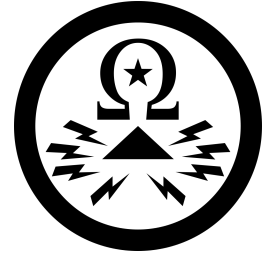


We Break Things Information on Hacker Groups **Hackers represented in the film**

Telecomix

Telecomix is an international organization whose goal is to promote the freedom of expression. Their goal is to build tools to circumvent censorship. They want to disrupt and interrupt flows of data while forging a path for voices to be heard. They are decentralized and without a hierarchical leader. This organization began around 2006 in Sweden during the crackdown on Pirate Bay. For a brief overview of this organization, see the Democracy Now clip talking with Telecomix member Peter Fein.



Telecomix has provided support during the Arab Spring when protests were happening in Tunisia, Egypt and Syria. Over the course of a year these countries fought against their government for freedom. In Syria, the government either shut down the internet or monitored all internet activity through western companies such as Blue Coat Systems. When this occurred, Telecomix stepped in to help. The support they provided aimed at providing the people of these countries with secure access to communicate safely on the Internet. Users were directed to use Tor, a service that routes users through multiple points to hide the user's location. Telecomix also exposed the Syrian government's use of Blue Coat Systems and provided citizens information on how to create their own walkie-talkies using items around their house. Social media played a major role in these protests, with support from both Telecomix and Anonymous.

Anonymous

Anonymous has been defined in various ways, but can best be explained as a nebulous, hydra-like group. They began on the website 4chan and began simply as trolls, planting attacks and embarrassing people on the Internet. Today, they are an active group, holding a wide variety of ideas and values.



Anonymous became more known in 2008 when they attacked the Church of Scientology. This was unlike previous trolling from the group, because it was more directed. They flooded the organization's website and organization in person protests in front of their headquarters across the world. The reason behind the attack? The Church of Scientology's censorship, especially in the case of a Tom Cruise video.

In the film, it mentions the Anonymous' DDoS (distributed denial of services) attack on credit card companies in response to Wikileaks. This project was part of Operation Payback, which stretched out to cover various organizations across the world in response to censorship issues.

The point of Anonymous is to have no identified leader; that is, the mass of people who are part of this group are there because they want the protection of anonymous. In addition to no identified leaders, Anonymous also has no overarching foundational philosophy or standards. Regardless of the distinct and usually unrelated actions the group performs, they excel at breaking things.

For more information on Anonymous, Gabriella Coleman has written extensively on Anonymous, including the book *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of Anonymous*. To hear her speak on the organization, see her Democracy Now appearance in which she gives a brief history of this group.

We Break Things Digital Resource, by Hailley Fargo

Pirate Party

The Pirate Party is an international movement which began in Sweden in 2010 (a few years after the creation of Telecomix). Currently, its international headquarters are in Brussels. In *We Break Things*, the focus is on the Pirate Party branch in Berlin. In 2011, they won several seats in Berlin's Parliament. It was covered by various news groups across the world including The New York Times and the Guardian.



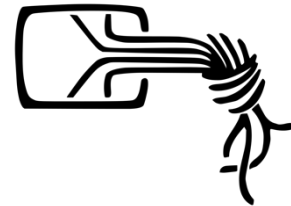
To date, there are more than countries that have Pirate Parties, including the United States. They do their best to communicate across countries, including an active Pirate Times blog (available in several languages).

Unlike Telecomix and Anonymous, the Pirate Party works to participate in the establishment of government. They have been elected into the government in several countries. By being elected, they can begin to create change in the policies that are enacted and have a voice in a body of people who make decisions for a country.

Other hacker groups and conferences of relevance

Chaos Computer Club

The Chaos Computer Club (CCC) is Europe's largest hacker organization. CCC started in 1981 by Wau Holland in Germany. Their previous projects have focused on exposing online network weaknesses as well as software. This club also believes that hacking is a creative endeavor and promote their members in creating art, playing, and building communities. Every four years, the CCC hosts one of the largest world meeting of hackers called Chaos Communication Camp. In the past, these camps have been held in Germany.



2600: The Hacker Quarterly

The 2600: The Hacker Quarterly is a magazine often called the "hackers bible." Founded in 1984 by Emmanuel Goldstein, this magazine publishes articles about the technical side of hacking, as well as exposing transgressions of government and other corporations. The magazine is named after the frequency which is used in the 1960s for hackers to access land-line phones.

Hackers on Planet Earth (HOPE)

The Hackers on Planet Earth (HOPE) is the name of a conference sponsored by 2600: The Hacker Quarterly. The conference typically occurs at Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City. While the conference does not occur on a yearly basis, it still draws a large crowd who discusses the various issues related to hackers and technology. The first HOPE conference in 1994 was covered by This American Life and in July 2016, the 11th HOPE conference will be held.

We Break Things Digital Resource, by Hailley Fargo

DEFCON

DEFCON is another large annual hacker convention. The convention first began in 1993 and each year participants can listen to speakers, discuss different pieces of technology that can be “hacked,” and also partake in a variety of social events and games such as creating the longest Wi-Fi connection. If you’re interested in learning more about DEFCON, check out this feature-length documentary on the convention.

Summercon

Summercon is one of the oldest hacker conventions in the United States. Some say that Summercon set the stage for conferences such as the HOPE conference. However, unlike the HOPE conference which might have over 1,000 participants, Summercon prefers to stay smaller and more personal. Summercon started in 1987 in St. Louis and has moved across the United States almost every year since then. The current Summercon conferences prioritize face-to-face relationships as technology decreases these in-person interactions.