

## Superhero films were the most pirated in 2016

The more connected the world becomes, the more vulnerable it is to disruption of many kinds.

The chart below is estimated by Torrentfreak.com based on multiple sources including download statistics reported by public BitTorrent trackers. So-called 'BitTorrent' technologies – systems for peer-to-peer file-sharing over the internet – can accelerate the downloading of large files, hence their widely adopted, though increasingly risky, use to share pirated films, TV shows and other copyrighted material.

### Most pirated movies worldwide 2016

1	<i>Deadpool</i>
2	<i>Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice</i>
3	<i>Captain America: Civil War</i>
4	<i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i>
5	<i>X-Men: Apocalypse</i>
6	<i>Warcraft: The Beginning</i>
7	<i>Independence Day: Resurgence</i>
8	<i>Suicide Squad</i>
9	<i>Finding Dory</i>
10	<i>The Revenant</i>

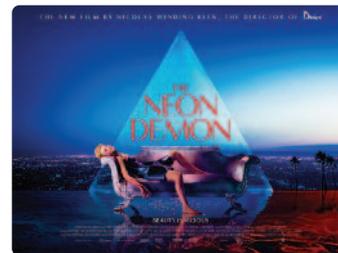
Torrentfreak.com

By their very nature, heavily advertised films are magnets for piracy. In December 2016, Torrentfreak.com reported that *Deadpool* was the most pirated blockbuster of 2016 – 'the clear winner'. Having first appeared in February, pirated copies of *Deadpool* were still being shared by thousands of people at the end of the year. Torrentfreak.com continued: 'Every week millions of people flock to torrent sites, searching for pirated copies of the latest blockbusters. While file-sharers may have a slight preference for geeky films, in general there's a high correlation between piracy and box-office sales. That is, top grossing movies tend to do well on torrent sites too.' If one torrent site disappears or is taken down, file-sharers quickly switch to another to get their media fix wherever they can find it.

For the fifth year in a row, *Game of Thrones* was **the most pirated TV show** on the internet. File-sharing at any one moment reportedly peaked at 350,000 people, just after the latest season finale came online. The next most pirated TV shows in 2016 were *The Walking Dead*, *Westworld* (a newcomer in 2016), *The Flash* and *Arrow*.

There was 'a continuation of the trend of downloaders showing an increased interest in high-quality video. In recent years, many pirates have moved from 480p [image resolution] copies to 720p and 1080p videos, in part thanks to better broadband availability.' Source: torrentfreak.com

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**Skin deep:** From Danish writer/director Nicolas Winding Refn came a seductively stylish horror/thriller set in Los Angeles. *The Neon Demon* starred busy Elle Fanning as an aspiring model who turned heads, alongside Christina Hendricks, Jena Malone, Bella Heathcote and Keanu Reeves. It grossed £0.4m on its summer 2016 release in UK cinemas.