

European hackers : History of the Chaos
Computer Club... – IV

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(translation, commentary, edition)

“Andy Müller-Maguhn: fighter for a free internet” [FAZ, 2000]

Only 28 years old and already 16 years of net experience: in the night to Oct. 11th, Andy Müller-Maguhn, speaker for the Chaos Computer Clubs (CCC) of Hamburg, was voted European representative to the Internet government Icann.

The journalist and operator of a ”data travel agency”, while understanding perfectly well the dealings with complicated [intricate] networks, never loses sight of the social and political aspects of the new media.

In his private and professional life, he deals with the opportunities and risks of new technologies and their social benefit

No ban on far-right sites

Banning of, for instance far-right Internet sites is something that the advocate for a free Internet rigorously declines. Instead of censorship, we should put resources towards increasing the education of people with regards to the media. Because he is a member of the CCC he was looked at suspiciously abroad [outside of Germany]. The registered association still has to deal with a reputation for being a group of anarchists and half-criminals.

This comes despite the adherence of the about 1600 members to a strict ethic. According to this ethic, vulnerabilities are not to be used for commercial gain or criminal purpose, but must be published for the common good.

Spectacular actions

Thanks to spectacular actions, the club, which describes itself as a ”galatic association [.....]”, earned a good reputation over the years in matters of security. It brought for example attention to hardware and software security vulnerabilities as well as in EC cards and mobile phone cards (SIM). In 1998 its founder, Wau Holland, feared that they would become the ”truffle pigs of the industry”.

Trans. note :

”free” relates to freedom, not cost – for which the German language has the separate words ”frei” and ”gratis” respectively (the former is found here).

“The new hacker order” [FAZ, Jan. 2007]

The “Chaos Computer Club” has changed : over 25 years, moving from anarchistic technology freaks [*anarchischen*] to digital civil rights campaigners [*Bürgerrechtler*]. Constanze Kurz is the new face of this change : female, tech-savvy, politically committed.

She is a woman. Fact exceptional enough that she should stand out. Constance Kurz, blond, thirty-two years old sits between 4 men at a podium. The men talk about computers, the Internet, and what their association has accomplished in the last year. Topics are data retention [*Vorratsdatenspeicherung*], information freedom law [*Informationsfreiheitsgesetz*] and voting computers.

Constance Kurz actually would have as much to say as the men, but she is only a moderator this time. She provides keywords, “Please keep your contribution short”, she can be heard saying (...) In the audience there are about 300 men and only a few women. They laugh about good slogans like “The capability for humor of the police could be improved”.

Until Saturday the conference of the “Chaos Computer Club”, a class outing for the hacker scene of sorts, attended by about 3000 people every year. The motto this year, is : “Who can you trust?” The CCC was created 25 years ago, in the redaction al rooms of the “taz” at the oval panel [*Tafel*] of Kommune 1. The early members described themselves as “galatic association” (...) For 4 days, they sit in a renovated, former DDR, conference center, eat pizza Hawaii or hamburgers, and think about the big picture : “surveillance State” and its instruments - the biometric pass and the radio chip [*Funkchip*] in the [German, implied] I.D..

Women are pretty rare here. Barely 10 percent of the audience. (...)

When Constanze heard of the Club at the very end of the 1990s, the association made more the impression of a tinkerer gathering [*Bastel-Runde*]. At the time she was studying informatics at Humboldt University after having dropped out of an economics degree. Co-students took her to a meeting. “A bunch of nerds and geeks”, but “I liked them right away” she ways. But, for a time she only listens and does her home work for university.

“Back then they were famous for their BTX hack” she tells - a legendary action of the 1980s. The ‘Coup’ of the hackers then : in 1984 members of the CCC hacked the Sparkasse [bank] of Hamburg and wired over 135000 Deutsche Marks to their bank account. Just like that - on the touch of a button. They made the vulnerability public, gave the money back. (...)

Afterwards they made headlines regularly, so for instance in 1987 again when hackers associated with the CCC [“im Umfeld”] penetrated the American NASA computer. (...)

Trans., ed. note :

see the mention of “Haspa” (Ha-mburger Spa-rkasse...) in the DS. As for the NASA hack see also, there, the early articles “did you know”, common passwords etc.. [login with initials?]

“taz” should be the [left-wing] Berlin based newspaper.

Cola, chips and algorithms [taz, 1994]

The 10th Chaos Computer Congress: From higher mathematics to recommendations on how to best tie up cops.

The Republican party is penniless and has to be dissolved, the bank accounts of Nixon have also been emptied: Responsible for this 'Coup' : Martin and Cosmo. Delighted, they sit in front of their computers, the bank accounts are cracked, per touch of a button and depending on mood, dollars are wired over from one account to another. "All Power to the People" Martin shouts and -bam- the Black Panther Party is richer by 25000 dollars. Greenpeace? Bam, they can get some money too.

Hackers as modern Robin Hoods. To take from the rich and give to the poor. Such heartwarming scenes are shown in Sneakers the Robert Redford, River Phoenix and Sidney Poitier film. But, this is in the end only the product of the dream fabric of Hollywood, for in Hamburg-Eidelstedt the world looks quite different. (...) The motto [for the conference] this year is : "In the 10th year of Orwell". (...)

On the first floor the mathematics professor from Bremen, Michael Hortmann gives a lecture on the topic "Encryption: Principles, systems and visions. Problems of social and political relevance". On the green board he writes formula such as $ne = y$ (...) and, clearly, to only know that Bit is not just a brand of beer isn't enough any more.

At the moment a "cryptographically secure random generator" is investigated. It's about 200 long numbers that are multiplied with themselves just as much, and the professor says, radiant, that such numbers can't be [mentally] pictured. His child has already acquired the needed patience of the hacker : not even once do they complain in the 2 hours [of the expose]. (..)

His science has escaped the ivory tower recently. Encryption of data so that they can't be read by even the cleverest of unwanted eavesdroppers. The program PGP is pretty good at it and has made the NSA - the US pendant to the BND - pretty nervous who calls it "the problem of the future". Indeed, in Sneakers, Cosmo told : "The world isn't being governed by weapons anymore, but bits and bytes. It's not about more ammunition, but more information." (...)

A room of one's own in the back-of-the-back of the basement [taz, 2005]

At the 22nd annual fair of the Chaos Computer Club technology freaks of all kinds meet. Among the nerds, few women. So that they don't disappear, they organized: Haecksen. The association offers computer-savvy women a place to go to.

(...) The Art&Beauty area in the basement is supposed to be the rest area. Just 3

women can be found here. They are part of the service staff, behind the counter. The same can be observed in the other areas, be it the rooms where the speeches are held or the Hack-center, where female participants can be counted on the fingers of one hand. "The ratio should be about 10 per cent" according to the press coordinator. Based on observation that number is far lower. (...)

Haecksen was founded in 1988 bei Rena Tangens. The media education specialist and artist said she suffered from "men who muscle in" technology spaces. (...)

Hacking for world peace [taz, 2005]

The Chaos Computer Club aims to change the criminal image of the [hacker, implied] scene: how hackers are supposed to create an image as idealistic activists - is the topic of their 22nd annual meeting. (...)

Their self-image looks different : "We are no criminals" Tim Pritlove makes clear during the conference's opening, to resounding applause. (...)

Ref.

- Thömmes. 1994. "Cola, Chips und Algorithmen". *taz*, Jan. 3.
- "Icann : Andy Müller-Maguhn - Streiter für ein freies Internet". *FAZ*, Oct. 10 2000.
- Schmidt. Heike. 2005. "Ein Freiraum im hintersten Winkel des Kellers". *taz*, Dec. 30.
- Denk, David. 2005. "Hacken für den Weltfrieden". *taz*, Dec. 31.
- Trenkamp, Oliver. 2007. "Chaos Computer Club : Die neue Hack-Ordnung". *FAZ*, Jan. 2.

Ed.

The images of 18C3 on p. 14(17) of the first volume are from the video called "Final".

Modifications : lrtb.,

2 modified for privacy i.e. black front row. [Detail : OpenBSD?]

6 modified for visibility i.e. sharpness. [It appears to be the event's website. Detail "Haus Am Köllnischen Park (HAKP)".]

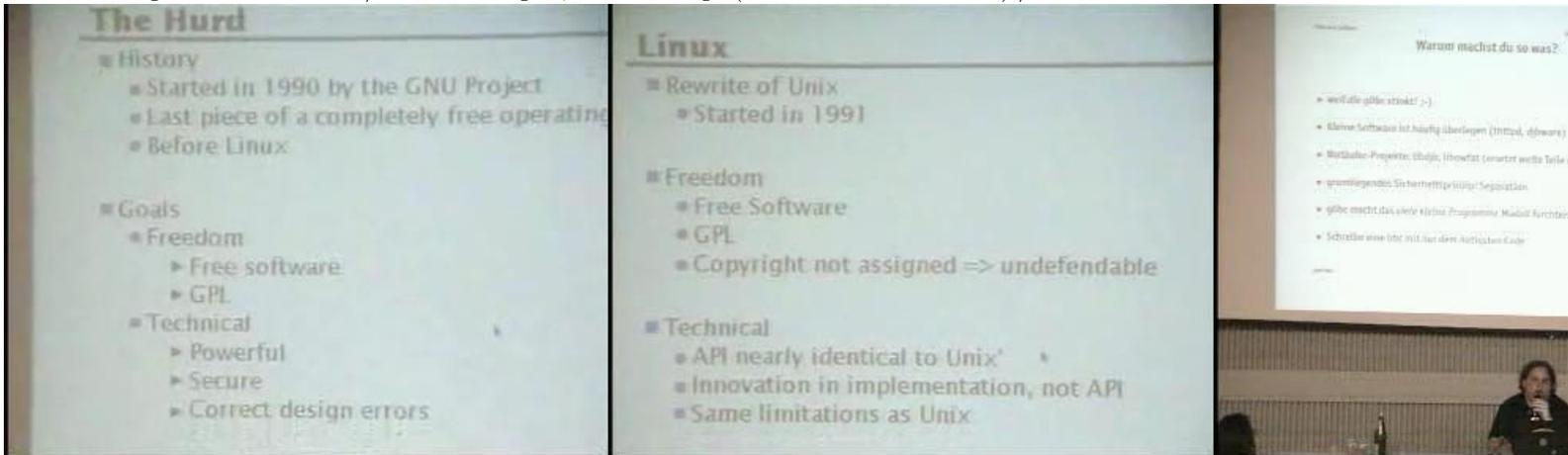
18C3 (talks, events...)

International hacker [meeting]: Laws, hacktivism...*	Emmanuel Goldstein, Andy Müller-Maguhn, Sebastian	
DNS and ICANN – a techno-political look at the Internet's ressource administration*	Andy Müller-Maguhn	"Dokumentation: http://www.icann.org/ , http://www.icannwatch.org/ , http://www.icannworld.org/ "
Blinkenlights	Tim Pritlove	
Häcksenworkshop	Tina Lorenz	
The Hurd: Unix Redesigned	Neal Walfield	"Summary: -Introduction -Power -Security -State -Conclusion" (presentation p. 1)
The RIP Act, "Anti-Terrorism" laws, and data retention	Caspar Bowden	
End of truth : Information warfare in praxis*	Frank Rieger, Ron	
On the "truth" concept in [classical] philosophy*	Andreas Bogk	Description : "All Cretans lie." This sentence by the Cretan philosopher Epimenides is the oldest form of a paradox transmitted to us.. [translated]
A new Linux libc: diet libc or why glibc is shit*	Felix von Leitner	

*tiles : translated, sometimes shortened]

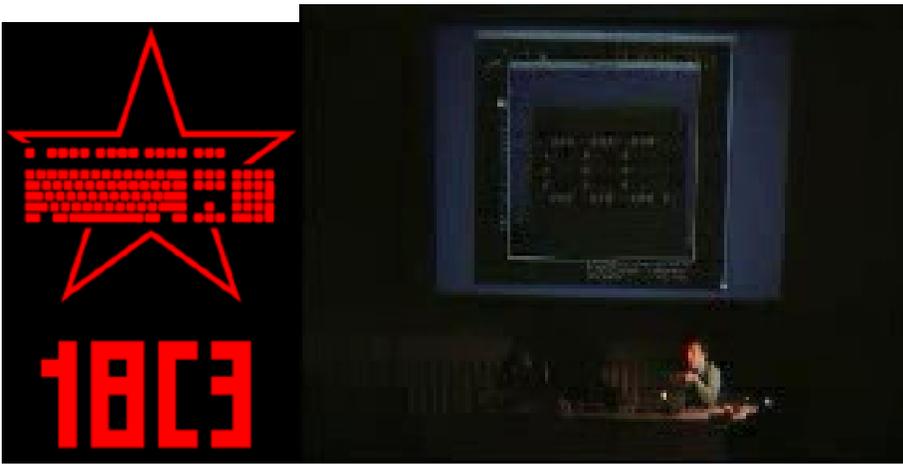


II. Müller-Maguhn and Goldstein / Frank Rosengart, Andreas Bogk ("cable tv networks" talk) / Neal Walfield



II. Hurd presentation (Detail "Before Linux") / von Leitner, dietlibc ("Why? Because glibc stinks" trans.)

18C3 remained a more national than international event (despite Goldstein, e.g.), many if not most talks in German - compared with later events. 20C3 marked a change (Jimmy Wales of Wikipedia, prominently) that would culminate in the all-stars 23C3.



Warum machst du so was?

- weil die glibc stinkt! ;-)
- Kleine Software ist häufig überlegen (thttpd, djvware)
- Vorläufer-Projekte: libdjb, libowfat (ersetzt weite Teile der libc)
- grundlegendes Sicherheitsprinzip: Separation
- glibc macht das *viele kleine Programme* Modell fürchterlich ineffizient
- Schreibe eine libc mit nur dem nötigsten Code

Il. 18C3 logo (*18C3-logo-small.gif*) / Pritlove, Blinkenlights / von Leitner, "diet libc" presentation (dated March 2002)

18C3 Diary

December 28th

I didn't feel like keeping a diary this time. The first talks of yesterday were not very convincing, as such I figured I would enjoy the convention for once, passively. I gave two presentations, both yesterday. The first at about 15 pm about DNS, which Andy convinced me to do, and which I agreed to on the condition that I would also be able to plug libc in a presentation.

What is there to report? Actually more than expected. Everything is much more relaxed this year, with the exception of the entrance, which still takes way too long, because there just is not enough space for parallel [processing]. And, so the people waited under snowy rain, in the bitter cold with their hardware. On the whole there seems to be far less people present than last year, which I find to be very positive. In the last years, it had degenerated into intensive livestock farming. In addition, this year I received a "root" badge and the (Schutz-)Engel keep away from me respectfully. That increases my mood (*winkingsmiley*)

Yesterday, the talk by Frank and Ron inspired me, it dealt with Major Consensus Narrative [verbatim], a term/expression, coined by Bruce Sterling, and which describes our society. The theory is that people have been communicating for thousands of years via stories. Hence why journalists sell stories and not facts. Facts, at most, serve as a base for stories, are a nice side-construct. (...)

I attended the Processor talk briefly, but it made the impression of not being very didactic or interesting. Then I made my way to the Smartcards speech (...) where I finally learned about the protocols, and that the industry does as much wrong there as elsewhere. Sigh.

It was communicated to me that the SmallScript talk had the major drawback of being based on a [programming] language for .NET, and thus obviously is completely ruled out. Otherwise it would be mighty nice (...)

After lunch, came my libc presentation. The room was packed something fierce. I talked them blue, so there were no questions in the end (*winkingsmiley*)

After me, Halvar was next and talked about Windows Heap Exploits. These are Buffer Overflows on the Heap, and it showed that the next following free() has two pointers (...) Halvar did great even though he was sabotaged in a nasty way by a weird figure who constantly intervened with unqualified trash.

And, now indeed today... (*winkingsmiley*)

First of all : in the Art & Beauty area, C-Base showed a new version of the 3d plotter, which can now plot ever bigger objects. Ultra cool technology, and it's fascinating to watch it work. (...)

In the morning, then came elliptic curves, and, for a change, by a mathematician, who explained this topic clearly, and didn't talk some Voodoo-Crypto-Crap. Was nice. (...)

At 12 traffic analysis (...) At 13 Ruedi and Lisa about IEEE 803.11 und WEP security. (...)

Lunch, and exchange with the Rock Linux folks, who are currently trying to figure out how to integrate diet libc (...)

Florian von Leitner. "18C3 Tagebuch."

<http://www.fefe.de/18c3.txt> [2002 June 9, Internet archive capture]

17C3



II. Wau (Introduction)

"Every year, new generations appear who visit [us] for the first or x-th time. Who's been here for more than 5 years? [pause] Wow, that's a fairly small number. (...) It's grown to something huge. When I think back to 1981 (...) the first meeting of the CCC in Berlin, in the rooms of the taz at the table of Kommune 1 (...) was attended by perhaps a dozen people (...) In Hamburg we, the Chaos group met weekly which helped create a sense of cohesion/solidarity. It then led to - 17 years ago - the first Congress. (...) Another development was, last year, the transition to holding a Camp every 4 years. (...) The Congress lives based on the fact that those who use it, also make it. Such that the barrier between producer and consumer is removed (...) Our ambition is not to make a conference for consumers. Not everything unfolds perfectly, for instance those who sit next to me have nothing to drink, but -uh- at least just a moment ago I was helping with making sure our Engels have enough food, who do the background work. Those are the important things. The introduction of Engels for the orga[nization] of the Congress, if one makes a calculation, following all that capitalist babble about privatization and management, if we didn't do this at the level of self-/mutual organization [Selbstorganisation] then we wouldn't be able to afford such a conference and couldn't pay for it. And, we would be compelled to go about it in a very different style. And, to have been able to avoid this for 17 years, I think, is a good achievement. It's also more fun to do it this way (...) And, I believe it belongs to the hacker spirit to be able to get it done so. At the first Congress in Hamburg we were delighted to have a school with maybe 100 seats, and to wing it financially. Back then I would have never dreamed to sit one day in a room such as this one."

17C3 (talks, events)

GNUPG Gnu Privacy Guard - presentation of the project and status quo *	Werner Koch	
Free Software Foundation Europe presentation *	Werner Koch	
Freedom Downtime	Emmanuel Goldstein	("movie discussion")
Netfilter Framework in Linux 2.4	Harald Welte	
The programming language Dylan *	Andreas Bogk	
(Almost) Everything about DNS *	Felix von Leitner	(at least 3 other talks)

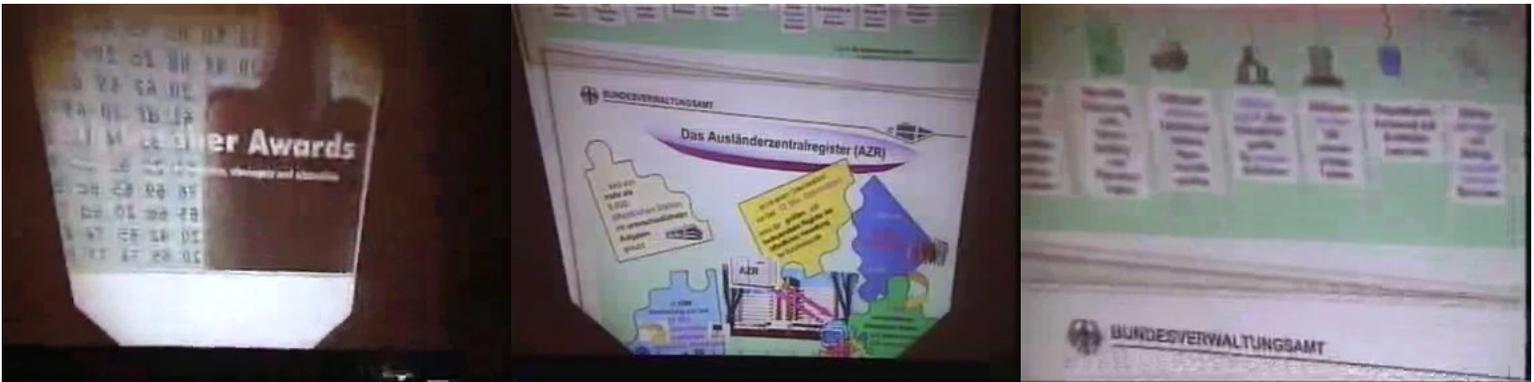


II. Andreas Bogk; Frank Rosengart ("Introduction to digital tv" talk) / Florian von Leitner ("Multicast" talk)



II. Wau Holland (intense argument during "Look back" speech) / Goldstein showing off his CCC jacket

"As hackers we have to, in such matters, think about where to focus in order to push the absurdities of these behaviours in the open, best. In the past, one was threatened with a five year sentence for just prolonging their phone cable. In terms of maximum penalty, it was treated more harshly than reckless activation of an atomic explosion [public laughs, applauds] (...) And, by proceeding that way, and making use of one's freedom of expression, and by defending one's ideas, we move forward"



II. Big Brother Awards : title followed by the Central foreigner register [prize for "lifetime work achievement"]

CU L8ER, Wau Holland! [taz, 2001]

The founder of the Chaos Computer Club has died last Sunday (...)

He was stubborn and had a head full of ideas. Sometimes they weren't completely finished (...) Wau Holland was no follower [*Mitläufer*]. He thought about every trend with future perspectives in mind. "As always, you are one step ahead of us." reads now the black colored website of the Club. Is it allowed to honor Herwart Holland-Moritz, founder of the oldest and most prestigious hacker community [*Gemeinde*] of Germany, that way in death? (...)

One is allowed in this case. On the website www.digitalis.org/wau there are hundreds of such messages. "Get going, old buddy, you have root axes now up there." (...) Holland influenced the term "hacker" in Germany like no one else. He wasn't a follower of even his own community. He did not believe some technology could make the entire world happy. When asked he answered with long explanations about freedom of speech and societal justice [*soziale Gerechtigkeit*], rather than bitrates and processors.

(...) He also contributed to the founding of this newspaper, but with the necessary -typical of him- distance. The "Datenschleuder", which appeared in 1984 for the first time, was closer to his ideals. The hack of the Hamburg Sparkasse made him a legend over night, which he remains. He was not impressed by any of it. (...) He did not make a career. And, certainly not when the boom of the Internet promised to turn that generation of computer tinkers into millionaires. He understood too much about computers, and too much about capitalism to believe in such things.

(...)