

Considering Hacking Constructive

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Types of Hackers



- The “craftsman”
- The “activist”
- The “criminal”

They might not be mutually exclusive.

Hackers



- Is specialization something we don't like in our field?
- Do hackers tend to know about everything?
- They certainly enjoy and appreciate craftsmanship!

Hackers like self-reliance



- Hackers like self-reliance.
- But they also favor interoperability and “freedom” from the commercial grip

Hacker's Waves



- First: The ARPANET/Intenet hackers (the university/research ones)
- Second: The “Weekend” hacker (BBS)

Give back



- “There is a continuing ethic in the community to give back to the network what it has given you” V. Cerf

Imperatives



- “reject hierarchies
- mistrust authority
- promote decentralization
- share information
- serve your community (i.e. the hacker community)”

Position Statements



- “when creating computer artifacts, not only the observable results, but the craftsmanship in execution matters
- practice is superior to theory
- people should only be judged on merit (not by appearance, age, race or position)
- you can create art and beauty by the means of a computer”

Hacker's Software



- “Software constructed by hackers seem to favor such properties as flexibility, tailorability, modularity and openendedness to facilitate on-going experimentation.”
- Usability seems to be secondary

Hacker's Software...



- “A hacker does not perform well producing piecework software components based upon pre-set specifications [...] his preferred working environment is a communal setting very much like that of an artisan or craftsman engaged in pre-industrial production.”

On The Cathedral and the Bazaar



1. Absence of formalism
2. Automatic tools for system update and the Internet as infrastructure for communication
3. User motivation is very important
4. Open source does not always work for any project:
 - It must scratch an itch
 - It needs user participation and support
 - The project leader must have good interpersonal and communication skills

Footnotes



- “[11.] [...] What about the Apple Macintosh and the IBM PC for instance? Hackers universally despise both machines. According to Bruce Horn, who was part of the small team that created the Apple Macintosh, most members of the team (with the notable exception of Steve Jobs) were hackers in the original sense of the word. However it was also stipulated (by Jobs) that the machine should not be extensible and that the inner workings it was to be hidden from any user/programmer that had not entered into contractual relationship with Apple to become an ”official” developer. This effectively prevented it from becoming a hacker’s favorite. And, of course, Apple’s decision to claim copyright on the ”look & feel” of the Macintosh (which hackers believed was a mishmash of ideas that were common knowledge and had been part of the industry for years) - did not help to endear Apple and the Macintosh computer to the hacker community. As for the IBM PC: The

hardware originated outside the hacker community, in an IBM laboratory located in Boca Raton, Florida. Nevertheless, it sported nevertheless a number of hacker-favored properties, such as openendedness, accessibility and flexibility. What the original design lacked, however, was any type of networking support. It was really a personal computer, and therefore unsuitable for the hacker communal style of working. The hackers stuck to their DEC mainframes, or to networked workstations of their own design.”