

# HACKER CULTURE



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# HACKER CULTURE

In "A Fun Guide to the People, Ideas, and Gadgets That Made the Tech World" by Kim Crawley, the reader embarks on an exhilarating journey through the vibrant and dynamic world of hacker culture. Crawley meticulously examines the multifaceted nature of hacker culture, shedding light on its evolution, key figures, groundbreaking ideas, and revolutionary gadgets. With a blend of scholarly insight and engaging storytelling, Crawley unravels the complexities of hacker culture, offering readers a comprehensive and captivating exploration.

The book delves into the origins of hacker culture, tracing its roots back to the early days of computing and the pioneering work of visionaries like Richard Stallman and Linus Torvalds. Crawley elucidates how these early hackers laid the groundwork for a culture characterized by innovation, curiosity, and a fervent desire to push the boundaries of technology. Through insightful anecdotes and historical analysis, Crawley brings to life the colorful personalities and groundbreaking innovations that have defined hacker culture throughout the decades.

One of the book's most compelling aspects is its exploration of the ethical dilemmas and moral ambiguity inherent in hacker culture. Crawley navigates the complex terrain of hacking ethics with nuance and sensitivity, challenging readers to reconsider their preconceived notions about hackers and their motivations. By highlighting the diverse motivations driving individuals within the hacker community, Crawley fosters a deeper understanding of the moral complexities inherent in hacking and encourages readers to approach the subject with an open mind.

Moreover, Crawley provides readers with a fascinating glimpse into the inner workings of hacker communities, from the underground forums of the Dark Web to the collaborative ethos of open-source development. Through interviews with prominent hackers and firsthand accounts of hacker gatherings, Crawley offers readers an insider's perspective on the vibrant and interconnected world of hacking. By demystifying hacker culture and humanizing its practitioners, Crawley dispels stereotypes and challenges readers to view hackers as multidimensional individuals rather than mere cybercriminals.

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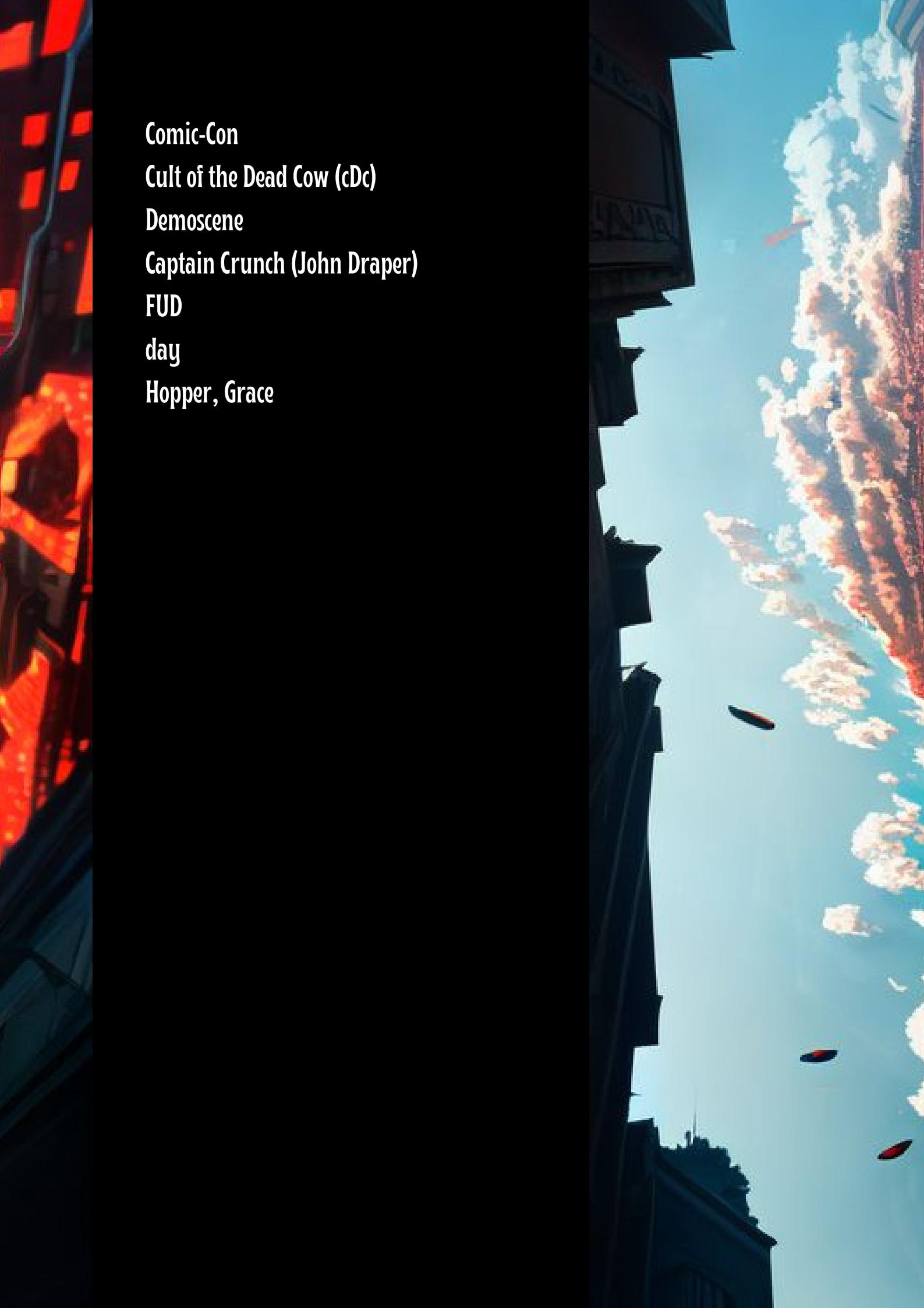
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# AKIHABARA, TOKYO

Akihabara, a vibrant neighborhood in Tokyo, Japan 🇯🇵, holds as much significance to hacker culture as Silicon Valley does. This district is not only a haven for Japanese hackers but also for otaku culture, encompassing all forms of obsessive nerds, including those with technological fixations. Akihabara's roots trace back to the Meiji period, emerging from the ashes of a massive fire in 1869. Initially dubbed "Radio Town" due to its flourishing black market for radio components post-World War II, Akihabara evolved into "Electric Town" with the influx of electronics shops, catalyzed by the US General Headquarters. This era also witnessed the rise of anime and manga culture, spearheaded by Osamu Tezuka's groundbreaking works like Astro Boy and Princess Knight, laying the foundation for Japan's global cultural influence.





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# ALPHABET INC.

Alphabet Inc. [🌐](#) is the powerhouse holding company behind Google, wielding significant influence over the internet. Founded by Google's creators Larry Page and Sergey Brin in 2015, Alphabet was established to spearhead various ventures, including Calico, focused on enhancing human health and longevity through technology; CapitalG, a venture capital arm; Waymo, previously the "Google Self-Driving Car Project"; Google Fiber, providing internet and telecommunications services; and DeepMind, dedicated to artificial intelligence research. This conglomerate's diverse portfolio underscores its pivotal role in shaping the technological landscape.





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# ANONYMOUS

Anonymous 🖥 stands as the epitome of hacktivism, leaving an indelible mark on internet culture. While lesser-known groups like LulzSec and the Cult of the Dead Cow may fly under the radar, the mere mention of "We are Anonymous. We are Legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget," coupled with Guy Fawkes masks, ignites imaginations worldwide. Originating from the anarchic 4chan forum in 2003, where anonymity reigns supreme, the moniker "Anonymous" became synonymous with online mischief and protest. Notable campaigns such as 2008's Operation Chanology, targeting the Church of Scientology, and 2010's Operation Payback, aimed at the RIAA and MPAA, showcased Anonymous's disruptive power. From supporting the Arab Spring with Operation Tunisia in 2011 to protesting against racial injustice with Operation Ferguson in 2014, Anonymous continues to wield its digital prowess in the pursuit of social and political change, as evidenced by its 2020 vandalism of the United Nations' website in support of Taiwan.





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# ASSANGE, JULIAN

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# KEVIN MITNICK

Kevin Mitnick, a former notorious hacker turned cybersecurity consultant, is a prominent figure in the realm of security. 🛡️ His expertise stems from his experiences as a hacker during the 1980s and 1990s when he gained unauthorized access to numerous computer systems, earning him a reputation as one of the most wanted cybercriminals. Mitnick's transformation from hacker to security expert highlights the significance of understanding hacker methodologies and vulnerabilities to bolster defense strategies. Today, he leverages his insights to help organizations fortify their cybersecurity posture, emphasizing proactive measures to thwart cyber threats and protect sensitive data. Mitnick's journey underscores the importance of learning from past mistakes and utilizing that knowledge to enhance cybersecurity resilience in the digital age.





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# BERNERS-LEE, TIM

Tim Berners-Lee [🌐](#), hailed as the inventor of the World Wide Web, stands as one of the most influential figures in the history of technology. Born in London, England, Berners-Lee's groundbreaking work at CERN in the late 1980s laid the foundation for the creation of the first web browser and web server, paving the way for the internet as we know it today. His visionary concept of a decentralized information system revolutionized communication and access to knowledge, democratizing the exchange of information on a global scale. By making the World Wide Web freely accessible, Berners-Lee catalyzed an unprecedented era of innovation and connectivity, forever changing the way humanity interacts with technology and each other. His ongoing advocacy for an open and decentralized web underscores the importance of preserving the principles of accessibility, inclusivity, and freedom online.





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# ALEX IONESCU

Alex Ionescu 🧑, a prominent figure in the field of computer security, has made significant contributions to the Windows operating system. Known for his expertise in kernel-level programming and reverse engineering, Ionescu has played a pivotal role in uncovering vulnerabilities and developing innovative security solutions. His groundbreaking work includes contributions to the development of Windows Internals, a widely acclaimed series of books that delve into the inner workings of the Windows operating system. Through his research and advocacy, Ionescu has helped to advance the field of cybersecurity, empowering developers and security professionals to better understand and protect against evolving threats in the digital landscape.





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# JAMES FORSHAW

James Forshaw 🇬🇧 is a highly esteemed computer security expert, currently serving on Google's Project Zero team. With over 20 years of experience in analyzing and exploiting security issues, Forshaw has earned recognition for his expertise in uncovering vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows and other products. His prolific career includes the discovery of hundreds of publicly disclosed vulnerabilities in Microsoft platforms, contributing significantly to the advancement of cybersecurity. As a key member of Project Zero, Forshaw continues to play a crucial role in identifying and addressing security flaws, helping to bolster the resilience of digital systems against potential threats.





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# BUG

A bug  in a computer program signifies an error, often resulting from a mistake made by the programmer, such as a typo or incorrect syntax. While seemingly innocuous, bugs can have significant repercussions, affecting the functionality of software and potentially creating cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Unlike malware, which is intentionally malicious, bugs are unintentional and often innocent. However, when exploited by threat actors, bugs can become software vulnerabilities, posing security risks. The constant need for software updates arises from the ongoing effort to patch these vulnerabilities and debug code. While it may be possible to completely debug simple scripts, the complexity of modern software makes achieving a completely bug-free application nearly impossible. Nonetheless, diligent bug hunting and reporting remain integral to software development, ensuring that security vulnerabilities are addressed and user experiences are optimized.





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# BOTNET

A botnet 🤖 is a network of interconnected computers or devices infected with malicious software and controlled remotely by a central command and control server. These compromised devices, known as bots or zombies, typically remain dormant until activated by the operator, who can then orchestrate coordinated attacks, send spam emails, steal sensitive information, or launch distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks. Botnets pose significant cybersecurity threats due to their ability to operate stealthily and leverage the collective computing power of thousands or even millions of devices. The proliferation of botnets underscores the importance of robust cybersecurity measures and proactive defense strategies to mitigate the risk of infection and prevent malicious actors from exploiting vulnerable systems.





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# TORRENT

Torrenting [🌐](#) is a method of file sharing that involves the decentralized distribution of data across a network of interconnected peers. Rather than relying on a single central server, torrenting utilizes a peer-to-peer [P2P] protocol where users download and upload files simultaneously. This decentralized nature enables faster download speeds and increased resilience to network congestion or server failures. However, while torrenting itself is not illegal, it is often associated with the unauthorized sharing of copyrighted material, which can lead to legal repercussions for users. As such, exercising caution and adhering to copyright laws are crucial when engaging in torrenting activities.





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# BYTE MAGAZINE

Byte magazine [1975–1998] was a pioneering publication in the world of computing, founded by Wayne Green. Throughout its existence, Byte served as a catalyst for many groundbreaking ideas within hacker culture, attracting a readership that included some of the most innovative minds in the field. Notably, Byte's influence extended beyond its pages, inspiring other publications such as 2600 magazine. One particularly noteworthy occurrence was the letter from computer scientist Werner Buchholz, who explained his coinage of the term "byte," showcasing the magazine's role in shaping the very language of computing. Today, the Byte archives are freely accessible through the Internet Archive, preserving its legacy for future generations of enthusiasts and scholars alike.





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# OVERFLOW

Overflow vulnerabilities in operating systems, system software, and web applications pose significant cybersecurity risks . These vulnerabilities occur when a program attempts to store more data in a memory buffer than it can handle, leading to memory corruption and potentially allowing attackers to execute malicious code or gain unauthorized access to sensitive information. Known as buffer overflows, these vulnerabilities are among the most common and exploitable in software development, highlighting the importance of robust coding practices and diligent security testing. Mitigating overflow vulnerabilities requires proactive measures such as input validation, proper memory management, and timely security updates to patch known vulnerabilities and protect against emerging threats.





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# HIJACK

Hijack attacks in operating systems, system software, and web applications pose grave security threats . These attacks involve malicious actors gaining unauthorized control over legitimate processes or sessions, enabling them to manipulate or disrupt system operations, steal sensitive data, or execute unauthorized commands. In operating systems and system software, hijack attacks can exploit vulnerabilities in authentication mechanisms or session management protocols, allowing attackers to impersonate legitimate users or administrators. Similarly, in web applications, session hijacking and cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks can compromise user sessions, enabling attackers to assume control over user accounts or inject malicious scripts into web pages. Mitigating hijack attacks requires implementing robust security measures such as encryption, multi-factor authentication, and regularly updating software to patch known vulnerabilities and prevent exploitation.





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# API HOOK

Hijack attacks in operating systems, system software, and web applications pose grave security threats . These attacks involve malicious actors gaining unauthorized control over legitimate processes or sessions, enabling them to manipulate or disrupt system operations, steal sensitive data, or execute unauthorized commands. In operating systems and system software, hijack attacks can exploit vulnerabilities in authentication mechanisms or session management protocols, allowing attackers to impersonate legitimate users or administrators. Similarly, in web applications, session hijacking and cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks can compromise user sessions, enabling attackers to assume control over user accounts or inject malicious scripts into web pages. Mitigating hijack attacks requires implementing robust security measures such as encryption, multi-factor authentication, and regularly updating software to patch known vulnerabilities and prevent exploitation.





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# INJECTION

Injection attacks in operating systems, system software, web applications, and mobile platforms pose grave security risks 🛡️. These attacks involve exploiting vulnerabilities in input validation mechanisms to insert malicious code or commands into an application's input fields, potentially leading to unauthorized access, data theft, or system compromise. In operating systems and system software, injection attacks such as buffer overflows or code injections can be used to execute arbitrary commands, escalate privileges, or compromise system integrity. Similarly, in web and mobile applications, injection attacks like SQL injection or cross-site scripting (XSS) can be exploited to manipulate databases, steal sensitive information, or hijack user sessions. Preventing injection attacks requires implementing robust input validation, parameterized queries, and secure coding practices to mitigate the risk of exploitation and safeguard against malicious injections.



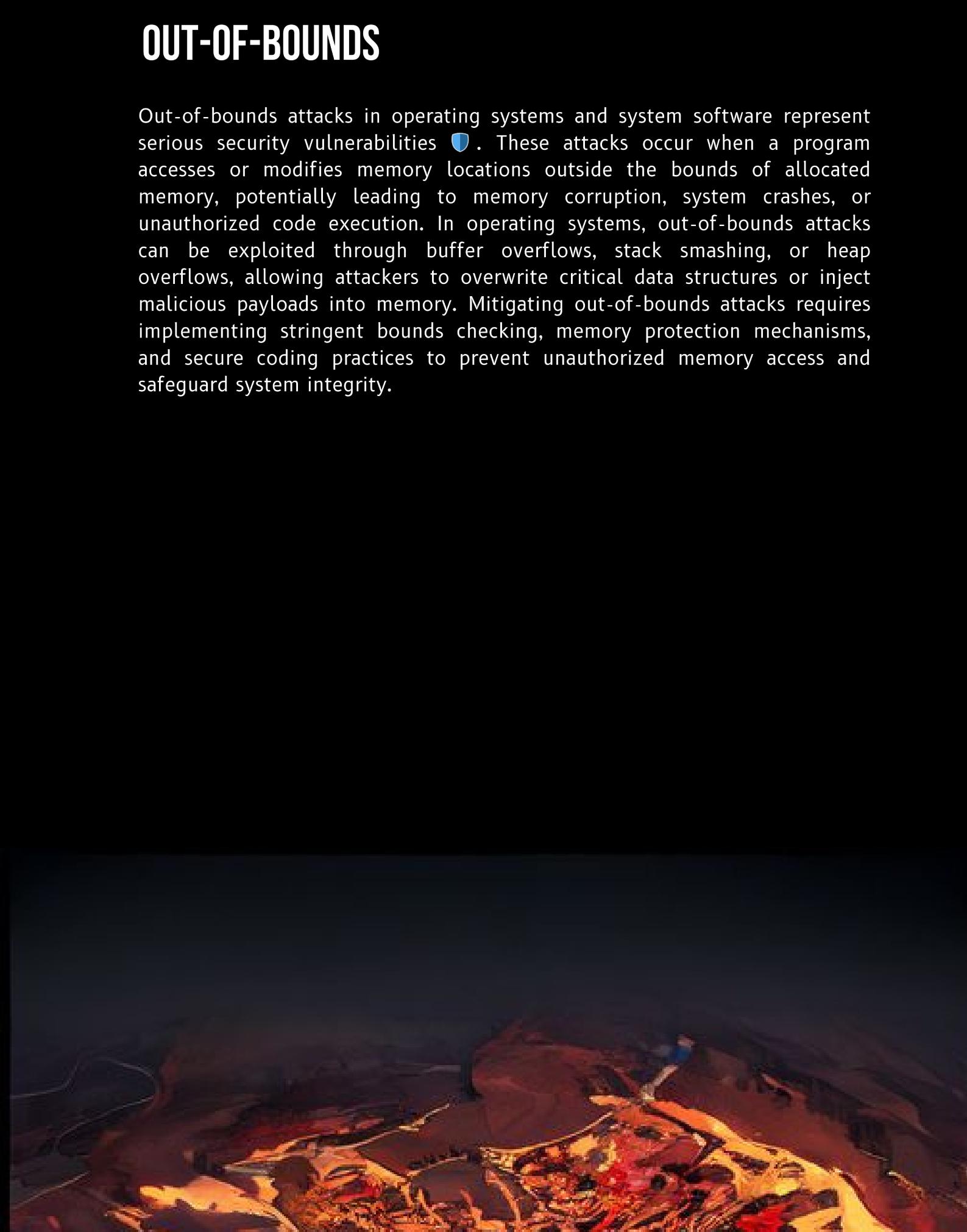


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# OUT-OF-BOUNDS

Out-of-bounds attacks in operating systems and system software represent serious security vulnerabilities . These attacks occur when a program accesses or modifies memory locations outside the bounds of allocated memory, potentially leading to memory corruption, system crashes, or unauthorized code execution. In operating systems, out-of-bounds attacks can be exploited through buffer overflows, stack smashing, or heap overflows, allowing attackers to overwrite critical data structures or inject malicious payloads into memory. Mitigating out-of-bounds attacks requires implementing stringent bounds checking, memory protection mechanisms, and secure coding practices to prevent unauthorized memory access and safeguard system integrity.





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## CALCE, MICHAEL "MAFIABOY"

Michael "MafiaBoy" Calce (1984–), hailing from Montreal, Canada, gained infamy as a malicious hacker notorious for orchestrating a series of distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks against corporate websites in 2000 [\(1\)](#). In these attacks, multiple computers overwhelmed targeted entities with more data than they could handle, resulting in system shutdowns, with web servers being the primary targets. Calce, motivated by competition with other cyberattackers, saw hacking as a means of gaining notoriety and intimidating rival hacker groups. His journey into hacking began at a young age, fueled by a passion for computers and an insatiable curiosity. Calce's exploits, including brief takedowns of major internet players like Yahoo!, eBay, CNN, and Amazon, attracted the attention of law enforcement, leading to his eventual arrest and sentencing to a youth detention center. His case served as a wake-up call for improving cybersecurity measures, prompting enhancements in cybercrime laws and bolstering defenses against DDoS attacks among major corporations.





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# UNIT 8200

Unit 8200 , Israel's premier intelligence gathering unit, is renowned for its expertise in signals intelligence (SIGINT), cyber warfare, and cybersecurity. Established in 1952, Unit 8200 operates under the purview of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), tasked with intercepting and analyzing communications from adversaries, as well as developing cutting-edge cyber capabilities to defend against emerging threats. With a reputation for recruiting some of the country's brightest minds and providing rigorous training in cybersecurity and intelligence gathering, Unit 8200 plays a pivotal role in safeguarding Israel's national security interests. Its contributions extend beyond military operations, with many Unit 8200 alumni going on to become leaders in Israel's thriving technology sector, contributing to the country's reputation as a global hub for innovation.





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# CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) [↗](#), located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has made significant contributions to the field of computer science. While Stanford and MIT are often lauded for their roles in hacker culture, CMU's influence should not be overlooked. Founded in 1900 with funding from steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, CMU merged with the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research in 1967 to form the institution it is today. By the establishment of CMU's School of Computer Science in 1988, the university had already amassed decades of research in computer science. Notably, in 1956, Carnegie Institute of Technology acquired an IBM 650 computer, marking a pivotal moment in the university's engagement with computing technology. Offering the first freshman-level computer programming course in the US in 1958, CMU has been at the forefront of computer science education and research for over a century.





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# BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY

Ben-Gurion University [BGU] , located in Be'er Sheva, Israel, is a renowned institution known for its contributions to cybersecurity research and education. While often overshadowed by other prestigious universities, BGU's cybersecurity program is highly regarded globally. With the establishment of the Cyber Security Research Center [CSRC] and the emergence of the annual Cyber Security Research Center Conference [CSRC Conference], BGU has become a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation in cybersecurity. BGU's partnerships with industry leaders and government agencies further underscore its significance in the field. As cyber threats continue to evolve, BGU plays a vital role in developing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals and advancing the collective understanding of cybersecurity challenges.



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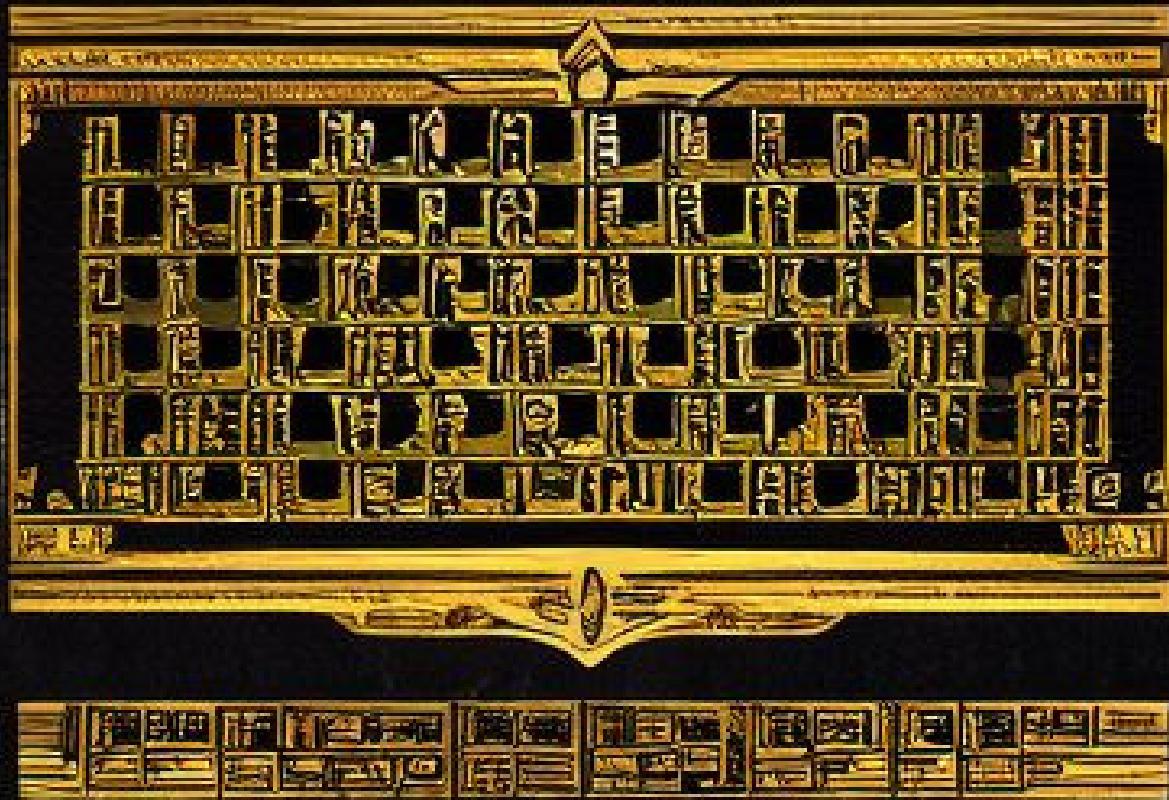
# CAPTURE THE FLAG

Capture the Flag (CTF) competitions are cybersecurity challenges designed to test participants' skills in various areas such as hacking, reverse engineering, cryptography, and network analysis. In these competitions, participants, often organized into teams, compete to solve a series of technical challenges to capture "flags," which are typically hidden pieces of information or cryptographic keys. CTFs provide a hands-on learning experience, allowing participants to hone their cybersecurity skills in a simulated environment while fostering collaboration and friendly competition. With their emphasis on practical problem-solving and real-world scenarios, CTFs play a crucial role in training the next generation of cybersecurity professionals and advancing the collective knowledge of the cybersecurity community.



# Mintech FIFE

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Many have & something else! Give a moment of your own!

Just remember this: there's no one way to do things. If you've got some ideas, then don't be afraid to share them. After all, that's what makes us unique.

Let's start this adventure together! Join us & help us build a better world (or at least a better place to work in!).

Join our community on GitHub and LinkedIn (links below).



Join our community on GitHub and LinkedIn (links below) and let's work together to make the world a better place.

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# CERTIFICATES (CRYPTOGRAPHY)

In cybersecurity, the term "certificate" has a specific meaning related to machine identities used in public-key cryptography  . Public-key cryptography, introduced by Martin Hellman, Ralph Merkle, and Whitfield Diffie in 1976, revolutionized digital encryption by making encryption keys public while keeping decryption keys private. This innovation paved the way for the RSA cryptography algorithm, developed by Ron Rivest, Adi Shamir, and Leonard Adleman in 1977, which significantly enhanced the feasibility of public-key cryptography implementation. In practical terms, when visiting HTTPS-encrypted websites, such as most modern web pages, the destination web server provides a public key, and a certificate from the server's public-key infrastructure verifies the key's authenticity. Similar to an airline ticket, a certificate contains information confirming the legitimacy of the key and serves as a machine identity, ensuring secure communication between users and web servers. Forgery of certificates, akin to forging airline tickets, is strictly prohibited, underscoring the importance of maintaining trust and security in cryptographic protocols.



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# COMIC-CON

Comic-Con 🎉, the ultimate gathering for nerdy pop culture enthusiasts, serves as a nexus where hackers and fans of comic books, science fiction, fantasy, anime, video games, and tabletop gaming converge. With over 200,000 attendees annually at events in San Diego and New York, Comic-Con has evolved from humble origins as a small gathering of science fiction fans at Philadelphia's Philcon in 1936 to become the largest celebration of genre fiction in the English-speaking world. What began as a focus on comic books expanded to encompass movies, TV shows, anime, manga, and video games, drawing stars, creators, and industry giants to showcase their latest projects and engage with fans. Comic-Con and similar events worldwide provide hackers and enthusiasts alike with a vibrant and immersive environment to explore their passions and connect with like-minded individuals, offering a glimpse into the diverse and dynamic landscape of nerdy pop culture.





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# CULT OF THE DEAD COW (cDc)

The Cult of the Dead Cow [cDc] 💀, originating in Lubbock, Texas, in 1984, holds a unique place in hacker culture history as the first hacktivist group to target Scientology and pioneer many elements of contemporary hacker culture. Operating through a series of BBSes, cDc members engaged in pranks, ASCII art, and the creation of l33tspeak, while also critiquing Scientology on Usenet. Notably, cDc organized the inaugural cybersecurity conference, HoHoCon, and developed Back Orifice, a remote-access Trojan horse, to expose vulnerabilities in Windows operating systems. Over the years, cDc has included prominent members like former Congressman and 2020 US presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke and cybersecurity expert Peiter "Mudge" Zatko, highlighting the group's influence and connections within the military-industrial complex. Despite their anti-authoritarian ethos, some cDc members have held positions of authority, reflecting the complex relationship between hacker culture and established power structures.





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# DEMOSCENE

The demoscene 🎨 is a vibrant intersection of hacker culture, art, and music, where enthusiasts explore the visual and musical capabilities of computers across different eras. Originating in the 1980s but flourishing in the late 1990s and early 2000s, demogroups experiment with older PCs and operating systems like the Commodore Amiga and MS-DOS to create mesmerizing demos reminiscent of trippy synthwave music videos. Collaborative in nature, demoscene projects involve graphic designers, musicians, and programmers working together to craft intricate and technically sophisticated demos. Reflecting its roots in early display hacks from the 1950s, the demoscene celebrates creativity and innovation in digital art, with demogroups like Conspiracy, MFX, and Farbrausch showcasing their creations in competitions judged for their artistry and technical prowess.





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## CAPTAIN CRUNCH (JOHN DRAPER)

John "Captain Crunch" Draper (1943–) is a legendary phreaker known for his innovative exploits in hacking the telephone system during the analog era. Growing up with access to discarded electronics due to his father's background in the US Air Force, Draper built an unlicensed home radio station before enlisting in the Air Force in 1964. His passion for radio continued, leading him to operate a pirate radio station dubbed WKOS while stationed in Maine, ultimately attracting unwanted attention from authorities. Transitioning to Silicon Valley in the late 1960s, Draper worked as an engineer for National Semiconductor while pursuing his pirate radio hobby on the side. His involvement in phreaking stemmed from the discovery that a plastic whistle toy included in Cap'n Crunch cereal boxes emitted a tone perfect for bypassing long-distance call charges in the analog phone system. Despite legal repercussions, Draper's exploits caught the attention of tech luminaries Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs, laying the foundation for their collaboration in entrepreneurship, including the founding of Apple in 1976.





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# FUD

FUD, which stands for "Fear, uncertainty, and doubt," encompasses two distinct meanings: a psychological tactic used in marketing and a technical term referring to "fully undetectable" malware. In marketing and public relations, FUD is employed to instill hesitation and apprehension in consumers, often by exaggerating potential risks associated with competitors' products. This approach was historically used to sway buyers towards certain brands by casting doubt on the reliability of alternatives. However, in cybersecurity, FUD takes on a different connotation, denoting malware designed to evade detection by antivirus software. This type of malware, advertised in Dark Web forums, poses a pervasive threat by exploiting vulnerabilities in computer networks. Whether deployed as a marketing strategy or in the form of malicious software, FUD capitalizes on uncertainty to influence behavior and propagate fear among consumers and cybersecurity professionals alike.



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# DAY

0day, 1day, and nday vulnerabilities and exploits represent varying degrees of threat in the realm of cybersecurity. A "0day" vulnerability refers to a flaw in software that is unknown to the vendor or developers, leaving users vulnerable to attacks with no available patch or fix. These vulnerabilities are highly prized by hackers and can lead to devastating cyberattacks. Conversely, a "1day" vulnerability is one that has been discovered but not yet patched, providing a window of opportunity for attackers to exploit before a fix is released. Finally, "nday" vulnerabilities are those that are known and have been patched, but still pose a risk to users who have not applied the available updates. These terms underscore the critical importance of timely patching and proactive cybersecurity measures to mitigate the risk of exploitation.



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# HOPPER, GRACE

Grace Hopper, a pioneer in computer programming, was instrumental in shaping the digital landscape as we know it today. 🚀 Despite coming from a privileged background, Hopper pursued a career in mathematics and later joined the US Navy during World War II, where she made significant contributions to early computing systems like IBM's Mark I. Notably, she developed the first compiler, A-O, in 1949, and later created COBOL, a widely used programming language, in 1959, aiming to make computer programming more accessible. Hopper's dedication to innovation and education earned her numerous accolades, including the National Medal of Technology in 1991 and a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016. Her legacy continues to inspire generations of programmers and innovators. 🌟





# Resources

Hacker Culture A to Z by KIM CRAWLEY





# HADESS

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"Hadess" is a cybersecurity company focused on safeguarding digital assets and creating a secure digital ecosystem. Our mission involves punishing hackers and fortifying clients' defenses through innovation and expert cybersecurity services.

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