We Break Things Hackers & Additional Resources

Hackers: Defined
According to the OED Dictionary, "hacker" can be defined as:
- One who mangles words or sense (1603)
- A person with an enthusiasm for programming or using computers as an end in itself (1976)
- A person who uses his skill with computers to try to gain unauthorized access to computer files or networks (1976)

In most Western contexts, "hackers" have a negative connotation. Cultural memory has preserved hackers as the ones who do illegal things. The ones who stir up trouble. More specifically, white male hackers. This perspective might come from MIT in the 1960s when computing was getting underway. Or maybe it's because when we hear about hackers it's because they got caught doing some illegal. Some people will argue that when the word "hacker" was first coined, it was meant to describe someone who is passionate about a certain hobby, but over time this definition has become fused with working with and on computers.

The first definition of hacker is unlike the other definitions in that one use of the computer is stated or implied in the definition. Instead, this definition gets at what Meredith, Stephen, and Gregg show us during the film. Hackers build or break things, all in the hopes of better understanding that thing. Hackers complicate the meaning of security and privacy. They constantly asked questions and refuse to back down when they don't get an answer. The computer and the Internet are simply their tools. At the end of the day, what they do isn't about the computers but the things controlling that technology — the people.

Hackerspaces Around the World
- <u>Noisebridge</u>, San Francisco, California, United States
- <u>Double Union</u>, San Francisco, California, United States
- <u>Miss Baltazar's Laboratory</u>, Vienna, Austria
- <u>Deep Lab</u>: Collaborative group of cyberfeminists
- <u>FemTechNet</u>: An active network of people interested in the intersections of technology, science, and feminism

For even more hackerspaces, <u>check out this directory.</u> Or, if you're interested in hacker conventions, <u>check out this directory</u>.

Additional Resources
Print
- *The Hacker Ethic and the Spirit of the Information Age* by Pekka Himanen
- *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of Anonymous* by Gabriella Coleman
- *The Coming Swarm: DDoS Actions, Hacktivism, and Civil Disobedience on the Internet* by Molly Sauter
- *Hackers, Heros of the Computer Revolution* by Steven Levy

Web

We Break Things Digital Resource, by Hailley Fargo

- <u>Electronic Frontier Foundation</u>: This is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help people defend their rights in the digital world. EFF has an active blog keeping people up to date with current issues related to the internet, privacy, and surveillance.
- <u>Library Freedom Project</u>: A collaboration and partnership spurred by librarians, technologists, attorneys, and other advocates who believe in intellectual freedom in libraries.
- <u>Tor</u>: The Tor Project is free and open software to help keep yourself protected from internet surveillance. This was the software used by Telecomix in Syria.
- _<u>ISIS Influence on Web Prompts Second Thoughts on First Amendment</u>_ by Erik Eckholm, New York Times, 12/27/2015: An article to keep in mind when thinking about the Pirate Party's conflict with free speech when faced with Nazi hate speech.