Copylefted source code

- Generally, a hacker is a technologist with a love for computing, and a hack is a clever technical solution arrived at through non-obvious means

- <u>Hackers</u> tend to uphold the values of freedom, privacy, and access; One important aspect of hacking is the development of free and open-source software, such as Firefox and Linux.

- The "hacker underground" has brought into being a politics of transgression by seeking forbidden fruit—and it is this variant that has received the lion's share of media attention.

- A quick review of the language hackers frequently invoke to describe themselves or make ethical claims—freedom, free speech, privacy, the individual, meritocracy—reveals that many of them unmistakably express liberal commitments

- Hacking, however, cannot be reduced to liberalism alone, for it does not fully capture and exhaust the emotional aspects that hackers experience, most notably deep <u>pleasure</u>

- Hacker culture, often misunderstood, extends beyond just computer hacking; it encompasses a set of values, beliefs, and practices

Slide 2; nature of hacker ethics

- Hacker ethics are not a monolithic set of rules but rather a complex blend of values that guide the actions and beliefs of those within the hacker culture.

- Think of hacker ethics as a tapestry woven from three distinct threads

Slide 3

- This open-source, non-commercial distribution of the Linux operating system serves as a real-world embodiment of hacker values and principles.

Slide 5; contexts

- **The macro context represents the larger socio-political milieu in which hacking unfolds. It's the broader societal landscape where hackers navigate complex issues like information freedom, intellectual property, and access to**

knowledge. This context sets the stage for understanding why hacking often carries political undertones, as access to knowledge is a key political issue.

- On the other hand, the micro context focuses on the actual participation of hackers in specific projects, like the Debian Project mentioned earlier. Here, the ethics of hackers are socially produced and expressed within the community. It's where the rubber meets the road, where individual stances on ethics are shaped and solidified through collaboration and shared values.

- Slide change:>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> We see how the macro context provides the backdrop for political engagement, while the micro context, within projects like Debian, offers a fertile ground for the cultivation and socialization of these ethics.

Politcs of hacking

- Hacking, often considered apolitical, carries significant political elements due to its very nature. The essence of hacking lies in the quest for knowledge, and this pursuit often delves into areas that are either technologically or legally inaccessible. It's this political condition, that leads hackers into the ethical realm.

- hacking is not a political activity in the traditional sense of organizing protests or forming coalitions. Instead, politics seeps into hacking through the very act itself.

- The politics is embedded within the practice, as knowledge-seeking becomes a political act challenging societal constraints.

Trad vs hacking

- On one hand, many hackers distance themselves from traditional politics, and some even claim, "I stay away from politics." This perception arises because hacker politics don't fit the conventional mold of party politics, coalitions, and protests. It's a seemingly apolitical stance.

- On the other hand, the essay highlights that the question of politics permeates every corner of hacker culture. Hacker manifestos, discussions about copyright and patent law, and other facets of hacking culture carry significant political implications. it emerges organically through the act of hacking itself.

Legal threats

Initially, many hackers, especially those entering the field at a young age, may not fully grasp the political nature of their actions. Hacking, for them, is often a pursuit of knowledge and curiosity, free from political concerns.

However, the landscape changes as hackers grow and gain experience. They gradually become aware that their actions may have legal and political repercussions. This awareness stems from various sources, including exposure to the broader hacker community, where discussions about legal issues and ethics are prevalent.

In broader context we have seen that happen under hacker crackdowns, arrests of prominent hackers

These experiences collectively contribute to a nuanced understanding of hacker subjectivity.

Evolution of ethics; pursuit of games and music vids becomes pursuit of knowledge and info. While young hackers may not initially perceive the political dimension of their actions, it doesn't take long for them to recognize that hacking exists within a contextualized space where legal and political forces are at play.

Micro context:

Free software projects provide a unique social space where hacker ethics come to life and gain substance. When individuals join these projects, they often do so with some level of commitment to information freedom and openness, but these commitments may not be fully developed or articulated.

Ethics are also realized in the complex and detailed discussions that occur on mailing lists, IRC channels, and conferences.

These discussions cover topics like software licenses, the practicalities of applying licenses to code, and even reflective debates about the political nature of the project itself.