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THE GRAY HAT MANIFESTO

DISCREET ANTS: Gray hats are much more numerous than white hats and black hats, that's a fact. Demographically, there are many more hesitant people than people who know exactly where they want to go, what they really want to do. We are present in all major strata of the population, we are Mr. and Mrs. Everyone, most of the time following the rules of the game, not making too many waves and not necessarily wanting to stand out from the crowd.

WE SERVE: We never put money into digital entertainment. Whether it's films and series, music, video games and software, we don't buy anything, we help ourselves. Not with the idea of harming the majors, just... The things are there, in front of us, so we take them. We thus act more by reflex than by necessity, which at times adds ambiguity as to the real need to take. The advent of the Internet was for us, as for most people, the discovery of Pandora's box.

LIKE MOLES DIGGING: We can't help but take a look at the source codes of web pages, program configuration files, even when it may seem useless... We want to know "how it's done, how it's done walk inside. Often out of interest, in a search for circumvention, for free or in the hope of some sort of control, in order to be able to benefit from it... Alone at first.

THE CODE AS AN EXTENSION OF THE MIND, SHOULD BE USEFUL: We know the code, at least the rudimentary theories and applications necessary for our interests. We code for ourselves, our loved ones and our inner circle. The objectives here are not to fix bugs and maintain security. Those to which we aspire are in the continuity of our spirit, of our habits... Help ourselves, make paid things become free or almost free, scrape the web in all directions in search of information, which, once used and automated could be useful for another task at a higher level, which could in turn bring in money.

TAKE TO GIVE: Sharing holds a central place for us, as said previously, we often come from the middle class, the one that brings in the most to governments, but the one that works the most and has a lot of difficulties despite everything. We don't necessarily pay tax but we don't necessarily have help to raise us up a step either... We are in our place and therefore, we know what sharing means, so we share to anyone who wants all our discoveries, our tips, our programs, our good deals. We don't worry much about an intervention that could harm us in our business, most of us are resilient, because life has not spared us. We are in acceptance, if we are responsible, we will take our responsibilities, just like our brothers and sisters in white hats and black hats.

FREEDOM IN APNEA: We know the ways to become anonymous on the web, we regularly dive into its submerged layers. As we share a lot, we also share the idea of freedom without tracking. We are not afraid to show those around us how to do it, it is even a duty to at least talk about it, to explain that it is possible. We are in a world where we are products, we accept it without worries, but let's not forget that we can also do otherwise. Let's continue to share this idea, it will help us move forward.

NEITHER WHITE NOR BLACK: We are sometimes led, by what we would call chance... Or not, to spy, recover, usurp information that does not belong to us, or to do things that, for some, may appear insignificant, but which are in reality simply prohibited and punishable by law. The question we can ask is why? Why do modest people, without any pretensions, embark on this type of more or less risky operations? Well, without malice most of the time, but more for the style, for the challenge, for the adrenaline, out of boredom, sometimes out of fear too. We are the GRAY HATS, we are difficult to define because we are like everyone else, neither totally good nor totally bad. When we meet a person in the street, we absolutely cannot know what kind of person they are... We are not in people's heads. Most of the time we are upright, good and helpful, but sometimes our mind plays tricks on us and we succumb to the calls of the evil one, as the other would say.

CONCLUSION: I am a mother, a father, a teenager, a person in training, an IT specialist, a police officer, a firefighter, a gendarme, a business manager, a nurse, a doctor, a bus driver or heavy goods vehicles, a teacher, a leisure center director, a farmer... In short, the list can be excessively long. If you recognize yourself in this manifesto, you are a gray hat.

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