

Hackathon hacking

It's not just about coding, or even the "product" . . .

Charlie Li

April 6, 2016

This presentation is a hack.

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- Promoting any upcoming events in particular

A little history of hacker culture

(As it relates to this talk.)

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1995–1999: OpenBSD

Theo de Raadt: "This is something we started many years ago. A bunch of us would fly to one location (typically before or after a conference) and we would sit down and code. These events really are about getting tasks done; there is very little chatter, as we already know basically what needs to be done. They are not meetings, no one presents talks, nor are they so-called summits. They are for taking action in the source tree, knowing that the guy you need to ask a question of really quickly is sitting at a table a meter away."

You already know enough fundamentals for hackathons.
Now apply them whilst you go exploring.

General logistics

(Mainly for collegiate hackathons)

- 12–36 hours long (usually over an entire weekend)
- Free to attend...
- Sponsors (if the event is actually expensive)
- FOOD AESTHETIC
- 50s–thousands of attendees of all shapes, sizes, interests, expertise, etc
- Work with whoever you want... or not
- Prizes?



Demoing/judging

(Because this is where they decide if you win, right?)

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It's a crapshoot at best.

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- Hackathon Hackers
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- PennApps Fall 2013
- Unhackathon 2014
- YHack 2014 and 2015
- PennApps Winter 2015
- HX
- hacksu
- esr
- BrickHack 2016
- ENGR 408/493

PennApps Fall 2013

Throwback Wednesday



Yo dawg

I heard you like hacking, so I put a hack in your hack so you can hack while you hack



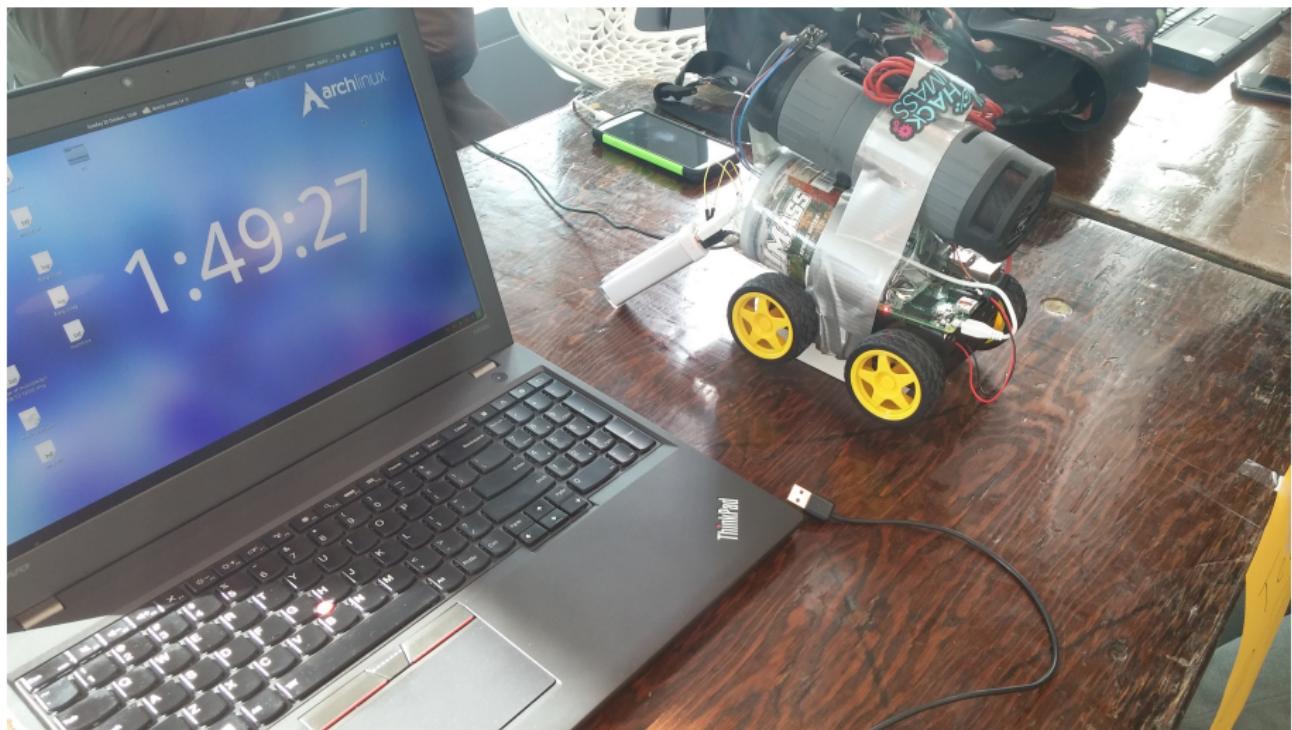
Blending two hobbies

What are comfort zones?



Clutchness

Mastering this art is clutch.



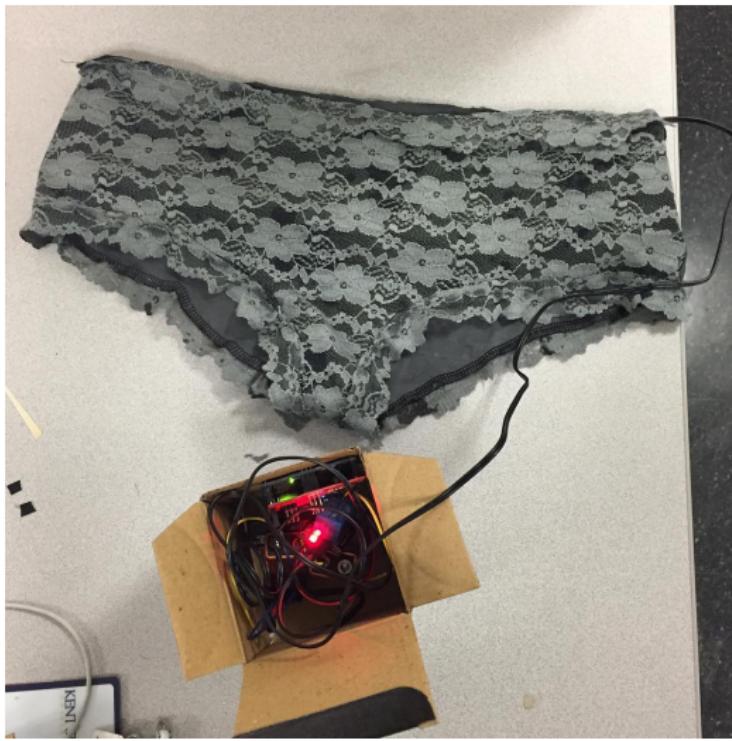
Fire spits

I mean, they say music is a universal language. . .



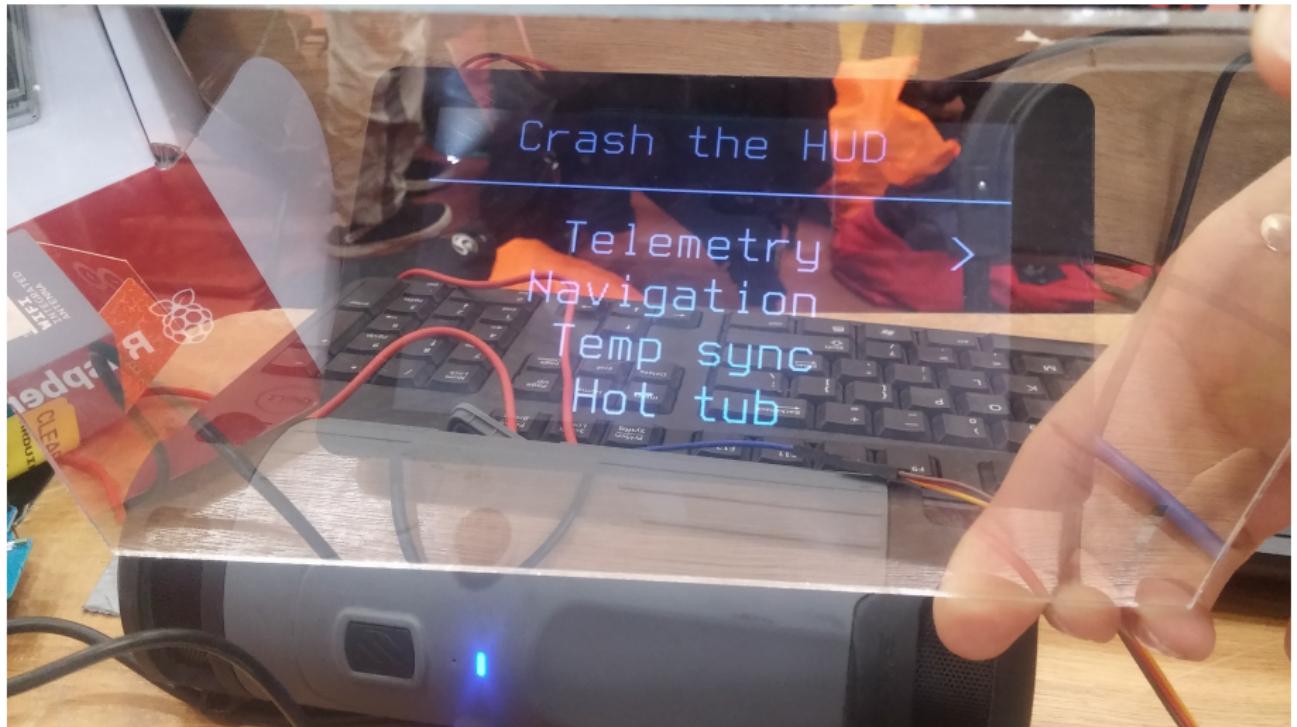
Fashion

Wearing is believing



Automotive

Because Teslas are overrated and overpriced anyway



Hot tub hacks

They don't want us to have a bigger pool than Kanye!



What even is winning?