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[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
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To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hacker Space Initiative May Provide Contacts in the Hacking Community

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The below information was derived from a recent Intelligence Bulletin.

[REDACTED]
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FBI Jackson Division - Squad 3

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"One Nation, Under God"
"Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way"

(U) Hacker Space Initiative May Provide Contacts in the Hacking Community

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[Signature]

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(U) Hacker Foundation (HF) is sponsoring a Hacker Spaces Initiative (HSI) to construct public spaces for hackers to meet and share ideas. "The idea," says [REDACTED] is to get a sense for the potential of European 'hacker spaces'—places in the community where local programmers can collectively meet, work, and share infrastructure—and inspire Americans to produce similar facilities at home." An initial hacker space is being planned for the Washington, DC area.

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(U) At the DEFCON 15 conference, 3-5 August 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada, a prototypical hacker space was set up as a launching pad to inspire and seed similar spaces across America. According to the conference brochure, the hacker space contained "walls of whiteboard, workbenches, tools, server racks, and couches surrounding a multiuse meeting space with projector, sweet sound system and Nintendo Wii [game console]." Representatives from the HF were on hand to answer questions and promote the HSI.

(U) Similar to Internet cafes, the hacker spaces would "pitch themselves as convenient places for researchers to carry out their work and meet other hackers." Potential funding for the hacker spaces will be in the form of donations and grants. After initial assistance, HF hopes each hacker space will be self-contained. The goal is for hackers to have the essential tools for research, while housed in a free social environment.

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(U) The Hacker Foundation is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Stanford, California, which was established on 24 December 2004. Its purpose is to connect and manage hacker projects with the financial and legal means necessary. According to proclaimed Hacker Foundation's Web site (<http://hackerfoundation.org>), members seek to provide: humanitarian relief, freedom of expression, the free flow of information, and global systems security.

(U) DEFCON sponsors large underground computer hacking gatherings. Conferences are held annually in Las Vegas, Nevada, where network and software exploits are presented and discussed. Computer security professionals, enthusiasts, hackers and law enforcement personnel attend these meetings.

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