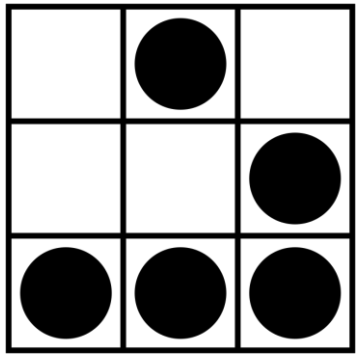

How to Teach Hacker Highschool

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How to Teach Hacker Highschool: Unit I

Your Guide To The Process

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Manager of School for Hackers

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http://gnorman.org

https://schoolforhackers.com

How to Teach Hacker Highschool: Unit I

What is Hacker Highschool?

- A program for kids and teens from 12 to 18
- Hands-on learning
- An Internet instruction book
- Self-defense against invasive and aggressive code
- An honest approach to teaching the unaware
- An honest approach to making hackers into watchdogs
- A way to understand what hackers do

How to Teach Hacker Highschool: Unit I

What is Hacker Highschool?

- An open, free curriculum created by ISECOM (http://isecom.org)
- I was a volunteer, then project manager, 2012-2016
- Version 1 was developed in 2004
- I managed the Version 2 update/rewrite
- This presentation is specific to my edition
- Available at http://gnorman.org/2017/05/16/hacker-highschool-download-uncut-lessons/
- Project information at http://hackerhighschool.org

Who Is the Hacker Highschool Teacher?

- A mentor for the real world
- Someone who listens
- The gatekeeper between knowledge and application
- A guide for finding more knowledge
- Not necessarily a “hacker”
- Not necessarily an “expert” at anything but digging up knowledge

Discussing HHS With Your Administration

Not that long ago, just the word “hacker” was enough to get you uninvited. But things are changing very fast, as more and more people become clear:

We need hackers. Desperately. Immediately.

So your case is the value of these skills.

What kind of experience do you need?

This is not Hacker Graduate School, or even Hacker College. It's for beginners, including beginning teachers of hacking.

So don't forget:

Your job is not to show students how to do everything. Your job is to help them figure it out themselves.

Rules for Teaching

- Treat the kids like professionals and you are the mentor...
- ...but watch over their shoulders.
- Encourage them to work in teams of 2.
- Do not allow them to use the test lab network without supervision.
- Do not allow them to search for and try new tools until they have studied those tools and know how they work.
- Do not allow them to establish a clique in the classroom.
- Encourage them to establish a meritocracy.
- Sit with each student individually and have them explain to you what they are doing.
- Encourage them to discover all answers for themselves.
- Should you let them call themselves hackers?

What a Hacker Is Not

hack·er

/ˈhakər/

noun

1. a person who uses computers to gain unauthorized access to data.
   synonyms: cybercriminal, pirate, computer criminal, keylogger, keystroke logger;
   More
2. a person or thing that hacks or cuts roughly.

AN ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA COMPANY

Merriam-Webster

m-w.com

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hacker

?! Quiz

Test Your Vocabulary

Take Our 10-Question Quiz

hacker

Popularity

hack·er *noun* \ˈha-kər\

computers : a person who secretly gets access to a computer system in order to get information, cause damage, etc. : a person who hacks into a computer system

: a person who plays a sport badly

Full Definition of HACKER

Cite!

1 : one that hacks

2 : a person who is inexperienced or unskilled at a particular activity <a tennis *hacker*>

3 : an expert at programming and solving problems with a computer

4 : a person who illegally gains access to and sometimes tampers with information in a computer system

hacker

[hak-er] IPA Syllables

Examples Word Origin

CITE

noun

1. a person or thing that hacks.

2. *Slang.* a person who engages in an activity without talent or skill:
   "weekend hackers on the golf course."

3. *Computer Slang.*
   a. a person who has a high level of skill in computer technology or programming; a computer expert or enthusiast:
      "My brother is a real hacker—he fixed my laptop in no time."
   b. a computer user who attempts to gain unauthorized access to proprietary computer systems:
      "A hacker got into my computer remotely and wiped my hard drive!"

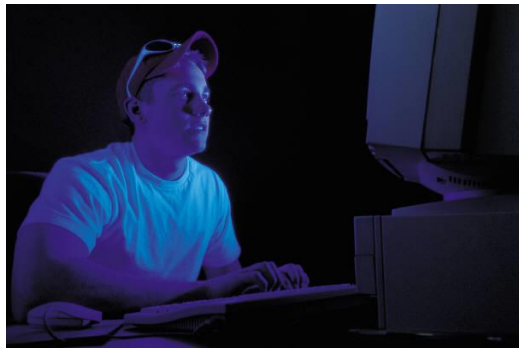
How to Teach Hacker Highschool: Unit I

When it comes to hacking...

...we are talking about skill, not about being a criminal.

It will be very important to make everyone clear what we're talking about.

Emphasize “Security Awareness Training for Teens.”



What Hacker Culture Is

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacker_culture:

The hacker culture is a subculture of individuals who enjoy the intellectual challenge of creatively overcoming limitations of software systems to achieve novel and clever outcomes. The act of engaging in activities (such as programming or other media) in a spirit of playfulness and exploration is termed "hacking".

What Hacker Culture Is

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacker_culture:

Activities of playful cleverness can be said to have "hack value" and therefore the term "hacks" came about, with early examples including pranks at MIT done by students to demonstrate their technical aptitude and cleverness. Therefore, the hacker culture originally emerged in academia in the 1960s around the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)'s Tech Model Railroad Club (TMRC) and MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

Selling HHS To Your Students

This will be much easier.

Simply emphasize the main title:

Hacker Highschool

Just remind them that they're becoming technical experts, not criminals.

Selling HHS To Parents

This will depend on the parent.

The critical emphasis here is:

- **Demand for people with these skills is huge.**
- **All sectors need creative hackers.**
- **The pay is great.**
- **The demand is NOT going away!**

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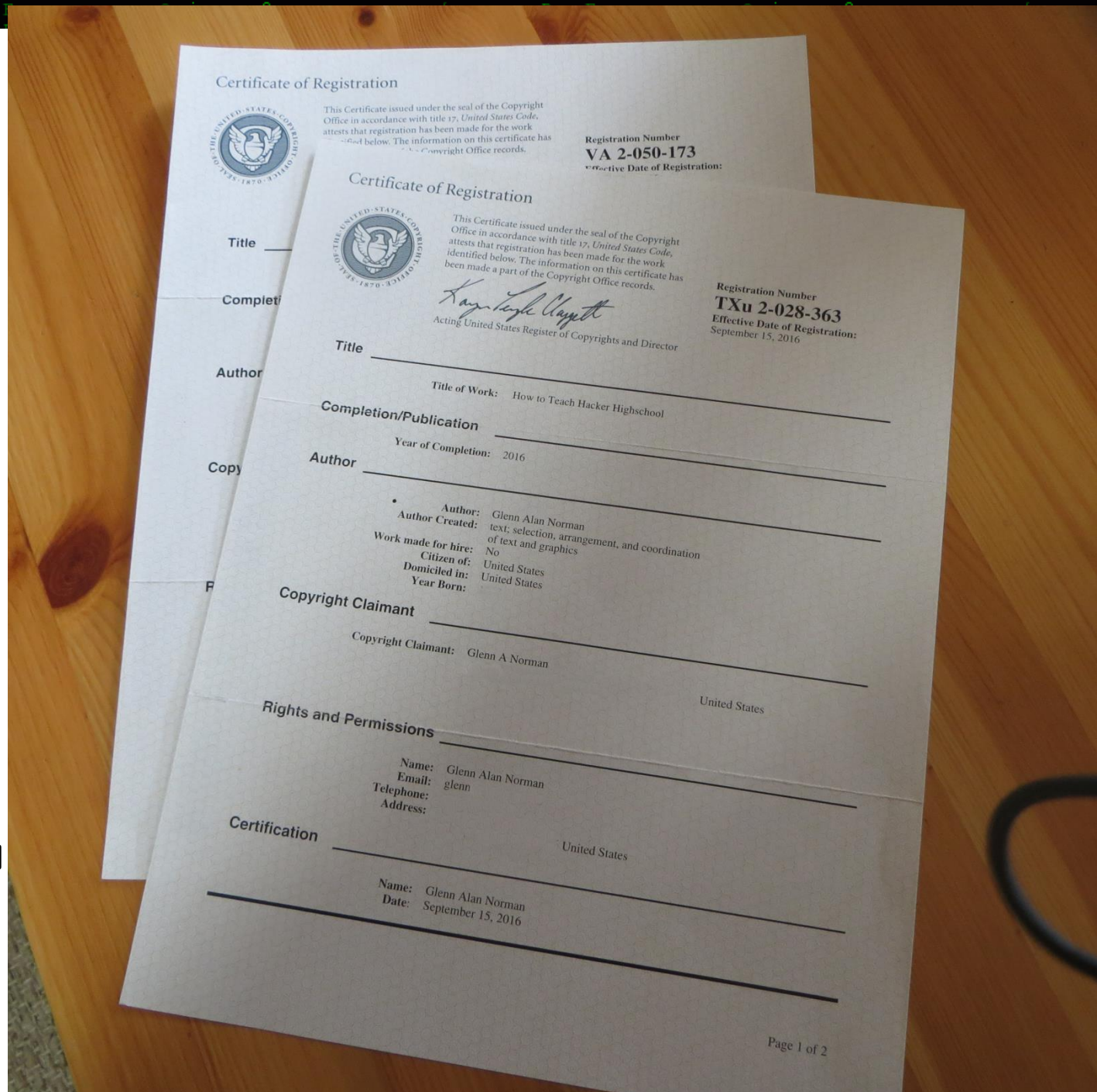

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Parts of Hacker Highschool
Version 2 © 2016 Glenn Norman