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## Is more leverage better

Leverage fans were disappointed to see the original series end back in 2012, especially because a sixth season had been up in the air for a while before the network decided not to pursue a new season. Over the years, the love for the original series has only grown, and fans got a welcome surprise with the announcement that a revival was heading to IMDb TV in the form of *Leverage: Redemption*. The show welcomes back most of the original cast and a few fresh faces while bringing new elements to the always-addictive premise, and any fears of the show losing its magic are quickly put to rest, as the cast and chemistry feel as effortless and charming as ever, delivering a revival longtime fans will adore. The original *Leverage* thrived on the chemistry of its cast and the Robin Hood-esque heists the team would undertake in every episode. For those unfamiliar, *Leverage* focuses on a team of skilled individuals that help their clients fight the many powerful and corrupt evils out in the world. Much of the team has been on the other side of this equation in the past, and this is a way to not only make amends but also put their unique skills to good use and screw over some bad people at the same time. Each member of the team has their own skillset, and much of that has been retained in *Redemption*. Gina Belman's Sophie is the grifter, Christian Kane's Eliot is the hitter, Beth Riesgraf's Parker is the thief, and Aidis Hodge's Alec is the hacker. They all reprise their roles and bring their specialties back into the mix, but from the first episode, a few changes are quickly apparent. The series begins with the one-year anniversary of Nathan Ford's death, and that creates a space for Noah Wyle's Harry Wilson, though the two characters are not remotely the same. (Photo: IMDb TV) The other fresh face is Aleyse Shannon, who plays Hardison's younger sister Breanna, and the two of them on-screen together are simply delightful, including one exchange during her introduction that left me rolling ([#DoesNanaKnowYoureHere](#)). Breanna brings such genuine enthusiasm and energy to the role, and that energy is a perfect contrast to the well-oiled machine that this team has become. More than that, it opens up a wealth of opportunities for the team to play in and out of their characters' comfort zones and provides a window into who these people were when we last left them and who they've become in the years since. Brianna also provides a younger outlook, but thankfully not through the typical "parents just don't understand" lens. For instance, a conversation between Brianna and Parker starts with the usual beats of Parker not wanting to expose Brianna to a more dangerous world, but Brianna's response puts it all into much-needed perspective. "Parker, my first memory is of 9/11. I've lived through endless war, two economic collapses, and the return of actual nazis," Brianna says. "So this 'worst world ever' thing you see, is the only world I've ever known. I'm not scared." If there was a mic, she would have dropped it. (Photo: IMDb TV) On the other side of things, we have Wyle's character Harry, who the show's mission is built around. Harry's a lawyer who made his career working for corrupt businessmen, and after witnessing the horror of what he's enabling, decides to try and help the families he helped screw over. Wyle's natural charisma and humor is a lovely complement to the rest of the team, but he brings so much more. His lack of experience in pulling jobs allows memorable exchanges with Parker and Sophie, while his guilt and internal conflicts initiate powerful moments with Hardison and Eliot. When it comes to the missions themselves, they are just as fun and thrilling as you remember. Whether the team is trying to take down a corrupt congressman in a casino or attempting to help a client find who is really responsible for a makeshift haunting that could cause her to lose her house, watching the team build a scheme and adapt on the fly towards their ultimate goal never gets old. That said, it's the character's various eccentricities and their light-hearted banter that make the various heists and jobs so entertaining and the characters themselves so endearing. While the heists are just like you remember, the characters have changed and evolved since the last time we saw them, but not so much as to be unrecognizable. Hardison has a whole new organization to help as he tries to provide supplies and relief internationally, though he's also teamed with Parker and Eliot to create their own organization since the original series ended. That provides a twist on Sophie, who walks back into a fully self-sufficient team this time around, yet that changes a bit when Brianna and Harry join the team. The show conveys that they've all grown since the original, but also highlights that, when they get together, old habits die hard, and it's a welcome balance. (Photo: IMDb TV) *Redemption* also knows its audience, so there are plenty of little callbacks and memorable phrases that pop up throughout. They feel organic to the characters if you've been watching since the beginning, but someone from the outside of that might feel as if they're forced without that context. Also, *Leverage* always dealt with high-stakes action and danger, but with a lighthearted touch, and sometimes that does take away from the sense of tension and stakes in each mission since you often don't feel as if someone is really going to die or someone is actually in real danger. It's also unfortunate that Hardison can't be in every single episode. Hardison and Parker together in scenes are always engaging, and the same can be said of Hardison and Brianna. The character brings such delightful warmth and personality to every scene he's in, and his exchanges with Harry really help form the foundation for this team and this season overall. Still, the show does a lovely job of conveying his presence in the story and within the team, even when he's not there, and he's around enough overall that fans should leave feeling like they got the reunion they were hoping for. *Leverage: Redemption* picks up right where the original series left off, and longtime fans will adore seeing their favorite characters back in action. Meanwhile, the new additions to the cast inject the series with fresh energy that, frankly, I didn't even know I wanted, but after seeing it all come together, I truly don't want to say goodbye. The thrills, humor, and heart are all accounted for, creating a revival that any fan is going to absolutely love. Rating: 4 out of 5! comments *Leverage: Redemption* hits IMDb TV on July 9th. Tell us what you're most excited to see in *Leverage: Redemption* in the comments, and you can talk all things *Leverage* with me on Twitter @MattAguiarCB! Getty Images During the Covid-19 pandemic, innovation in vaccines and medicines moved at an unprecedented pace. And that innovation required recruiting large numbers of people into clinical trials at rates that hadn't been seen before. CVS Health, the corporate parent of the pharmacy chain that also owns insurance giant Aetna and other industries, helped *leverage* its contacts to the task: the company interacted with over 300,000 volunteers for the Covid-19 vaccine trials by connecting them with studies in proximity to them. Last month, the company announced that it was beginning a new clinical trial services business, with the goal to merge innovation and experience to improve on overall participant experience for an increase in retention as well as research effectiveness. The company will continue work on trials for Covid therapeutics and vaccines, but it's going to move beyond that into other therapeutics as well by working with some of the top pharmaceutical biotech companies, says Dr. Owen Garrick, Vice President of Clinical Trial Delivery at CVS Health Clinical Trial Services. Since making the announcement, the company has been approached by prospective partners and are looking to utilize the pre-existing relationships with other companies. "You're able to tell that these drugs work in certain populations because those populations are in fact in those clinical trials," Garrick says. To assist with patient recruitment, CVS Health looks toward leveraging the trusted relationships it has built with their patients to be able to inform them of any developments being made. Part of that is simply the company's ability to promote awareness of clinical trials - a report from the National Institutes of Health found that 75% of patients would be inclined to take part in clinical trials had they known they were an option at the time of diagnosis, but often aren't aware of them. "It's not just the ability to give facts but also the ability to be a trusted partner," Garrick says. "The recipient that is hearing those facts from believes them, accepts them, is able to question, push back on them and have a good conversation around that." Utilizing both telehealth appointments or home visits, CVS Health is working on decentralized clinical trials so they reach a "majority of the US population." With its hundreds of CVS Pharmacy and MinuteClinic the country, the company can help assure its pharmaceutical company customers that its clinical trials will be more accessible and convenient for patients, which can help the crucial issue of ensuring that patients actually stick with the trials. That last point is a big one, because a report highlighted by the company found that 30% of patients who start a clinical trial won't finish them. "Retention and your continued participation in a study is critical," says Garrick. Aside from retention, the company is also looking at improving the diversity of clinical trials due to its national reach. Some of the barriers preventing people of color from participating in these trials range from lack of trust to financial issues to awareness. In order to overcome these health disparities, having diverse clinical trials that represent the population of regions - such as the US - will lead to a better understanding of the efficacy, side-effects and more, according to the Biotechnology Innovation Organization. "You're able to tell that these drugs work in certain populations because those populations are in fact in those clinical trials," Garrick says. "So the ability for us to think about that proactively versus reactively, I think, is going to be key in terms of solution sets that we bring to bear." le-ver-age | \ 'le-və-rj , 'lê-, 'lev-rj, 'lêv- \ 3 : the use of credit to enhance one's speculative capacity transitive verb 1 : to provide (something, such as a corporation) or supplement (something, such as money) with leverage also : to enhance as if by supplying with financial leverage 2 : to use for gain : exploit shamelessly leverage the system to their advantage— Alexander Wolff Incentivized by the Federal Data Strategy 2021 Action Plan and laws, like the 2019 Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, federal agencies are looking to make better use of their data. Modernizing legacy approaches standard in sometimes-siloed federal agencies is a difficult task that requires a combination of the right data modernization action plan, leadership buy-in and execution, according to several federal officials speaking Wednesday during a webinar hosted AFCEA Bethesda. "In our data modernization action plan, we are using 'driver projects' that generate value for the agency," said Ram Iyer, chief data officer for the Food and Drug Administration. "We believe if we just focus on back-office work for months and years, we may not have the buy-in from our stakeholders, so we are starting with our key projects." Iyer said FDA is running additional data best practices "in parallel" with the agency's key projects, including the automation of data ingestion at FDA. Further, Iyer—who is the FDA's first chief data officer and has been in the role about 15 months—said the agency is making changes to its talent strategy. The agency is looking for new skillsets, including data "story-tellers," agile software delivery experts, artificial intelligence experts and others. "There's an ongoing conversation at the [chief data officers] council and across industry on how do we attract, train and retain talent in data, AI and other aspects," Iyer said. "All of these become critical components of how we have set up our data modernization action plan. The challenges we are facing in terms of siloed data strategies, talent strategies and immaturity of data practices is probably going to resonate for every agency and organization we deal with." Ted Kaouk, CDO at the Agriculture Department, likened his agency's data strategy "as a form of social movement, like a consciousness-raising." In the last three years, Kaouk said the agency "made a lot of progress," moving from aggregating data and answering questions to a more mature data operation built around an enterprise analytics platform. Kaouk said decision-makers across USDA's 19 sub-agencies "began asking more mature questions" of the department's data as its enterprise analytics approach matured. "There's a great synergy between the initial development and work happening now, our hiring practices and broader data strategy," Kaouk said. Using leverage in your trades gives you the option to trade a large number of shares or contracts using only a small amount of trading capital, known as margin. Some experts warn that novice traders should only trade cash-based markets and avoid trading highly leveraged markets, such as the options and warrants markets. Other experts do not see it this way. For some traders, even new ones, trading using leverage is no more risky than non-leveraged trading. For certain types of trading, the more leverage that is used, the lower the risk becomes. Leverage is commonly believed to be high risk because it magnifies the potential profit or loss that a trade can make. For instance, a trade using \$1,000 of trading capital could have the potential to lose \$10,000 of trading capital. This belief is based on the premise that if a trader has \$1,000 of trading capital, they should not be able to lose more than \$1,000. Further, they should only be able to trade \$1,000, such as by buying 100 shares of stock at \$10 per share. A trader using leverage would be able to take that same \$1,000 of trading capital to trade perhaps \$4,000 worth of stock by buying 400 shares of stock at \$10 per share. This sounds risky, right? In theory, it is. But there is a better way to look at it beyond the way an amateur trader looks at leverage. Leverage can be a good way to get the most out of your trading capital. It is valued by expert traders because it allows them to trade more contracts or shares with less trading capital. Leverage does not alter the potential profit or loss that a trade can make. It reduces the amount of trading capital that must be used, thereby releasing trading capital for other trades. For instance, a trader who wants to buy 1,000 shares of stock at \$20 per share would only require perhaps \$5,000 of trading capital. This leaves the remaining \$15,000 available for other trades. This is the way that a professional trader looks at leverage. In addition to being a good use of trading capital, leverage can also reduce the risk for certain types of trades. For example, a trader that wanted to invest in 10,000 shares of an individual stock at \$10 per share would require \$100,000 worth of cash. All \$100,000 of that money would be at risk. Instead, a trader who wants to invest in exactly the same stock with exactly the same potential profit or loss (i.e., a tick value of \$100 per \$0.01 change in price) using the warrants markets (highly leveraged markets), would only need a fraction of the \$100,000 worth of cash. This amount could be around \$5,000, and only that \$5,000 would be at risk. There is always some risk when trading on the stock market, and margin trading is no exception. The newer you are at trading, the more you should be sure you understand the risk vs. reward of trading in general. Some savvy traders believe the more leverage, the better. Expert traders will choose highly leveraged markets over non-leveraged markets much of the time. Telling new traders to avoid trading using leverage is essentially telling them to trade like an amateur instead of a professional. Every time that I trade a stock, I always use the highest leverage I can. This is usually in the options and warrants markets. I would never trade a stock without using leverage. The same goes for all of the professional traders that I know. The Balance does not provide tax, investment, or financial services and advice. 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