

receives public (and indisputable) affirmation in the moment of laughter. This expression of wit solidifies the meaning of archetypal hacker selves: self-determined and rational individuals who use their well-developed faculties of discrimination and perception to understand the “formal” world— technical or not—around them with such perspicuity that they can intervene virtuously within this logical system either for the sake of play, pedagogy, or technological innovation. In short, they have playfully defiant attitudes, which they apply to almost any system in order to repurpose it” (Coleman 2013: 7).

The playful, in this scope, is the common practice of repurposing something and creating something new. This is precisely how humor works and therefore it is no surprise to find the hacking community performing their work with a considerable amount of humor. It is striking how the notion of rationality though, in a context of hacking communities, is being altered. Not the rigid coercive rationality, encountered in the accounts on bureaucracy, but a rationality committed to the technical functionality of code becomes visible.