



# *George Hotz: The Hacker Who Open-Sourced the Future*

**From iPhone jailbreaks to AI frameworks — how one hacker  
shaped open innovation**



# George Hotz – Geohot

“Curiosity should never be illegal.”

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- **Hacker & Entrepreneur**
- **AI & Self-Driving:** Founded Comma.ai and created tinygrad
- **Values:** curiosity, independence, and open access to knowledge





# iPhone Jailbreak at Age 17

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- First person to unlock the original iPhone in August 2007
- Allowed the iPhone to be used on networks other than AT&T
- Completed in just 500 hours of work
- Gained international media attention overnight
- Traded his unlocked iPhone to CertiCell for a Nissan 350Z and three new iPhones



# PlayStation 3 Hack (2010)

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- First to jailbreak the PlayStation 3 in January 2010
  - Allowed users to run custom firmware and homebrew software
  - Sony sued Hotz in 2011
  - Case settled out of court with Hotz agreeing not to hack Sony products
  - Controversial move that highlighted security vs. user rights debate
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# Comma.ai

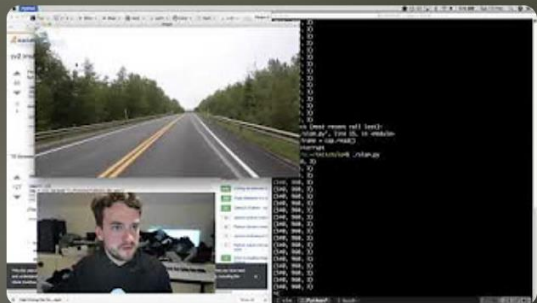
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comma.ai aims to democratize self-driving technology.

\* Founded in 2015 after leaving Tesla Autopilot

- Created openpilot, an open-source driver-assist system
  - Compatible with hundreds of car models (via comma 3X device)
  - Community-driven development — users contribute car ports and AI training
  - Emphasizes transparency and accessibility in self-driving tech
  - Mission statement: “Make driving chill.”
  - Example of how open collaboration can rival corporate systems
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## George Hotz programming archive ...

**GH** by george hotz archive

Playlist • 182 videos • 219,941 views

George Hotz also known as geohot twitch live-stream repository. George started occasionally streaming ...more

▶ Play all



Unavailable videos are hidden



1

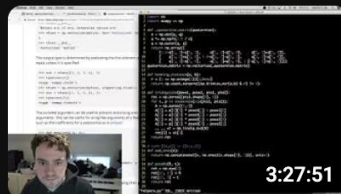


### George Hotz | Programming | Refactor twitchslam | Part2

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2



### George Hotz | Programming | Testing twitchslam | Part3

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3



### George Hotz | Programming | Profiling twitchslam | Part4

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### George Hotz | Programming | Profiling twitchslam | Part5

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### George Hotz | Programming | Optimize! twitchslam | Part6

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6



### George Hotz | Programming | Optimize! twitchslam | Part7

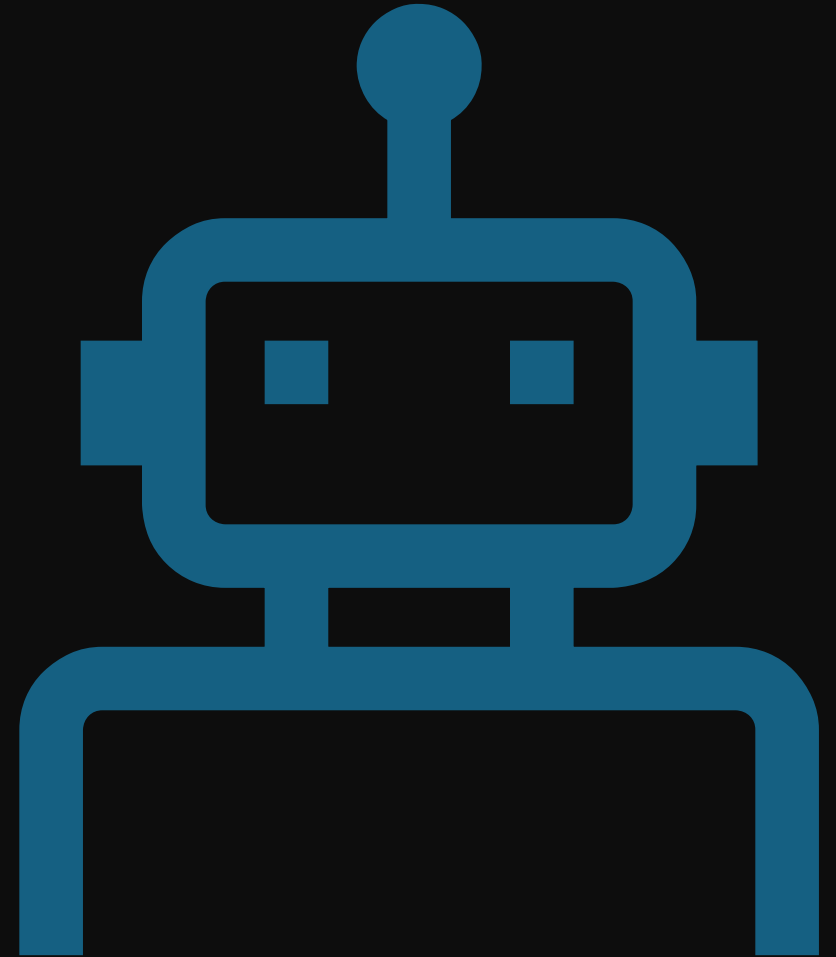
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# tinygrad — Minimal Deep Learning Framework

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- Launched in **2020** as a tiny alternative to PyTorch
  - Written in **pure Python** — easy to read and modify
  - Focused on **simplicity, transparency, and learning**
  - Powers experiments in **AI, GPU kernels, and compilers**
  - Basis for his company **tinycorp**
  - Demonstrates how small, open projects can rival big frameworks
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# Tinycorp

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- Purpose: Build an open and efficient AI compute stack, both hardware and software
  - Core idea: “If we can make hardware and software simple enough, anyone can understand and reproduce modern AI systems.”
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# Open source Culture



SYMBOL OF  
**INDEPENDENT**  
INNOVATION



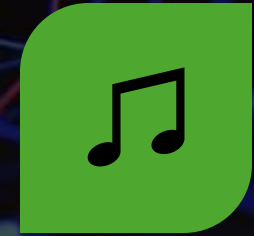
PROMOTES **LEARNING**  
**IN PUBLIC** THROUGH  
LIVE CODING STREAMS



ENCOURAGES  
**TRANSPARENCY OVER**  
**PERFECTION**



INSPIRES A NEW WAVE  
OF **OPEN-SOURCE**  
**DEVELOPERS**



SHOWS THAT **ONE**  
**PERSON** CAN RIVAL BIG  
TECH