Hacker Cracker

Jeffrey Barlow
Pacific University

Recommended Citation

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Hacker Cracker

By Jeffrey Barlow <barlowj@pacificu.edu>

Editor, Interface


One of the interesting impacts of the Internet is its differential effect on disparate socio-economic groups. At Interface, we pay a great deal of attention to such factors as the Digital Divide [1]; but we also continually discuss the globalization of the Internet. We are aware that there are two contrary processes at work: the Internet is both tied to socio-economic standing, and simultaneously sometimes cuts across them in a dramatic fashion.

The work reviewed here, Nuwere and Chanoff’s Hacker Cracker is a remarkably interesting as well as very useful chronicle of the Internet in its latter or leveling function. Chanoff is a familiar name to those who read widely. He has written thirteen books on topics ranging from health to foreign policy. He also frequently appears in periodical publications.

The primary author here, however, the protagonist who tells his own story in a first-person voice, is Ejovi Nuwere. Born into a broken home in “Bed Stuy”, the toughest of the Brooklyn neighborhoods, Mr. Nuwere joined local gangs, flirted with Communism in school, became a serious student of martial arts, then met the artifact that would transform his life: the computer.

Mr. Nuwere began working with computers in school just as the generational transformation from juvenile “fone freaks” to “script kiddies” was occurring in the early 1990’s. Bored, adventurous, or downright criminal youth were beginning to see the possibilities presented by computing. Nuwere barely avoided very serious trouble with correspondingly long jail terms, and, at the time of writing, was working for a security firm as a “white hat” hacker: one who continually tests security systems in order to strengthen them.

Mr. Nuwere’s odyssey is a fascinating and informative one. Following his trail, we learn about the early stages of hacking, and the history of computing among such noted hacker groups as the
“Digital Yakuza,” [2] the “Legion of Doom”, “w00w00,” and the “2600 Group” (pp. 175-191).

And throughout we learn about the motives and the skills of hackers; we sit with Nuwere as he hacks his way into Internet providers, “phishes” for credit card numbers (and learns to duplicate cards and order merchandise with them) and accesses government sites with, supposedly, the highest levels of security. After reading Nuwere, only the most unreflective reader would not occasionally wonder who is shadowing their computer activities as they keyboard at home or at work.

_Hacker Cracker_ raises some troubling issues. We earlier reviewed another hacker’s work, Kevin D. Mitnick and William L. Simon’s _The Art of Deception_. [3] In that review we took a very critical look at Mitnick’s “social engineering.” Here we are continually inclined to forgive Nuwere what were, after all, broadly similar crimes. We have had to ask ourselves if this more laissez faire attitude grew out of some PC attitude toward a Black, formerly poor hacker vis-à-vis a White one.

We do not believe that this is the case. Nuwere shows us how his undoubted crimes grew out of a particular social context and how he learned from them, eventually putting his skills to the services of the good guys. Throughout the book, Nuwere shows nothing so much as a desire to be accepted in a race-free environment. [4] He is also very concerned about being able to exercise control over his life and his environment. [5] To us, Mitnick seemed rather a boastful criminal who probably regretted being caught much more than he regretted the crimes he committed.

Another recurring theme in Nuwere’s personal journey is the desire to somehow, sometime, become a hero—part of his search for acceptance, we assume. As the book closes he recounts his personal experiences at ground zero at the Twin Towers on 9/11. While he personally witnesses the events, his heroism is a pleasingly symmetrical one as he takes charge of restoring security to ravaged computer systems necessary for essential work in resolving the tragedy.

This book has a great deal to offer. Nuwere was not only present at the beginning in a sense, but also played in some very serious arenas. Many chapters have significant blacked-out text, an editorial conceit, but also one that makes it clear that this is a man who has had a great deal of interesting experience. He also writes in a strong voice. If we sometimes wonder how he can possibly tie together his interest in martial arts, his family’s troubled life (his mother dies from AIDS), and his computing experiences, at the last we feel that he has done so and would not have had him leave anything out. We can all learn from _Hacker Cracker_, both as Americans and as members of the international, cross-class, multi-ethnic group of lovers of computing and of the Internet.

**Notes:**

[1] See especially the columns of Mark Szmansky using the search feature.
[2] For a contemporary site hacked by the Digital Yakuza see:
http://www.kotelna.sk/keso/Old/nasa/after.html

[3] See review at:
http://bcis.pacificu.edu/journal/2003/05/mitnick.php
Accessed 3/23/04


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[http://bcis.pacificu.edu/interface/?p=2930].

29 THOUGHTS ON “HACKER CRACKER”

internet marketing magazine
on January 29, 2014 at 6:06 PM said:

I appreciate, lead to I found exactly what I
was taking a look for. You have ended my four day lengthy hunt!
God Bless you man. Have a great day. Bye

work from home united
on January 29, 2014 at 9:03 PM said:

Touche. Solid arguments. Keep up the great spirit.

inbox blueprint bonus
on January 29, 2014 at 11:48 PM said:

Hello there! I could have sworn I’ve been to this site before but after checking through
some of the post I realized it’s new to
me. Anyways, I’m definitely delighted I found it and I’ll be bookmarking and checking
back often!
budget marketing
on January 30, 2014 at 10:48 AM said:

I’m really enjoying the theme/design of your weblog. Do you ever run into any web browser compatibility issues?

A few of my blog audience have complained about my blog not working correctly in Explorer but looks great in Chrome. Do you have any ideas to help fix this issue?

cash for settlements auto dealer crm affordable homeowners insurance selling my timeshare email blast service remote server monitoring software business reward credit cards student credit card apply online alcohol rehab california colorado refinancing mer
on January 30, 2014 at 12:35 PM said:

Have you ever considered about including a little bit more than just your articles? I mean, what you say is valuable and all. Nevertheless just imagine if you added some great pictures or videos to give your posts more, “pop”!

Your content is excellent but with pics and clips, this blog could undeniably be one of the greatest in its niche. Terrific blog!

facebook ios sdk
on January 30, 2014 at 3:57 PM said:

always i used to read smaller posts that as well clear their motive, and that is also happening with this piece of writing which I am reading now.
on January 30, 2014 at 5:17 PM said:

I enjoy what you guys are up too. This sort of clever work and coverage! Keep up the awesome works guys I’ve you guys to blogroll.

Fast income
on January 30, 2014 at 7:14 PM said:

Pretty! This has been a really wonderful post.

Many thanks for providing this information.

sell property Schaumburg
on January 30, 2014 at 7:58 PM said:

Impressive website. Plenty of practical info in this article. I am mailing this to a couple good friends ans furthermore giving around delectable. And naturally, thank you for your work!

make money online music
on January 31, 2014 at 12:04 AM said:

I’m extremely impressed along with your writing abilities as well as with the format in your blog. Is that this a paid subject or did you modify it yourself? Anyway keep up the nice quality writing, it’s rare to see a nice blog like this one these days..

Cody
on January 31, 2014 at 1:02 AM said:

I get pleasure from, cause I found exactly what I used to be having
a look for. You have ended my 4 day long hunt!
God Bless you man. Have a nice day. Bye

portable induction Cooktop
on January 31, 2014 at 2:34 AM said:

Attractive portion of content. I simply stumbled upon your site and in accession capital to claim that I get actually enjoyed account your blog posts. Anyway I’ll be subscribing in your augment or even I success you get right of entry to persistently rapidly.

documented security Tool
on January 31, 2014 at 4:20 AM said:

I am regular visitor, how are you everybody? This post posted at this site is genuinely fastidious.

Paulina
on January 31, 2014 at 4:21 AM said:

Hey there! Someone in my Myspace group shared this website with us so I came to give it a look. I’m definitely loving the information.
I’m book-marking and will be tweeting this to my followers!
Excellent blog and fantastic design.

rhref=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZM5ic-W0xA/>contemporary art review
on January 31, 2014 at 2:08 PM said:

Hello, always i used to check web site posts here in the early hours in the break of day, as i like to learn more and more.
William

on January 31, 2014 at 4:38 PM said:

Pretty component of content. I simply stumbled upon your blog and in accession capital to claim that I acquire actually enjoyed account your blog posts. Anyway I will be subscribing to your feeds or even I fulfillment you get admission to persistently quickly.

make money easy online

on January 31, 2014 at 5:17 PM said:

Remarkable! Its truly amazing piece of writing, I have got much clear idea about from this piece of writing.

money holder

on January 31, 2014 at 9:20 PM said:

Hello would you mind letting me know which web host you’re using?

I’ve loaded your blog in 3 completely different browsers and I must say this blog loads a lot faster then most.
Can you suggest a good web hosting provider at a reasonable price?
Thanks, I appreciate it!

Elva

on February 1, 2014 at 5:34 PM said:

Hello, all the time i used to check website posts here in the early hours in the break of day, because i love to find out more and more.
What’s Going down i’m new to this, I stumbled upon this I’ve discovered It positively helpful and it has aided me out loads. I’m hoping to contribute & assist different users like its helped me.

Good job.

Great article.

Please let me know if you’re looking for a author for your blog. You have some really good articles and I think I would be a good asset. If you ever want to take some of the load off, I’d really like to write some material for your blog in exchange for a link back to mine. Please blast me an email if interested.

Cheers!

Hi to all, as I am in fact eager of reading this blog’s post to be updated daily. It contains
good data.

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**earn online from home in india**
on **February 2, 2014 at 5:21 PM** said:

My programmer is trying to convince me to move to .net from PHP. I have always disliked the idea because of the expenses. But he’s trying none the less. I’ve been using Movable-type on several websites for about a year and am anxious about switching to another platform. I have heard great things about blogengine.net.

Is there a way I can transfer all my wordpress content into it? Any help would be really appreciated!

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**Seth**
on **February 3, 2014 at 2:47 AM** said:

I know this web page offers quality dependent articles or reviews and additional information, is there any other website which offers these stuff in quality?

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**social media tools**
on **February 3, 2014 at 5:35 PM** said:

It’s truly very difficult in this active life to listen news on Television, thus I simply use internet for that reason, and take the latest information.

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**ways to make extra money**
on **February 4, 2014 at 8:41 AM** said:
Excellent article! We will be linking to this particularly great article on our site. Keep up the good writing.

speed up pc free download

on February 4, 2014 at 12:46 PM said:

Great article! This is the kind of info that are meant to be shared around the web. Shame on Google for no longer positioning this put up upper! Come on over and consult with my web site. Thanks =)

full filesystem check required exiting

on February 4, 2014 at 11:46 PM said:

A fascinating discussion is worth comment. I believe that you should publish more about this subject, it might not be a taboo matter but usually people don’t talk about these topics. To the next! Kind regards!!