

What Chapter-2 is really about

This chapter explains the **belief system** — the “**Hacker Ethic**” — followed by the first true hackers at MIT.

It describes **how they thought, worked, and lived**, and why that mindset changed the world.

The 6 Core Rules of the Hacker Ethic

1 Access to computers should be free for everyone

Hackers believed technology is the most powerful tool on earth — so it should not belong only to big companies or “important people.”

Everyone who wants to learn should have access.

2 All information should be open and shared

They hated secrets.

If someone figured out something, they shared it freely.

Because **sharing knowledge = progress for everyone**.

3 Authority should not stop creativity

They didn't blindly follow rules.

If a rule slowed innovation, they ignored it.

Not because they wanted trouble, but because they wanted **progress**.

4 You should be judged by skill — not degree, job title, age, or status

If a freshman or a 12-year-old kid could write better code than a professor, then that freshman deserved respect.

Talent > Credentials.

5 Code is a form of art

Hackers believed programming was not just logic — it was **beauty, creativity, and expression**.

A well-written program was like:

- a poem
 - a song
 - a painting
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6 Computers can improve life

They believed computers were not just machines — they were a way to:

- solve problems
- remove boring work
- make life easier
- make the world fairer

They wanted a future where technology **empowers people**, not controls them.

Mindset of a true hacker (from this chapter)

A true hacker sees:

- **a locked door as a mystery to explore**
- **a bug as a challenge, not a failure**
- **a difficult problem as an adventure, not stress**
- **a computer as a universe to build inside**

And the most important part:

They work for passion, curiosity, and the joy of creation — not for money or recognition.

The turning point (warning in this chapter)

The book hints that later in history, companies and business interests started rejecting the Hacker Ethic.

This change created conflict between:

- openness vs secrecy
- creativity vs profit
- sharing vs control

This clash will become a big theme in later chapters.



One-sentence summary of Chapter-2

The Hacker Ethic says technology should be open, shared, creative, and used to improve life — and people should be valued by skill, not status.