

Thinking Differently:

Bringing the Hacker Mindset
to the Corporate Environment



Joe Grand (formerly known as KINGPIN)



Hacker?



Always
questioning
and
learning.



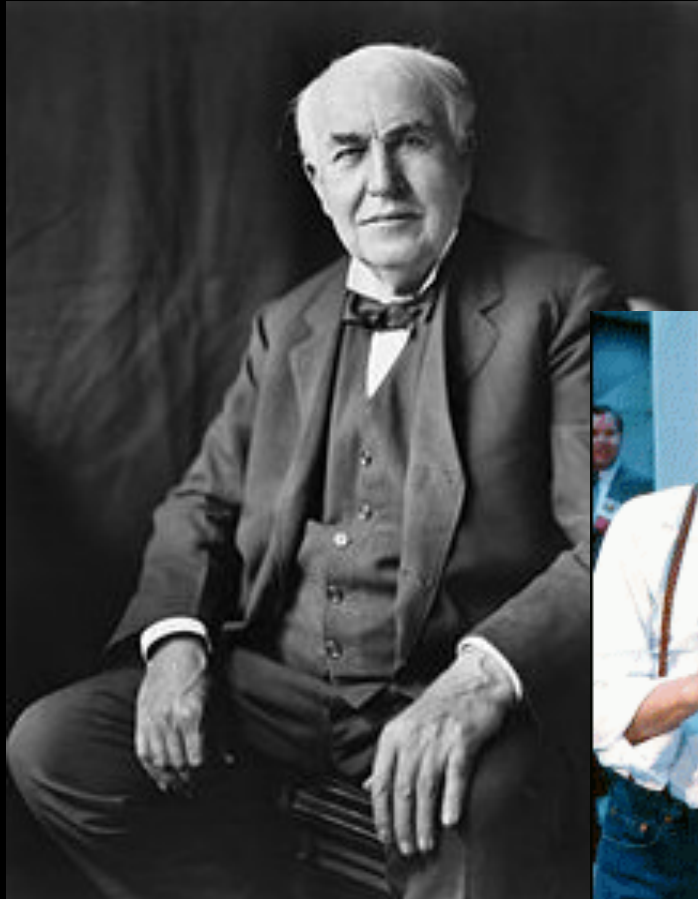
Tries
things
that others
think are
impossible.



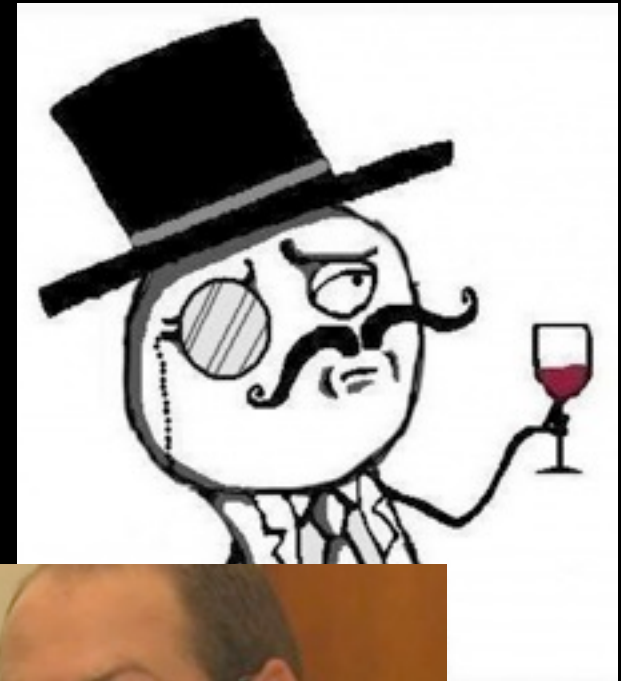
Solves
problems
in
clever ways.



Like these guys...



Not like these guys...





- ◎ Started in the early 1990s as a clubhouse for local hackers
 - All met through BBSes in Boston, Massachusetts
 - Store computer equipment
 - Tinker w/ projects
 - Experiment with new and old technologies
 - Just hang out
- ◎ Turned into tight-knit friends changing the face of computer security vulnerability research and disclosure



The Early Days (~1994)



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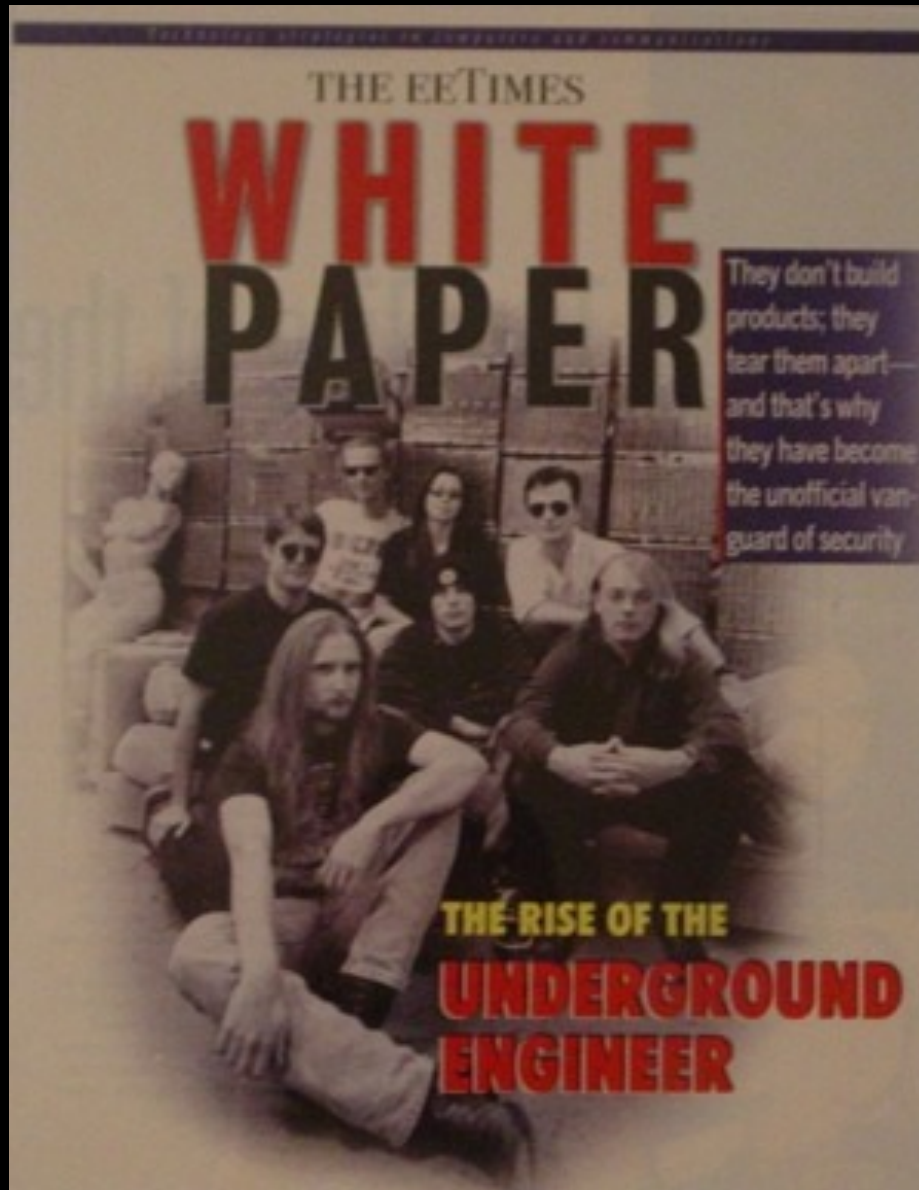


The L0pht

- ◎ Full disclosure of our discovered vulnerabilities, starting ~1996
 - One of the first groups to release advisories & exploit code
 - We didn't play favorites (and proud of it!)
- ◎ In the late 90s, decided to try and become self-sufficient
 - Cover rent and expenses w/ t-shirt, electronic kit, hacker CDs, and flea market sales



The Heyday (1996-1999)



EETimes, Sept. 22, 1997



Senate Testimony (1998)

05/06/98 WED 15:00 FAX

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 5, 1998

L0pht Heavy Industries Technologies, Inc.
P.O. Box 990857
Boston, MA 02199-0857

Dear L0pht:

On Tuesday, May 19, the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing to assess the information and computer security vulnerabilities in the Federal government.

Seven members of your organization are invited to appear before the Committee to present:

- Information on computer and communication system hacking;
- Specific security weaknesses in computer and communication systems which enable hackers to exploit information on these systems;
- Recommendations for improving system security in terms of software, hardware, and physical devices.



The L0pht

- © In 2000, joined forces w/VC to start @stake



Into the light: *Once shadowy computer code warriors like Kingpin are going legit*

Using Good Hackers to Battle Bad Hackers

IF YOU HAVE A MURKY PAST AND DOUBT you could become a dot-com millionaire, think again. Last week a scraggly band of hackers known as “L0pht Heavy Industries” joined with some straitlaced tech execs to form @Stake, an Internet-security consulting firm.

Newsweek, January 17, 2000





- ◎ Combined consulting services w/ pure research
 - Application, network, hardware, wireless
 - L0pht → @stake R&D Labs
- ◎ Focused on serving large corporate clients
- ◎ "Vendor neutral" at first...
- ◎ Acquired by Symantec in 2004
- ◎ L0pht members went their separate ways





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= ?





Encourage
innovation
and
tinkering.



Create an
ivory
tower.





Support
the sharing
of
information.





Give in
to
pressure.





Try
new
things.



Go forth
and
hack!

