A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of two overlapping parallelograms. The front one is blue and the back one is a light green. They are positioned diagonally, with the blue one partially covering the green one.

Conferences, Conventions, and Hacking, oh my!

Alex Malm

What is your idea of a computer “person”?

XxsnoopyXc: hey
XxsnoopyXc: can i trade
XxsnoopyXc: knives
XxsnoopyXc: well can i see a knife
EvilClone28 - Trading Knife: which one?
XxsnoopyXc: the scroched
XxsnoopyXc: can i just see it
EvilClone28 - Trading Knife: I can't, it's my friend's
XxsnoopyXc: can i see it for a sec
XxsnoopyXc: ehats ur friends name
EvilClone28 - Trading Knife: no
EvilClone28 - Trading Knife: it's Head Case's knife
XxsnoopyXc: whats ur brothers name
EvilClone28 - Trading Knife: theoriginal28
XxsnoopyXc: has changed their name to theoriginal28.
theoriginal28 (2): hey its me ur brother
EvilClone28 - Trading Knife: no it's not
theoriginal28 (2): yes



What is your idea of a computer “person”?

Society's View:

- Socially awkward
- Lone wolf
- Video games
- ENHANCE!



Reality:

- Tinkering
- Learning
- Passion for technology
- FUN!



What got you interested in computers?



Do you want to make money from this field?





Do you want to make money from this field?

Of course!!!

But... how?

How do you learn best?



How do I network?



How do I network?

GET YOURSELF OUT
THERE




Where is “there”?



CONS!!





But.. where are
these cons?

THEY'RE FREAKIN EVERYWHERE!

hope.net

securitybsides.com

brrcon.com

rsaconference.com


carolinacon.org



Ok... but when do I
go?

Right Meow!





What's so great
about these
anyway?

Well I'll tell ya!


Ability to learn (from the best)

Ability to connect with others (Time is \$\$,
Conversation, hey maybe make some friends
too)

Ability to Network (Get yourself out there!)

Ability to show off skills (Participate!)

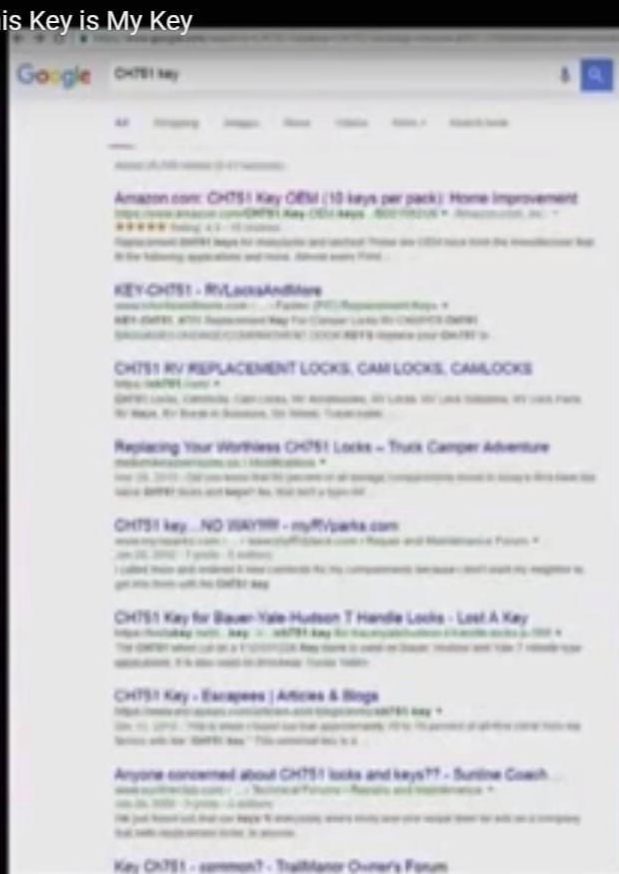
HAVE FUN (Big)




What's so great
about these
anyway?

The professionals!








What's so great
about these
anyway?

The Human Element!

We as humans are social creatures, getting together gives us the ability to connect with people that have similar interests, share our ideas, and get ideas from others. This is what we as a species are built for! Broaden your horizons, find a way to contribute to humanity, even if only one person is affected, you have done your job.



The end!