.

A COAT CHECK GIRL tiptoes in for a coat and mouths "sorry" on her way out.

INTERCUT:

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

The video chat rings. David answers it. Eric's face appears on the wall again.

ERIC

Well, this is off to a great fucking start.

DAVID

Hello, Eric. Can you hear us?

ERIC

Thank fucking Christ, yes. Can anyone tell me what's so goddamn important that it can't wait for me to be done with my fucking dinner at the fucking state department with Hillary fucking Clinton?

SERGEY

Heather?

Heather looks at Sergey: "Gee, thanks."

HEATHER

Coward.

(to Eric)

We have important new developments concerning the breach.

ERIC

What?

HEATHER

Evidence of at least thirty-three other companies compromised in the attack.

Larry looks up from his laptop.

SERGEY

We should tell the other breached companies.

ERIC

And if the information leaks?

DAVID

We're in possession of stolen data. It might be difficult to explain how we got it.

HEATHER

What would we want the other companies to do if the situation were reversed?

Everyone thinks about this.

LARRY

I agree with Sergey on this.

Sergey smiles.

ERIC

All right. Fine. But let's proceed with caution. Anything else?

SERGEY

Yes. At least two Google user accounts, Chinese human rights activists by the way, were accessed through our network.

ERIC

Jesus.

SERGEY

We need to go public with this.

ERIC

No way, Sergey.

SERGEY

Rebuke the Chinese government. And refuse to continue censorship on Google dot cn.

ERIC

(like talking to a child)

Sergey, firstly stopping the filtering is not a proportionate response to being hacked.

Sergey looks to Larry for help. Larry doesn't speak.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Secondly if we stopped filtering, the government would revoke our license to operate. It would mean pulling out of China entirely, and I think we can all agree that withdrawal is off the table.

SERGEY

Why is it off the table?

Eric was not expecting to have to defend this point.

ERIC

Because China is the fastest growing market in the world.

SERGEY

That's not a big enough reason to stay when the Chinese government has hacked into our system.

ERIC

We don't know for sure it's the Chinese government.

SERGEY

Oh, okay. It must be that other country interested in American surveillance of Chinese secret agents with a cyber army capable of launching an attack on the most technologically advanced companies in the world. Or maybe it's that other country with a history of snooping on Tibetan human rights activists. Who gives a flippin fuck about Tibet except Bono and the Chinese Government?

ERIC

Richard Gere.

SERGEY

Touché.

ERIC

You're probably right. Maybe it is the Chinese government or just patriotic Chinese hackers. Who knows? But we don't have the hard evidence to protect us if we go public. And think about this because it's important, going public will erode the public's faith in Google.

LARRY

Eric has a point. If users don't trust their data is safe with Google, they'll stop using us.

SERGEY

Their data isn't safe!

ERIC

Why don't we take a more measured approach? Use diplomatic channels to apply pressure on government filtering without giving up on China wholesale.

SERGEY

Stop calling it fucking filtering, Eric. It's censorship. Say it. Censorship.

LARRY

Okay, Sergey--

SERGEY

Shut up, Larry. Eric's a piece of shit but at least he believes in his craven point of view. What do you believe in, Larry?

Larry can't answer.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Should we make an Evil Scale? Break it down
into some binaries for you?

Sergey writes on the whiteboard "Google In China" then
draws a table with "Good" and "Evil" columns.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

Let's see... pros...

In the "Good" column he writes: "\$"

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Money... cons...

He writes...

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Evil.

Sergey tosses the marker away.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

What do you think, Larry? We're under attack
by the forces of evil. If we stand by and do
nothing, then we are supporting evil. But
China's the fastest growing market in the
world and we wouldn't want to give that up.
So what's it going to be, Larry?

Silence.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Larry?

Larry avoids eye contact.

ERIC

We can't go public, Sergey.

SERGEY

I want to hear it from Larry.

Sergey gets in Larry's face, not angry anymore. He's
practically begging him.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Come on, man. A company that values
morals over profits. A force for good in
the world. Don't. Be. Evil.

LARRY

(finally)

Maybe we've outgrown "Don't be evil."

It's like a sucker punch.

Sergey can't believe it.

All the air is sucked out of the room.

ERIC

(finally)

Well, I think that's a good place to leave it for now. Why don't we pick this up when I'm back from DC and, you know, not sitting in a fucking coat closet.

Eric's face disappears.

The room clears. Larry and Sergey stare at each other.

Larry looks away.

Sergey turns and leaves.

OFF Larry's tortured look...

CUT TO:

INT. COAT ROOM, STATE DEPARTMENT - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Eric closes his laptop. JARED COHEN (30s) pokes his head in.

JARED COHEN

You're on!

ERIC

What?

JARED COHEN

Secretary Clinton just introduced you!

Eric bolts.

SERGEY (V.O.) (PRE-LAP)

I don't like him.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, 2400 BAYSHORE - 2001 - DAY

FROM THE POV of Sergey '01 and Larry '01, we're looking out the window at Eric '01, in a suit, walking out to his car in the parking lot.

We hear the sound of CANDY WRAPPERS and CHEWING throughout, but we don't see Sergey '01 and Larry '01.

LARRY (O.C.)
He's not Steve Jobs.

SERGEY (O.C.)
He's definitely not Steve Jobs.

LARRY (O.C.)
But he is a computer scientist like us.

SERGEY (O.C.)
Do you believe he's been to Burning Man?

LARRY (O.C.)
Why would someone lie about going to
Burning Man?

SERGEY (O.C.)
I dunno. To impress us.

LARRY (O.C.)
We've got to hire someone.

SERGEY (O.C.)
He wore a suit.

LARRY (O.C.)
He wore a suit. That doesn't mean he *is* a suit.

SERGEY (O.C.)
I dunno, man. I just don't think he's
Googley enough.

Eric starts to get into his car, sees Larry and Sergey
up in the window, and waves.

REVERSE ON: LARRY and SERGEY.

Sergey, dressed as a cow, and Larry, dressed as a Viking,
eat Halloween candy. They wave back.

ERIC (PRE-LAP)
The Twenty-First Century is going to be
full of surprises.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM, STATE DEPARTMENT - 2009 - NIGHT

State Department dinner hosted by SECRETARY OF STATE
HILLARY CLINTON. Eric gives a speech with a photo of
himself in a flack jacket in Iraq projected behind him.

ERIC

Governments will be caught off guard when citizens, armed and organized with nothing but cell phones, foment mini-rebellions that challenge their authority.

NEWS FOOTAGE of mini-rebellions plays behind him.

ERIC (CONT'D)

We're seeing protests and other forms of resistance organized on Twitter and Facebook. People use Google to find and use information their government is trying to keep hidden.

The AUDIENCE listens with interest.

ERIC (CONT'D)

But the internet is a double edged sword. Connection technologies will carve out spaces for democracy as well as autocracy and empower individuals for both good and ill.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - NIGHT

Sergey tears apart his office area.

ERIC (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Not all states will embrace this empowerment of the individual.

Sergey sees something on his desk. It's Jackie's business card.

ERIC (V.O.)

There will be a constant struggle between those striving to promote freedom and those who view freedom as hostile to their political survival.

He picks up the card, looks at it.

ERIC (V.O.)

Ideals will clash with well-founded concerns about national security.

BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM, STATE DEPARTMENT - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Eric is making an impression on the crowd.

ERIC

Democratic governments will be tempted to further their national interests through the same combination of defense, diplomacy, and development on which they relied during the Cold War and the decades after. But these traditional tools will not be enough.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Sergey dials Jackie's number.

ERIC (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The old solutions will not work in this new era.

The phone rings.

ERIC (V.O.)

Governments will have to build new alliances.

BACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM, STATE DEPARTMENT - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Eric holds up his cell phone as a prop, wrapping it up.

ERIC (CONT'D)

In a new age of shared power, no one can make progress alone.

INT. JACKIE'S APARTMENT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - 2009 - NIGHT

Jackie is asleep in bed. Her phone rings. She fumbles with it, answers.

JACKIE

(confused)

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Sergey has Jackie's business card in his hands.

SERGEY

I need proof it's the Chinese.

A pause.

JACKIE

What? Who is this?

SERGEY

Oh. Sorry. This is Sergey. Brin. From Google.

This wakes Jackie up.

JACKIE

Right. Of course. Sergey Brin. Sorry, I was... you know... sleeping.

SERGEY

Oh, God. It's like four A.M. there, isn't it?

JACKIE

No, it's fine.

SERGEY

It's one here... which isn't any better.

JACKIE

I'm always up at this hour. It's one of the seven habits that make me a highly effective person. What did you say? About the Chinese?

SERGEY

I need proof the Chinese government is behind the attack.

JACKIE

And what do I get in return?

SERGEY

My undying love and gratitude?

JACKIE

Ugh.

SERGEY

How about a bribe? I am currently one of the richest men on the planet.

JACKIE

You realize I work for an agency that monitors phone calls, right?

SERGEY

So no bribe?

JACKIE

Oh, I'm up for a bribe. Just not over the phone. Look, why don't you come to Washington for a day? We'll get you a temporary security clearance. You can sit in on classified threat briefings. We can talk bribe amounts in person.

SERGEY

You're on.

Hangs up. **END INTERCUT.** David knocks on Sergey's door.

DAVID

I just talked to Tenzin Seldon. She's fine. Scared but fine.

Sergey is visibly relieved.

DAVID (CONT'D)

A security team is on their way to her dorm at Stanford to get her laptop so we can analyze it.

SERGEY

Good. Now pack your bags. We're going on a field trip.

EXT. SFO AIRPORT - 2009 - NIGHT

Larry is on the tarmac covering his ears because it's so loud. Behind him the Boeing 767 "Google Jet" takes off.

We can't hear Larry over the engines but subtitles tell us what he's saying.

LARRY

(to CAMERA, subtitled)

So Sergey and David flew to Washington to talk to the NSA.

INSERT:

VFX: We follow the "Google Jet" from SFO to BWI on a Google Map.

EXT. BWI AIRPORT - 2009 - MORNING

Sergey and David walk out of the terminal. Jackie waits for them, holding a sign that reads: "Don't Be Evil."

SERGEY

Cute.

He hands her a flash drive.

JACKIE

What's this?

SERGEY

We found data from over thirty other companies that have been hacked. Fortune 500 companies. Infrastructure, pharmaceuticals.

JACKIE

Where did you get this?

SERGEY

We, uh, may have gotten access to the server in Taiwan where our data was sent after it was siphoned off our system.

JACKIE

You reverse hacked the hackers?

DAVID

He didn't say that.

SERGEY

I didn't say that.

DAVID

We never said that.

INT. GOOGLE RECEPTION - 2009 - DAY

Heather shakes hands with the SECURITY HEAD of one of the hacked fortune 500 companies. Larry in foreground.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Meanwhile, Heather was meeting with the security heads of the other companies compromised in the attack.

INT. WAR BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - DAY

The Security Head sits across from Heather. She's about to speak when...

ERIC (PRE-LAP)

Larry?

INT. GOOGLE X - 2009 - DAY

It looks like the lair of a Bond villain designed by Disney Imagineers. Larry has a wire sticking out of his eye running to a laptop on the workbench.

Eric approaches and rubs his eyes, grossed out.

ERIC

Jesus, Larry. Sorry, to interrupt... Got a minute?

Larry removes a contact lens with the wire and a microchip attached and nods to a TECH who starts adjusting something on it with a micro welding tool.

LARRY

Weren't you just in Washington?

ERIC

Compression of time.

Larry nods. Eric picks up and examines the "Project Loon" balloon antenna prototype.

LARRY

It's an antenna. We're going to deliver cheap Internet access to areas that don't have it via balloons in the stratosphere.

ERIC

How do you steer the balloons?

LARRY

We change the altitude to catch different wind currents. They travel the world like sailboats.

ERIC

Sergey's in Washington talking to the NSA trying to get more intel on the hackers.

LARRY

He's taking the hack very personally.

ERIC

He's going to keep pushing for us to leave China.

LARRY

This is news?

ERIC

We need to maintain a united front on this.

LARRY

My position is what it's always been: go where the data tells us to go. If Sergey gets more data, I'll consider it.

ERIC

You know it doesn't matter who hacked us, right? We need to stay in China.

LARRY

Why?

ERIC

How much is this balloon project costing us?

Larry shrugs.

LARRY

Not that much. They're balloons, Eric.

ERIC

But it's a long shot that may never turn a profit.

Eric gestures to all the Google X moonshots around the room.

ERIC (CONT'D)

We need profits to subsidize these moonshots of yours. Otherwise we're Nikola Tesla inventing things that no one uses.

This lands with Larry.

ERIC (CONT'D)

You're the visionary Larry. You're always looking forward. We need that. But my job is to turn your visions into viable businesses to pay for more visions. Let me do my job. Don't give up on a market with four-hundred-million potential users. Think of what it costs to grow the market by that amount.

Eric leaves blinking and rubbing his eyes. Larry watches him go. He gives the CAMERA some side eye.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

We never wanted Eric. And we didn't make it easy on him.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIC'S OFFICE, 2400 BAYSHORE DRIVE - 2001 - DAY

Larry '01 drops a file folder of resumes on Eric '01's desk.

LARRY (V.O.)
We challenged him on everything...

ERIC '01
What do you think of the candidates?

LARRY '01
Not technical enough.

LARRY (V.O.)
Blocked all his attempts to assemble a
management team...

INT. ERIC'S OFFICE, 2400 BAYSHORE DRIVE - 2001 - DAY

Eric '01 looks up from his work.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Tested his Googliness at every turn.

Larry '01 and Sergey '01 carry a desk in, followed by
Amit carrying his things.

LARRY '01
Amit's been sharing an office with four
other engineers.

SERGEY '01
And we noticed you're not sharing with
anybody.

AMIT
So I'm going to share with you!

ERIC '01
Uh...

OFF Eric's dumbfounded look...

INT. ENGINEERING BULLPEN, 2400 BAYSHORE DRIVE - 2001 - DAY

All the ENGINEERS and PROJECT MANAGERS yelling at Larry '01.

WIDER. Larry in foreground.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
I even tried firing all the project
managers before Eric took over so the
engineers would report to me.

PAUL BUCHHEIT
This is ridiculous!

AMIT
Totally unprofessional!

PAUL BUCHHEIT
Larry, you don't know what the fuck
you're doing!

INT. OLD PRO BAR, PALO ALTO - 2001 - DAY

Sergey '01, Larry '01 and Eric '01 sit in a sports bar.

BILL CAMPBELL (late-60s), a former Columbia University
football coach with a gravely voice holds court. Burgers,
baskets of fries, and bottles of BUD LIGHT cover the table.

LARRY (V.O.)
So the VCs sent us to this guy for
marriage counseling.

COACH CAMPBELL
The way I see it is you three are taking
part in the greatest corporate leadership
experiment in history.

Coach Campbell takes a big bite of his hamburger.

FREEZE FRAME:

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies him.

INSERT:

PHOTOS of Bill Campbell throughout his life.

LARRY (V.O.)
Bill Campbell. Executive coach and
Silicon Valley legend. Former football
coach at Columbia University. Ran Apple's
software company in the 80s. Chairman of
Intuit. And... best friend to this guy...

INSERT:

Steve Jobs FROM BEFORE.

STEVE JOBS
Don't give up control.

BACK TO:

INT. OLD PRO BAR, PALO ALTO - 2001 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Campbell, still frozen mid-hamburger chew.

LARRY (V.O.)

Anyway, Bill Campbell. He refused to take more than one dollar a year from us for his services.

UNFREEZE.

Campbell talks with food in his mouth.

COACH CAMPBELL

You know, the pact you three either make or don't make tonight, will determine whether Google succeeds or fails.

Now a swig of Bud Light to wash it down.

COACH CAMPBELL (CONT'D)

Ya got two scenarios: one, you figure out a system that works for you with checks and balances; or two, like a bunch of goddamn politicians, you devolve into partisan infighting and destroy the thing you were trying to build.

Larry '01, Sergey '01, and Eric '01 look uncomfortably at each other.

COACH CAMPBELL (CONT'D)

Let's stop messing around. Larry and Sergey, you think Larry should be CEO and that the VC's forced you into bringing Eric on board.

Larry '01 and Sergey '01 stammer.

COACH CAMPBELL (CONT'D)

Come on, cut the shit.

LARRY '01

Yes.

SERGEY '01

Yeah.

COACH CAMPBELL

Good! Honesty.

Coach Campbell gives Larry '01 and Sergey '01 high fives.
It's a bit awkward.

COACH CAMPBELL (CONT'D)
Eric you feel like Larry and Sergey are
actively working against you.

ERIC '01
Yes.

COACH CAMPBELL
Well, all right.

Campbell high fives Eric '01.

COACH CAMPBELL (CONT'D)
Larry and Sergey, what do you most enjoy
doing?

LARRY '01
Developing products.

SERGEY '01
Yes. But marketing decisions, strategy
and management are important to us too.

COACH CAMPBELL
Okay. Now what do you want from Eric?
(blank looks from Sergey & Larry)
What do you least enjoy?

SERGEY '01
Legal. Sales.

LARRY '01
Government and regulators.

COACH CAMPBELL
There. That's where Eric takes the lead.
Eric, what's the most interesting problem
facing Google?

ERIC '01
Revenue.

SERGEY '01
Agreed.

COACH CAMPBELL
Eric, that means spending time with the
ads team, so people know what the
priority is.

LARRY '01

But we have lots of priorities that are important. I want to digitize all the books in the world--

CUT TO:

INT. GOOGLE BOOK PROJECT ROOM - 2001 - DAY

Larry '01 and Marissa '01, bored, scan books page by page. They scan and flip, scan and flip. There are stacks of books everywhere.

LARRY '01

(to Marissa '01)

I can't believe no one wants to do this.

Marissa '01 gives the camera a look.

BACK TO:

INT. OLD PRO BAR, PALO ALTO - 2001 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

COACH CAMPBELL

Larry, Larry, Larry. You gotta crawl before you walk, buddy. Search engine pun intended. Get one fucking business running before you start another. Eric, what else?

ERIC '01

I need to build a management team.

LARRY '01

We don't want a bunch of business managers telling the engineers what to do.

COACH CAMPBELL

I agree. You don't want to make engineers beholden to a buncha product-marketing people. No great technological idea is going to come from management.

SERGEY '01

Exactly.

COACH CAMPBELL

But if the goal is to empower engineers, you need managers who deeply understand the product and will let the engineers take the technological lead.

ERIC '01

I agree with that.

LARRY '01

So do we.

Another high five for Larry '01.

COACH CAMPBELL

Then boys, let Eric build a management team and you help him draft the players. Next we gotta define the decision-making process. You have to workout issues privately, and then present decisions as a united front. And every voice must have a chance to express dissent.

SERGEY '01

But opinions, even experienced opinions, mean nothing to us without data to back them up.

COACH CAMPBELL

So lobby each other with data, then vote. Majority rules.

(to Eric)

Now that means you might lose an unfair share of these votes.

ERIC '01

I don't mind losing as long as I'm heard.

COACH CAMPBELL

That's why you're the right guy for the job.

Coach Campbell gives Eric '01 a big bear hug.

COACH CAMPBELL (CONT'D)

(to Larry and Sergey)

Get over here guys and seal this pact.

Larry '01 and Sergey '01 join this bizarre football-locker-room-man-love covenant.

COACH CAMPBELL (CONT'D)

Long live the triumvirate.

CUT TO:

INT. NSA HEADQUARTERS - 2009 - DAY

Jackie introduces Sergey and David to NSA PERSONNEL. Sergey is given some papers to sign.

SERGEY

What's this?

JACKIE

It's an agreement saying you won't disclose anything you learn in the briefing.

Sergey looks at the agreement.

DAVID

Basically, it says if you talk, you'll be tried, convicted, and sentenced to life in a secret prison.

SERGEY

Should you be making secret prison jokes to a Russian?

DAVID

Not sure it was a joke. And as a Russian I thought you'd appreciate it more.

JACKIE

If you make secret prison jokes around the CIA guys they just get real quiet.

Sergey and David get uncomfortable, not sure if she's joking, not sure if they are either.

TIME CUT:

Jackie leads Sergey into the...

INT. INFORMATION DOMINANCE CENTER - 2009 - CONTINUOUS

It looks mostly like the bridge of the "Enterprise NX-01" from Star Trek Enterprise. NSA AGENTS bustle about. Cyber threats are projected onto a large screen in front of them.

JACKIE

Welcome to the Information Dominance Center...

SERGEY

Wow. I heard you modeled it after the bridge of the Starship Enterprise.

JACKIE

Silicon Valley doesn't have the market cornered on nerds.

SERGEY

Not screen accurate though.

Jackie rolls her eyes. The doors close behind them.

Larry steps into view.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

We can't know for sure what the NSA said to Sergey during that briefing. It's classified. But let's just say, it was something exactly like this...

CUT TO:

INT. A CLOCKWORK ORANGE ROOM - DAY

A SHOT-FOR-SHOT RECREATION of the scene from "A Clockwork Orange." Sergey is in a straightjacket strapped to a chair. His false eyelash-covered eyes are held open and he's forced to watch images of ultraviolence.

BACK TO:

EXT. INFORMATION DOMINANCE CENTER - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

The doors open again and a dazed and worn-looking Sergey stumbles out. Jackie steadies him. He pulls off a false eyelash.

LARRY (V.O.)

Needless to say, it scared the shit out of him.

JACKIE

You all right?

SERGEY

(woozy)

Yeah. I'm fine.

JACKIE

Buy you a drink?

SERGEY

Yes, please.

INT. BAR - 2009 - EVENING

Sergey and Jackie sit at a back table, sipping their drinks.

SERGEY

So how did you end up at the NSA?

JACKIE

My secret agent father was killed by cyber terrorists and I vowed to avenge his murder.

SERGEY

Sounds a little far-fetched.

JACKIE

Nope. All women in law enforcement have similar backstories. Don't you watch television?

SERGEY

Is avoiding questions part of your training or a built-in trait they screen for?

JACKIE

Little of column A. Little of column B.

SERGEY

You know, it's funny, when we started in China, the government didn't tell us what to censor. We were just expected to anticipate what they'd object to and censor ourselves. So we did what we do best... we innovated. Fed millions of search queries into our competitors search tools to see what they blocked so our system learned what was objectionable. We created an algorithm that would censor faster and more efficiently than real-life Chinese censors.

JACKIE

Is this the part where you say, "We thought we could change China... but China changed us."

SERGEY

A little cliché, don't you think?

JACKIE

Absolutely. But you totally want to say it now, don't you?

SERGEY

Nope.

JACKIE

Come on.

SERGEY

Not gonna happen.

JACKIE

Say it.

SERGEY

(super serious)

We thought we were changing China... but
China changed us.

She nods.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Well?

JACKIE

It was all right.

SERGEY

You can do better?

JACKIE

Much better.

SERGEY

Let's hear it.

JACKIE

(naturalistic)

We thought we were changing China... but
China changed us.

SERGEY

Yeah. That was better.

JACKIE

Told you...

(beat)

You know this is just the beginning,
right? Everyone's living on the Internet
but the Internet's not a safe place.
China. Russia. North Korea. Al-Qaeda. Us.
I'm not just talking about corporate IP
and grandma's credit card. Or even nuclear
power plants. It's the subtle things.
Little hacks that go by almost unnoticed,
but have big consequences. A political
campaign gets hacked. Voter rolls are
stolen. Elections are nudged and suddenly
a whole region that was stable for decades
is in chaos. And not just in the Middle
East. What happens when a foreign
government installs their candidate of
choice in 10 Downing Street? In The
Whitehouse? It's possible. I'm talking
about the destabilization of the world.
For oil. For influence. For money. For the
caliphate. For some machismo power
bullshit.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Or just because some fourteen-year-old hacker wants to prove they can. We can't protect America alone. We need the help of our technology partners.

Sergey can see where she's going but doesn't stop her.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

If we can get a look at your network traffic, we can build systems to detect and disable the source of cyber attacks and redirect them to NSA servers for investigation.

Sergey thinks it over. She pulls out a thumb drive and holds it up to him.

SERGEY

What's that?

JACKIE

Everything we have on your attackers.

Sergey takes the drive, looks at it.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Well? Am I coming to Mountain View with you or what?

SERGEY

You ever been on a private jet before?

JACKIE

Trying to impress me?

INT. SOUTHWEST AIRPLANE - 2009 - NIGHT

David, Sergey, and Jackie sit uncomfortably on a Southwest Airlines plane. Jackie gives Sergey a withering look.

SERGEY

How was I supposed to know Eric took the jet back without me?

EXT. BWI AIRPORT - 2009 - EVENING

The Southwest airlines plane takes off.

ERIC (V.O.)

Don't be evil.

VFX: We follow the plane from BWI to SFO on a Google Map.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - 2004 - DAY

Eric '04 and Larry '04 on a TED Talk-like stage giving a presentation.

ERIC '04

That's our unofficial motto at Google.

LARRY '04

(off mic)

An internal motto until now.

ERIC '04

The idea is we don't quite know what evil is, but if we have a rule that says don't be evil, employees can say, I think that's evil. Right, Larry?

LARRY '04

Sort of.

ERIC '04

Now, when I showed up, I thought this was the stupidest rule ever.

Larry cringes.

ERIC '04 (CONT'D)

Because there's no book about evil. Except maybe, you know, the Bible or something. But it's worked for us. In the end, it's about serving the user, right Larry?

Larry nods awkwardly. He opens his mouth to speak--

ERIC '04 (CONT'D)

Don't deceive.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - DAY

Heather talks to more security heads from the hacked fortune 500 companies.

ERIC '04 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Anything deceptive is evil.

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2009 - DAY

Sergey leads Jackie and her team inside and watches as they set up their work stations. He looks at the thumb drive in his hand.

ERIC '04 (V.O.)
Don't abuse user trust.

BACK TO:

INT. STAGE - 2004 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

ERIC '04
Take for example, pay-for-placement ads within search results.

INSERT:

PAY FOR PLACEMENT RESULTS from Overture's search engine.

ERIC '04 (V.O.)
Where advertisers can pay to jump to the head of the line of search results and corrupt useful results with less relevant information.

BACK TO:

INT. STAGE - 2004 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

LARRY '04
It's insidious.

ERIC '04
Well, that's kinda strong. But it does degrade the quality of search results.

LARRY '04
So we refused to do it.

ERIC '04
And it almost put us out of business...

Larry '04 finally registers Eric '04's clarifications as patronizing, and steps to the side to let Eric '04 finish the presentation.

ERIC '04 (CONT'D)
But then what if you can make ads useful to the user? Target them to their needs. Would they be evil then? So we came up with...

"Google Adwords" is projected onto a screen behind Eric '04.

INSERT:

YOUTUBE "HOW TO" VIDEO: Shows the "Google Adwords" web page in its browser.

ERIC '04 (V.O.)
Adwords...

The video runs through the process of placing an ad for the company "Lively Lobsters" ending in a search result that says "sponsored link" and "Live Mail Order Lobsters" for the search words "Live Lobsters."

ERIC '04 (V.O.)(CONT'D)
A revolutionary, scalable automated cost-per-click price auction model ad system that forces advertisers to make their ads relevant to user needs.

BACK TO:

INT. STAGE - 2004 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Larry '04 watches Eric bloviate in front of the crowd.

LARRY (V.O.)
And just like that...

The audience claps. Larry manages a weak smile.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
We were a fucking ad company.

Cyndi Lauper's "Money Changes Everything" kicks in as we...

INSERT:

VFX: GOOGLE PROFIT AND LOSS GRAPH. The profits start soaring. As profits pass a competitor's, their logo disappears with a poof. AltaVista. Poof! AskJeeves. Poof! Lycos. Poof! Excite. Poof!

LARRY (V.O.)(CONT'D)
Over the next few years, we crushed the competition.

EXT. GOOGLE CAMPUS - 2004 - DAY

Eric '04 poses for a publicity shot, looking to CAMERA.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And Eric got us there.

A team of EXECUTIVES appear behind Eric '04.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He hired the management team.

A SALES FORCE joins the group.

LARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Built the sales force.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - 2004 - DAY

A BUSINESS NEWS ANCHOR at the news desk.

BUSINESS NEWS ANCHOR
Someone has finally cracked the unsolved
mystery of making money-- lots and lots
of money-- on the Internet...

MONTAGE:

News helicopters and vans at Google Campus.

Larry & Eric at the Nasdaq podium.

A line of very expensive cars in the Google parking lot.

Marissa Mayer looks out her Four Seasons Penthouse
windows at a 360-view of downtown San Francisco.

Larry, Sergey, and Eric pose with their 767 then their yachts.

BUSINESS NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
Google Inc. filed for an initial public
offering today and revealed financial
results for the first time ever. Yowza!
Generating net income of over \$100
million, on revenue of nearly \$1 billion,
last year. On track to more than double
that this year. All thanks to my guest.

BACK TO:

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - 2004 - DAY

CAMERA ON: Eric '04.

BUSINESS NEWS ANCHOR
Eric Schmidt, who took over for Cofounder
Larry Page as CEO four years ago and has
taken the fledgling startup to a multi-
million dollar company.

ERIC '04

Well, I'm just the adult supervision.
Larry and Sergey are young, but they're
really, really smart. "I just keep the
trains running on time."

The scene **PAUSES**.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL:

INT. GOOGLE CONFERENCE ROOM - 2009 - DAY

The previous scene is a paused **YOUTUBE VIDEO** on Larry's phone. Larry sits, bored, looking at his phone in a meeting. Marissa talks.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

So he wears a suit and sometimes unironically references fascist dictators but hiring Eric was the best decision I ever made as CEO. I used to be in meetings like this all day long.

Larry gets up and walks out of the meeting.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

But when Eric took over, I realized I don't have to be here anymore.

VFX: Larry walking directly from the conference room into...

INT. GOOGLE PUBLIC RELATIONS - WALK & TALK - 2009 - CONTINUOUS

RACHEL WHETSTONE looks up from her desk. Larry walks up to her.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

So I told our public relations department
(to Rachel)
You get eight hours of my time per year.

RACHEL

But...

Larry walks off.

INT. FOUNDER'S LOFT - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

LARRY'S ASSISTANTS, dejected, walk past him carrying boxes of their stuff. He ignores them.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Then I fired my assistants so no one can book a meeting with me.

EXT. GOOGLE CAMPUS - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Larry hides as the Googler Mob from before runs past.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

So now if anyone wants to talk to me, they have to find me first.

EXT. GOOGLE X - WALK & TALK - 2009 - DAY

Larry walks inside.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

I'm like a Sasquatch. Or a ghost. Or the ghost of a Sasquatch.

INT. GOOGLE X - WALK & TALK - 2009 - CONTINUOUS

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Eric takes care of the business end.

INT. DRIVERLESS CAR - 2009 - DAY

Larry in the "driver's" seat.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

So I can focus on innovation. See? No hands.

Larry puts his hands in the air to show no hands as the driverless car drives itself through an obstacle course of orange cones.

INT. GOOGLE X - WALK & TALK - 2009 - LATER

Larry gets out of the car.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

It's like I get to be Tesla while Eric takes care of the Edison stuff.

INSERT:

YOUTUBE VIDEO: Topsy the Elephant being electrocuted and the terrifying sound recordings of the talking doll and her inner workings and dead eyes.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE X - 2009 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Maybe that's not the best analogy.

SERGEY (O.S.)

Sorry to interrupt.

Larry turns to see Sergey.

LARRY

It's okay. I was pretty much out of relevant backstory anyway.

Sergey holds up the thumb drive.

SERGEY

I got it. Proof that China was behind the attack.

He puts the thumb drive on Larry's work table.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

I'm calling another meeting of the Operating Committee.

Larry has zero desire to talk about this.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

If we continue to do business in China, I'm out.

LARRY

What do you mean "out?"

SERGEY

I'll resign.

LARRY

You're serious?

He's serious.

LARRY (CONT'D)

You do realize China's just a blip in our company history, right?

SERGEY

Doing evil in China makes it easier to do evil somewhere else. One blip. Two blips. Pretty soon it'll be death by a thousand blips.

LARRY

If I side with you it's basically a vote of no confidence against Eric.

SERGEY

So? Then we push him out and you take back CEO. Wasn't that always the plan?

LARRY

I'm not sure I want to be CEO again.

SERGEY

Of course you want to be CEO again. You're like Kirk at the beginning of Star Trek II. It's the only thing you've wanted since Eric took over but you're too goddamned frightened you're going to fuck it up to take it back.

LARRY

I think I'm more of a Spock.

SERGEY

This is your company, Larry. Sure I founded it with you and I helped but it's your vision. And I get it. You want to be Tesla and hide in your secret lab inventing driverless cars while Eric handles the interviews and government regulator bullshit. But Eric's a suit. He's always been a suit. And maybe we needed that for a while but we don't anymore.

Larry agrees but doesn't want to give up his toys.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

We started this company to give conventional corporate values the middle finger. But we're not unconventional anymore. We are becoming so very, very conventional.

That was just about the worst thing you could say to Larry.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Meeting's at four PM.

(at the door)

And you know, Picard's a Spock, and he's the boss.

OFF Larry's look...

MONTAGE:

Daft Punks's "Technologic" kicks in as reams of paper are printed out with information on the hacks. Pie charts, analysis, etc. These are hole punched and put together into booklets.

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2010 - DAY

Google Operations sets up for the Operating Committee meeting. The booklets and water bottles are set at every seat.

INTERCUT WITH:

MUSIC VIDEO TYPE SHOTS of Eric in the shower, opening up a large closet, and picking out a nice collared shirt and sport coat.

INTERCUT WITH:

Sergey washes his armpits in a Google bathroom, sniffs a bunch of wrinkled t-shirts in a pile next to his desk, and puts one on.

INTERCUT WITH:

Larry feeds some pigeons on the Google campus.

INTERCUT WITH:

SLO-MO Larry, Eric, Sergey, David, and the rest of the Operating Committee walk to the meeting.

A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE pops up and identifies the Operating Committee Members with their name and title.

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2010 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

Sergey walks into the room as everyone is taking their seats, Eric at the head of the table, Larry to his right. Eric and Sergey's eyes meet.

ERIC

Sergey.

SERGEY

Eric.

Sergey looks at Larry. Larry averts his gaze.

Sergey walks to a seat on the other side of the room, next to a large projector screen. Morgan connects a laptop with Sergey's presentation on it to the AV system.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Where's Heather?

MORGAN MAYHEM

She's briefing the security head at Northrup about the breach.

SERGEY

We good to go here?

MORGAN MAYHEM

Yeah.

SERGEY

All right. I'm starting then.

(to the Operating Committee)

Hello. Hi, everyone. Can I have your attention, please.

Conversations die down and everyone looks to Sergey. Sergey looks at Larry staring at his phone. Larry finally looks up.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Good afternoon. Thank you all for coming out on a Sunday. I'll try to keep it to a brief six-hour argument.

Morgan laughs. He's the only one and immediately regrets it.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Right. So you all know why we're here. To talk about China...

FIRST SLIDE: A map of China with a "?" over it.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Again.

NEXT SLIDE: A funny picture of Sergey with his shoulders slumped, rolling his eyes.

A few chuckles from the crowd. Not from Eric.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

We have a big decision to make, a decision about the future of Google, about what kind of company we want to be. Spoiler alert: I think we should get out.

Sergey glances at Larry. Larry looks away, but sees Eric glance at him too. Larry looks down at his phone to avoid them both.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

But I'm not here to tell you my opinion.
We don't make decisions based on opinions or feelings. We make decisions based on data.
(looks at the slide of himself)
Dear god, let's get rid of this slide.

NEXT SLIDE: Data on the malware.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

As you know, last month Google discovered a highly sophisticated and coordinated attack from hackers who've been in our source code and network since April of last year. The word "Aurora" is in the malware code so we're calling it "Operation Aurora" because everyone's seen a lot of spy movies I guess. So what did they get? Morgan?

NEXT SLIDE: A list of Google's hacked systems.

Larry looks back up from his phone.

MORGAN

Well, you already know about the breach of LERS. That's how we discovered they were there. There's also the two user accounts of the Chinese Human Rights Activists. Not good. Also not good, they used our corporate directory to nick the names of top software developers working on the single-password management system for gmail, search, and all our other apps.

Worried looks from Operating Committee members.

Larry watches each person as they ask questions and listens to the answers, taking in the data.

MARISSA

Did they get user passwords?

SERGEY

Not yet.

MORGAN

But you know there's a warehouse full of Chinese hackers almost as good as me scouring the source code for a way in. Just a matter of time.

SERGEY

It'll need a complete overhaul.

SUSAN WOJCICKI

What about the rest of our source code?

SERGEY

Compromised. They used a bunch of fancy hacker moves to gain access through the SCMs to our source code repositories. Maybe if you buy Morgan a drink he'll explain it to you.

Morgan holds up two fingers and mouths "two" to indicate that it would take at least two drinks for him to reveal this.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

If you buy Morgan two drinks.

Eric sighs impatiently. Larry doesn't look at him but he hears it.

MARISSA

Has any of our code been altered?

MORGAN

Not that we can tell...

SERGEY

But that's not all.

SUSAN WOJCICKI

There's more?

MORGAN

The Adversary, that's the evil supervillain name the intelligence community has for these guys--

(looks at Marissa)

Or girls. Ladies. They could be lady hackers.

(moving on)

Anyway, the Adversary used DNS queries to look for our signing certificates.

SERGEY

With those they'd be able to impersonate us online. Websites. Software. Financial transactions. The whole shebang.

MARISSA

Did they get them?

MORGAN

Thankfully, we keep those offline in an air-gapped network so they weren't accessible.

SERGEY

But remember Google was only one facet of this attack, over thirty-three other companies were compromised.

SUSAN WOJCICKI

Do we know what data of theirs was compromised?

SERGEY

No. It's not our data so we haven't been analyzing it. Heather's been meeting with the security heads of those companies to tell them about the breach and help in assessing the damage if they'll let us.

Sergey looks to the door.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

She should be here any second. But according to our intelligence partner that's just the tip of the iceberg. It's not just thirty-three companies compromised or fifty or sixty. There are thousands of compromised companies. Actively, right now. In attacks we don't even know about.

Eric looks at the clock, it's Sunday and getting late.

ERIC

Sergey, this is all very interesting and scary but you said there was evidence actually implicating the Chinese government?

SERGEY

Yep.

Sergey skips through a couple TECHNICAL SLIDES.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

With the help of our, uh, intelligence partners we've uncovered some new evidence that will...

NEXT SLIDE: A picture of LI CHANGCHUN.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

Ah! Here. Meet Li Changchun. A very senior leader of the Communist Party of China and basically their head of propaganda and media relations among other things. Never heard of him? Me neither. But he knows us. And he's not a fan.

CUT TO:

INT. LI CHANGCHUN'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Li googles himself on the uncensored Google.com.

SERGEY (V.O.)

According to intel I got from my dystopian visit to Washington I'm not allowed to talk about, Li here did not like what he saw when he Googled himself on Google dot com.

On Li's screen is a Google results page with articles from outside China bashing him and one claiming his daughter is having an extra-marital affair.

SERGEY (V.O.)

Not one bit. Something critical of him and his family.

Furious, Li picks up the phone and starts barking orders.

SERGEY (V.O.)

Took the search results a little personally.

BACK TO:

INT. GOOGLE BOARDROOM - 2010 - CONTINUED FROM BEFORE

SUSAN WOJCICKI

Wait. You're saying all this is because some official got butt-hurt about his Google search results?

MORGAN

Yep.

Sergey clicks through SLIDES supportive of the evidence.

SERGEY

We've traced the attackers' IP addresses to the Lanxiang Vocational School, where China trains hackers for its military.

Eric squirms.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

The school's network is operated by a an associate of, guess who, our biggest search competitor in China, Baidu.

NEXT SLIDE: A picture of Baidu's offices.

MARISSA

Bastards.

SERGEY

Our intelligence partners were tipped off that the Chinese Government demanded access to malware tools developed by a Chinese civilian researcher. The tools used on us are almost identical.

Sergey looks directly at Larry for his summation.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

I think we can conclude without a doubt that the attack on our network and probably the other companies was conducted by the People's Republic of China or at the very least with PRC approval.

Larry inputs Sergey's argument. Eric notices.

ERIC

Well, Sergey--

SERGEY

(quickly)

Also, we thought we were changing China but China changed us.

ERIC

Right. Got it. Thank you. Sincerely, thank you to you and your entire team for your tireless efforts. Although it may not be indisputable evidence of PRC involvement, I agree that it is conclusive.

Sergey is surprised by this concession.

ERIC (CONT'D)

However, many of us here feel that our continuing in China is the only option.

SERGEY

So it never mattered to you who was behind the attacks?

ERIC

Stopping filter-- er --censoring on Google dot cn isn't a reasonable response to an attack on our network. It's abandoning hundreds of millions of Google users, six hundred million in revenues this year alone, and billions upon billions in the future, the sunk costs of our very hard-won thirty-three percent market share. How many times do we have to have this discussion?

SERGEY

Our physical presence in China gave government hackers access to our global network. Those government hackers stole our source code. Those government hackers breached user data, users whose lives and liberty are now at risk because of our greed and need for a thirty-three percent market share.

Eric has no defense for this. Sergey turns to Larry.

SERGEY (CONT'D)

We founded this company to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. Universally. Yes, we have a responsibility to our shareholders to make a profit. But we also have a responsibility to the world to provide free access to information. Our willing participation in Chinese government censorship degrades the peoples' trust in us. It makes us unreliable. It makes us evil.

This sits with the room for a beat.

ERIC

Let's say you're right, Sergey.

SERGEY

Works for me.

ERIC

Let's say this is purely a moral decision. Staying in China is still the right thing to do.

SERGEY

Ha!

ERIC

It's our moral obligation as an American Company to stay in China and fight to promote the democratic values of freedom, equality, opportunity, and human rights.

Eric realizes he's onto something with this new argument.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Yes, I understand that censorship is a violation of those values.

Now focuses directly on Larry.

ERIC (CONT'D)

But a China with Google is better than a China without Google.

Larry considers this.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Even if we're not providing the free and open information we want, it's a hell of a lot more information than if Google wasn't in China at all. And what other company is going to be strong enough or have the inclination to put pressure on the Chinese government to push it towards openness?

Heather Adkins slips into the back of the conference room.

ERIC (CONT'D)

There are currently 1.3 billion Chinese people. Many of them are clamoring for access to objective outside news, surveillance free communication, and for tools that give them the ability to organize against their government. And the one's who aren't clamoring for it don't know enough about information and technology to know to want it.

Eric's rolling now, turns to Sergey for his coup de grâce.

ERIC (CONT'D)

What if your father hadn't known about the opportunities and freedom in the West? Where would you be now, Sergey? There are 17 million little Sergeys being born in China every year.

Sergey seethes in his chair, but it's working on Larry.

ERIC (CONT'D)

The Chinese government believes the Internet and information can be controlled.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Our retreat would make them think they were right. And other authoritarian regimes would know we can be intimidated with a hack. We can't just stand by while China cements its authoritarian surveillance state on the internet. This is a 21st Century technological-arms race. Our retreat is not an option...

This geo-political perspective resonates through the room.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(sensing favorable result)

So unlike China, we vote. All in favor of staying in China--

HEATHER

I'm sorry, Eric. But I have some information I think the committee should know about.

ERIC

What?

HEATHER

Well, I haven't talked to all of the companies compromised in the breach but it seems that many of them were already aware.

Larry's face: *What?*

SERGEY

What do you mean?

HEATHER

They knew their networks had been breached but didn't notify their users or any other companies who might be vulnerable.

Larry is shell-shocked. How could they keep it to themselves? We stay on him, dazed, as everyone talks around him.

DAVID (O.C.)

They buried it.

HEATHER (O.C.)

If even one of these companies had come forward, we might have discovered the breach sooner... or prevented it.

SERGEY (O.C.)

We should expose them.

DAVID (O.C.)

I wouldn't recommend that. It would open us up to all kinds of lawsuits.

ERIC (O.C.)

Agreed. We're not doing that. Right, Larry? Larry?

Larry snaps out of it. All eyes are on him. Time to step up.

LARRY

Eric's, right.

Sergey's incredulous.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Fighting to advance freedom of speech, and the free flow of information should be a number one priority for us. Not just because our business model relies on it, but because it's the right thing to do. We have to engage countries like China to advance these principles.

Eric smiles. Larry is on his side.

LARRY (CONT'D)

But Sergey is also right...

If a record scratch had a facial expression, Eric would have it.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Participating in government censorship even while attempting to lessen that censorship, is evil. Engagement is good. Participation in censorship is evil. They cancel each other out. But there is a third data point. The future.

Larry's voice is stronger than we've ever heard it.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Not only the future of Google, but the future of the Internet. The future of technology. The future of humanity.

If he didn't have it before, he's got everyone's attention now.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Right now we're spending a lot of resources; time, money, energy, and dwindling goodwill in a single market.

(directed at Eric)

Yes, it's China. It's a big market.

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

But two-thirds of the world's population doesn't have access to the Internet at all. We should be spending our resources on connecting those people. Smart phones for everyone and a worldwide network of balloons beaming WiFi down to developing nations.

ERIC

Larry.

LARRY

People live their lives online more and more. The more data we collect from them, the more good we can do.

Larry's not being diabolical or power hungry here, he truly believes in technology as a force for good in the world.

LARRY (CONT'D)

If we took the whole world's medical records and shared them anonymously with a Google machine learning tool, it would be like millions of medical studies running at once, diseases wouldn't stand a chance.

ERIC

This is all great material for a TED talk, Larry, but--

LARRY

But this future is in jeopardy. Eric, by hacking us, the Chinese government has turned Google into a global surveillance tool with access to Google users' data worldwide. Which is a helluva lotta data.

(beat)

They're actively making the digital world unsafe.

(beat)

We should expose them.

Larry and Sergey lock eyes. Fuck yeah.

LARRY (CONT'D)

And these thirty three other American companies, they're actively making the digital world unsafe too with their conspiracy of silence. They could have spoken up at any time to protect the rest of us and they chose not to.

(beat)

That wasn't noble. That was not the right thing to do. We should expose them too.

(beat)

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

If people don't trust their data on the Internet, Google's future, THE future, doesn't arrive. If we don't take a stand, who will?

The room is silent as they absorb this.

ERIC

Maybe you're right, but I can't believe self-eviction is the answer.

LARRY

It's not the only answer, but it's the right answer.

Eric feels the tide of the room turning against his position. Sergey rubs it in.

SERGEY

Shall we vote?

Eric knows he's on the losing side of the most significant decision in Google's history. He sighs.

ERIC

All in favor of going public with the hack and stopping censoring on Google dot cn.

Everyone but Eric raises their hands.

ERIC (CONT'D)

All opposed.

Only Eric raises his hand. The scene **PAUSES**. The Youtube "pause" icon pops up on the frame.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL:

INT. FOUNDER'S LOFT - DAY

The previous scene is a paused **YOUTUBE VIDEO** on a huge screen behind Larry.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

So what's the moral of this story? Can a corporation be a force for good in the world? Or does morality not scale? Well...

CUT TO:

INT. PAGE FAMILY STATION WAGON - 1985 - DAY

Adult Larry sits in the backseat looking at Tesla's autobiography, his 1985 parents in the front.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

I used to think that you had to be either a Tesla or an Edison. That the world was binary. Ones or zeroes. But it's not.

Carl stops the car and Larry opens the door.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVERLESS CAR - 2010 - DAY

Larry gets out of the backseat of a driverless car.

LARRY

It's more like quantum computing: you can be two things at the same time. Ones AND zeroes. Black and White. Good and Evil.

INSERT:

YOUTUBE VIDEO: Topsy.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

Take poor old Topsy for instance. Is it inhumane to electrocute an elephant? Yes.

INSERT:

PRESS CLIPPINGS, DIAGRAMS, and OLD PHOTOS to illustrate the story.

LARRY (V.O.)

But what happens when you learn Topsy killed a spectator and the circus was planning to hang her and sell tickets? And the only reason they didn't was because the ASPCA got the Edison Company to electrocute her privately instead?

INSERT:

YOUTUBE VIDEO: Topsy. Larry is inserted into the video.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Still inhumane? Yeah. But less inhumane
than Plan A.

CUT TO:

INT. RANI LAI'S OFFICE - 2010 - DAY

Rani, deflated from her ordeal, types at her computer.

LARRY (V.O.)
Kinda like our plan to go public with the
China hack.

David knocks on the door.

DAVID
How you doing?

RANI
Oh, Chinese hackers used my credentials to
access classified government files and steal
my company's source code. But...

DAVID
Could have happened to any of us.

RANI
Yeah. But it happened to me.

DAVID
Well, I think I have a job that'll cheer
you up.

INSERT:

COMPUTER SCREEN with a blog post title being typed out:
"A New Approach to China."

LARRY (V.O.)
David and Rani wrote up a blog post.

CUT TO:

INT. GOOGLEPLEX - 2010 - DAY

Meetings all over the campus come to a dead stop as
Googlers tell each other to read the blog post.

LARRY (V.O.)
News spread like an earthquake.

INT. MICROSOFT EXECUTIVE OFFICE - 2010 - DAY

A MICROSOFT EXECUTIVE reads the blog post.

DAVID (V.O.)

We have discovered that at least twenty other large companies from a wide range of businesses have been similarly targeted.

MICROSOFT EXECUTIVE

What the f--

RANI (V.O.)

We are currently in the process of notifying those companies...

The executive hurls a full smoothie against a glass wall.

INT. STANFORD COFFEE SHOP - 2010 - DAY

Tenzin Seldon reads the blog on her laptop in a coffee shop.

DAVID (V.O.)

A primary goal of the attackers was to access the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists.

She looks out the window. Is there a man watching her across the street? She covers the "Free Tibet" sticker on her laptop with her coffee cup.

RANI (V.O.)

These attacks and the surveillance they uncovered--

INT. LI CHANGCHUN'S HOME OFFICE - EARLY MORNING

Li Changchun, in his pajamas, reads the blog post.

DAVID (V.O.)

Combined with attempts over the past year to further limit free speech on the web...

INT. ERIC SCHMIDT'S OFFICE - 2010 - DAY

Eric reads the blog post, pissed.

RANI (V.O.)

Have led us to conclude that we should review the feasibility of our business operations in China...

INT. WAR BUILDING - 2010 - DAY

Sergey reads the blog.

DAVID (V.O.)

We have decided we are no longer willing
to censor our results on Google dot cn.

He hears something. A clap. He gets up and walks out of the office. Morgan Mayhem slow claps.

MORGAN

Slow clap.

Other Engineers join in, chanting "slow clap." The clapping melds into...

INT. CHARLIE'S CAFE - JANUARY 15, 2010 - EVENING

A full audience of Googlers. War whoops and high-fives, as Larry, Sergey, and Eric take the stage.

They're all smiles, some more forced than others.

Eric steps aside so Sergey can take a bow. The crowd gives him a standing ovation.

LARRY (V.O.)

Sergey got a standing ovation at that week's TGIF meeting.

Sergey's overwhelmed with emotion. It's been a long road.

Sergey pulls Larry alongside him. Larry gives waves and the cheers surge. The Googlers love these guys.

Larry looks back at Eric awkwardly standing alone. It's only a matter of time.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Later that year, we announced that I would be taking over from Eric as CEO.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIC'S OFFICE - DAY

Eric tweets: "Day-to-day adult supervision no longer needed!"

He looks at the tweet rather wistfully before pushing send.

LARRY (V.O.)

Don't feel too bad for him. He's worth
eleven point five billion dollars....

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. WAR BUILDING - WALK & TALK - 2010 - DAY

Larry slides his blue security card to get into the building.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

The day we wrote the blog post, the NSA
lawyers cooked up a deal to help us build
a defensive system for our network in
exchange for some of our information.

(beat)

Well, your information.

INT. WAR BUILDING - JACKIE'S OFFICE - 2010 - DAY

Jackie looks around to see if anyone is watching her. She
pulls out a yellow Post-it and scribbles down notes for
what will become known as the MUSCULAR program disclosed
by Edward Snowden.

LARRY (V.O.)

We soon discovered the NSA used their
intimate knowledge of our system to hack our
network and collect massive amounts of user
data including data belonging to Americans.

Sergey comes in, all smiles. Jackie covers the Post-it.

SERGEY

You wanna grab a drink with me?

JACKIE

I don't think that's a good idea.

SERGEY

But how will I make an awkward pass at
you if you won't have a drink with me?

JACKIE

I think you just did.

SERGEY

Right.

She grabs her files and heads for the door.

JACKIE

(close to him)

Besides, we're already in bed together...
metaphorically. Professionally.

She's out the door. He watches her go.

SERGEY

All right. Rain check on the clichéd
advances then.

JACKIE

(turning back)

You wanted to know the reason I joined the
NSA... When I interviewed with you six years
ago I was told I wasn't Googley enough.

Dumbfounded, he watches her walk away.

LARRY (V.O.)

Ones and zeroes.

INT. WAR BUILDING - WALK & TALK - 2010 - CONTINUOUS

Larry walks past the hundreds of Systems Experts, most in
the process of eating something.

LARRY

(to CAMERA)

Since those hacks we've taken the lead in
cyber security worldwide. We have the
largest security staff of any non security
company in the world. And the best snacks.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Heather meets with the security heads of some hacked companies.

LARRY (V.O.)

We monitor and police other companies to
keep your information safe.

HEATHER

If you don't patch the bugs in ninety
days, we will release them to the public.

HACKED SECURITY HEAD

Who put you in charge of the Internet?

HEATHER

You did. When you turned your back on it.

LARRY (V.O.)
Ones and zeroes.

EXT. GOOGLE CHINA OFFICES, BEIJING - 2010 - DAY

Xumei and some CHINESE GOOGLE USERS put flowers around the Google sign in front of the Google offices like a grave.

LARRY (V.O.)
We tried to work it out with the Chinese government but eventually we had to shut down our Chinese search engine.

EXT. WAR BUILDING - WALK AND TALK - 2010 - DAY

Larry leaves the building.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
And as for me, I'm CEO of a new company called Alphabet.

He heads toward the Google X Building.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Made up of Google and a bunch of smaller companies, each run by capable CEOs under me.

Susan, Amit, Stacy and other Googlers rush up to Larry.

STACY SULLIVAN
Larry--

LARRY
I trust you to do your jobs.

Everyone turns and walks away.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
So that I can focus on The Future.

Larry swipes his key card and we follow him into...

INT. GOOGLE X - WALK & TALK - CONTINUOUS

Google X Skunk-Works-like projects set up like an IKEA showroom.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)

Fifty years from now computers will be as small as a few atoms across. They'll be embedded in everything. Your city. Your home.

He walks past FLYING CAR ENGINEERS parallel parking a flying car between two normal cars with crunched bumpers.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Your car.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Your you.

FUTURE TECH ENGINEER holds a futuristic staple-gun like device to the temple of Google User #1 and fires. KA-CHUNCH. *These are the same Google Users we met in the beginning of the movie.*

GOOGLE USER #1
Ow.

Larry continues past BALLOON ENGINEERS launching an air balloon.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
And because Google will connect you to this massive network of devices and provide the operating system--

FUTURE DATA ENGINEERS monitor banks of screens.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Google will know who you are.

On the screens **A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE** pops up around Google User #1's face and identifies him as "*Tommy Chung. San Ramon, CA. Working as a test subject to pay \$176,787 in student loans. Will never use degree.*"

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
What you know.

Larry passes Google User #2 on her Schwinn bicycle typing on her phone. On the screens **A GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION CIRCLE** pops up: "*Kellie Palo Verde. Los Altos, CA. Knows wife is cheating on her.*"

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Where you're going.

Google User #2 sets off on her bike. On the screens
"Starting route to hardware store..."

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Even what you're going to buy.

"Duct tape. Rope. Bleach."

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
We'll know everything there is to know
about you.

Google User #3 smiles to camera and waves as a Future
Google Tech scans her with a barcode scanner.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
And more!

On the screens "College boyfriend now a terrorist."

GOOGLE USER #3
Wait. What?

Larry moves next to a mass of servers, blinking lights,
and wires resembling a brain, aptly named GOOGLE BRAIN.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
And because of all the data we collect on
you, Google understands your world
deeply. And through artificial
intelligence we'll give you exactly what
you need before you know you need it.

A FLYING DRONE delivers Larry a bottle of water.

DRONE
You are dehydrated.

Larry walks past a robot version of himself, ROBOT LARRY, with
cords and cables connected to a computer.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
And who knows? Maybe one day we'll figure
out how to download your consciousness
into your very own Google robot body.

ROBOT LARRY
Father...

He passes BIO ENGINEERS in bunny suits carrying a vial.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Will there be unintended consequences?

A flying car careens out of control and crashes into the wall. The bio engineers drop the vial, panic, and run.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(unfazed, to CAMERA)
Probably.

A Terminator-like AI walks by shooting a laser cannon.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
But maybe the cost of sweeping,
revolutionary change...

Larry passes a NORTH KOREAN HACKER, a RUSSIAN HACKER, and Chinese Hacker #1 with little flags on their desk typing wildly on their computers.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Is sweeping, revolutionary consequences.

Larry walks past an elephant tied to electrodes and over to an electric switch. Sergey hands him a pair of protective goggles.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
But no matter what we do, no matter how alarming and reckless it may seem...

SERGEY
(to CAMERA)
Rest assured, we've weighed the pros and cons.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
And chosen the least evil thing to do.

Sergey flips some switches. Larry puts on the goggles.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(to CAMERA)
Ones and zeroes.

SERGEY
Good and Evil.

LARRY
(to CAMERA)
Tesla and Edison.

He flips the switch. Electricity flashes. David Bowie's
"Big Brother" kicks in as we...

SLAM TO BLACK.