

An abstract graphic consisting of several thin, black, irregular lines that intersect and overlap, creating a complex, geometric pattern in the upper left quadrant of the page. The lines form various shapes, including triangles and polygons, and extend across the top and left sides of the image.

**WHAT IS A HACKER  
AND WHAT DOES IT  
DO?**

# AGENDA

introduction

definition

here and now

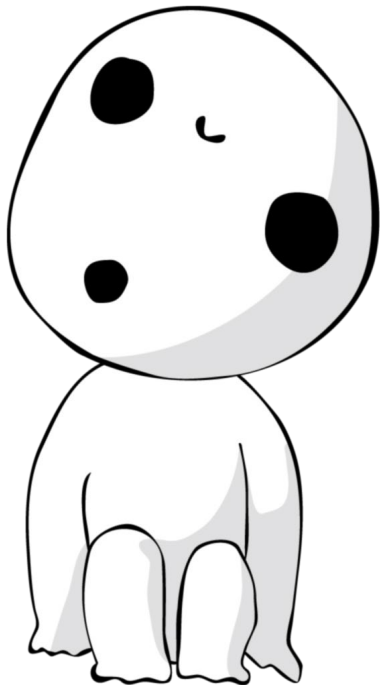
characteristics

q & a

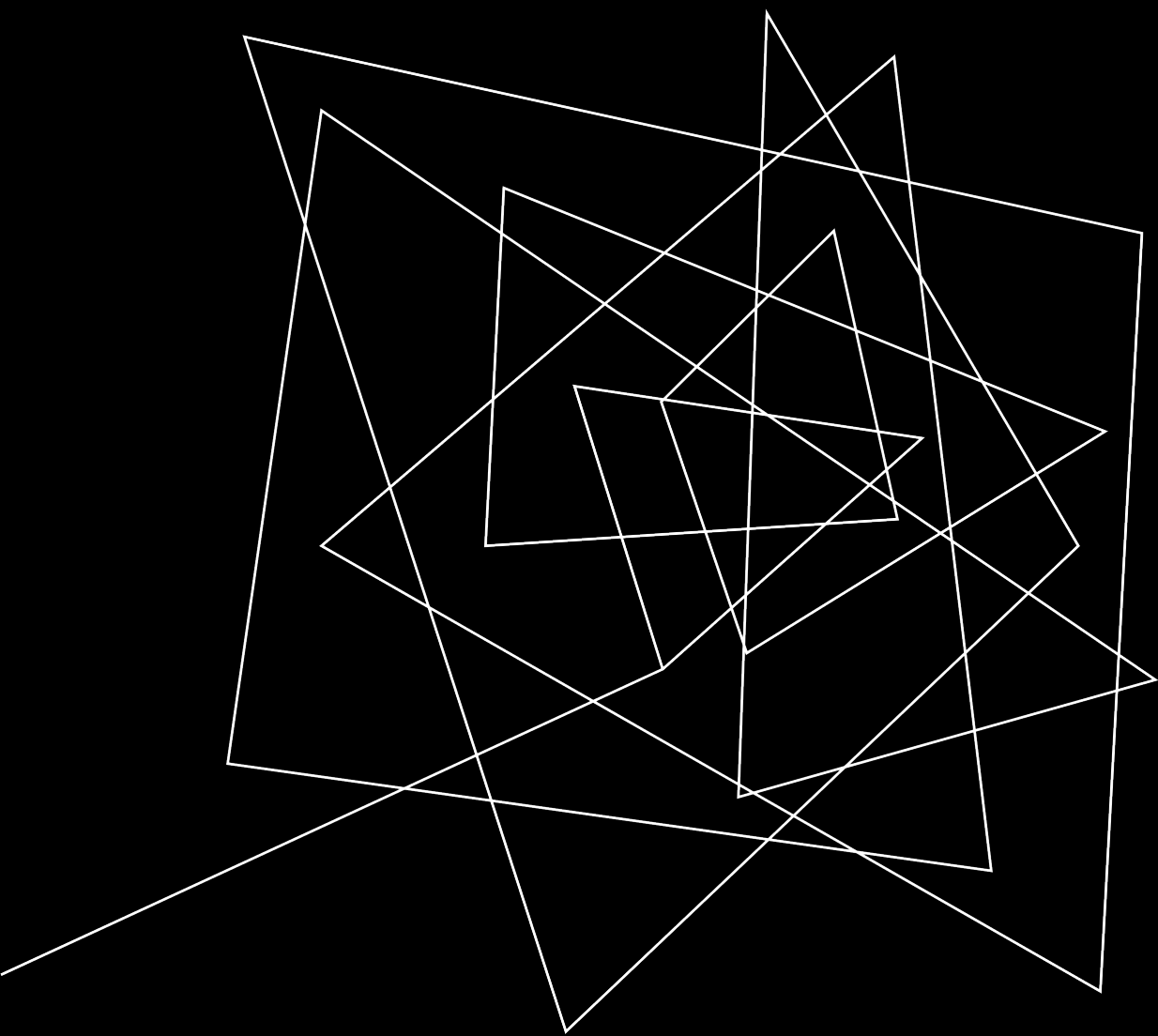
«Видишь этого дядю? Он настоящий **хакер!**»\*

\*«Do You see this man? He is a real **hacker!**»

# WHO AM I?



security architect @ work  
CTF participant & content creator  
open-source developer  
self-hosted \*BSD advocate



**DEFINITION**

# TERM «HACKER»

“a person skilled in information technology who achieves goals by non-standard means.”

- first use of “hack” (interacting with machine) – 1955, first use of “hacker” – 1963
- hacking community developed at MIT and other universities in the 1960s and 1970s
- longstanding controversy surrounds the meaning of the term “hacker”
- public is largely unaware that different meanings exist
- mainstream usage of “hacker” mostly refers to computer criminals

# DIFFERENT HACKERS

## hacker 🤖

“a person who delights in having an intimate understanding of the internal workings of a system, computers and computer networks”

“advanced computer technology enthusiast (both hardware and software) and adherent of programming subculture”



original meaning has become less known

## security hacker 😡

“someone who explores methods for breaching defenses and exploiting weaknesses in computer system or network.”

“someone with knowledge of bugs or exploits to break into computer systems and access data which would otherwise be inaccessible to them.”

exclusive meaning in daily usage and media

# DIFFERENT HACKERS

## hacker 😊

“hackers from the programmer subculture usually work openly and use their real name”

“improving existing infrastructure”

- You are “crackers”!

“hackers build things, crackers break them”

participate in hackathons

## security hacker 😞

“security hackers prefer secretive groups and identity-concealing aliases”

“circumvention of security measures”

- No, we all hackers!

“there are different categories of hackers!”

participate in hacktivism



# DIFFERENT HACKERS

## **hacker**

Linus Benedict Torvalds



## **security hacker**

Kevin "Condor" Mitnick



# DIFFERENT HACKERS (in LATVIAN)

## **hacker**

**urķis** - Tehniski izglītots datoru entuziasts.







## **security hacker**

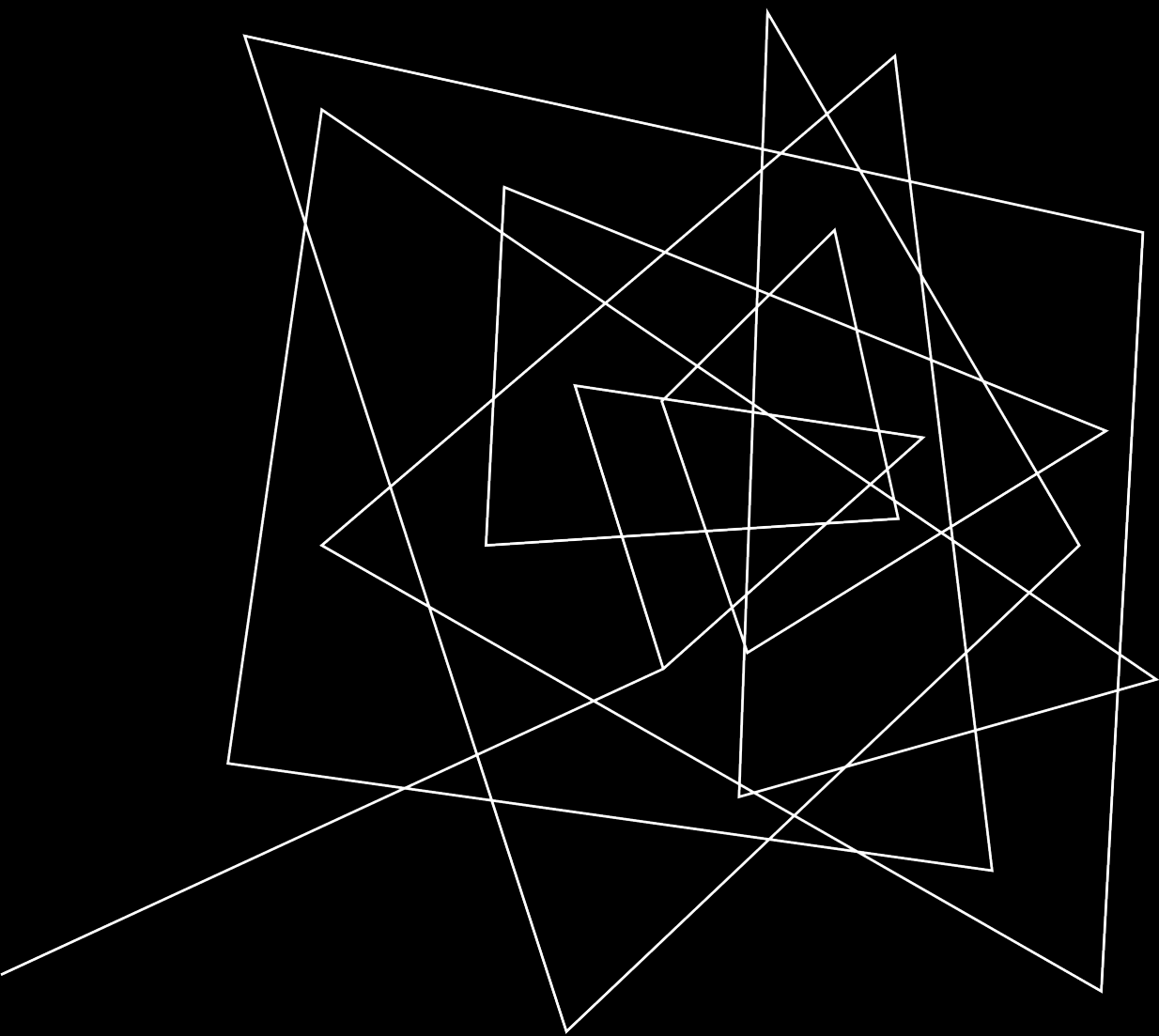
**datorlauzis** - Tehniski izglītots datoru entuziasts, kas savas zināšanas un prasmi izmanto, lai nepilnvaroti piekļūtu aizsargātiem resursiem.

LZA Terminoloģijas komisijas lēmums Nr. 58

Pieņemts 06.02.2007.; prot. Nr. 1/1073. Publicēts "LV" 22.07.2009.

# TERM «HACKER» MINI-SURVEY (in LATVIAN)

-  «kāds cilvēks, kurš mēģina ielauzties sistēmās»
-  «cilvēks, kas izmanto tehnoloģijas tam nepiemērotā (bet iespējams vēl labākā un interesantākā) veidā»
-  «kāds, kurš ļaunprātīgos nolūkos izmanto savas tehniskās zināšanas, uzlauž lietas un grib nodarīt kaitējumu citiem»
-  «cilvēks, kas mēģina ielauzties svešās datorsistēmās»
-  «persona, kas lauž sabiedrības pieņemtus likumus vai normas»
-  «nеспēlē pēc noteikumiem - meklē apkārtceļus, neseko definētam procesam, neievēro virtuālas barjeras/noteikumus, pārliecinās par faktisko situāciju, neuzticoties apgalvojumam»



**HERE AND NOW**



Secricty What are Hackers and How to Protect Yo...



Medium The Dangers of Hacking and Wh...



VIDA DIGITAL IDENTITY The Difference Between Hacker and ...



Avast What is Hacking? | Hacking Definition



Medium How do Hackers Think?....



LinkedIn What is Hacker Culture?



EM360 Top 10 Best and Most Famous Hackers i...



SecurityMadeSimple What is a Hacker? - SecurityMa...



Security Magazine Why this moment in cybersecurity calls f...



The Cyber Express What Is a Hacker: Everything You Ne...



InfinitemIT What is a hacker? What does hacking m...



Adobe Stock Hacker Images – Browse 738,036 Sto...



sdtek 8 Common Ways Hackers Break ...



Wikidata security hacker - Wikidata



Fresh Security How Do Hackers Hack? - Fresh Secur...



1983



1995

# CLASSIFICATION

## **white hat** ("ethical hacker")

- breaks security for non-malicious reasons
- penetration tests, vulnerability assessments, etc.

## **black hat** ("cracker")

- violates laws or ethical standards for nefarious purpose
- cybercrime, cyberwarfare, malice, etc.

# CLASSIFICATION

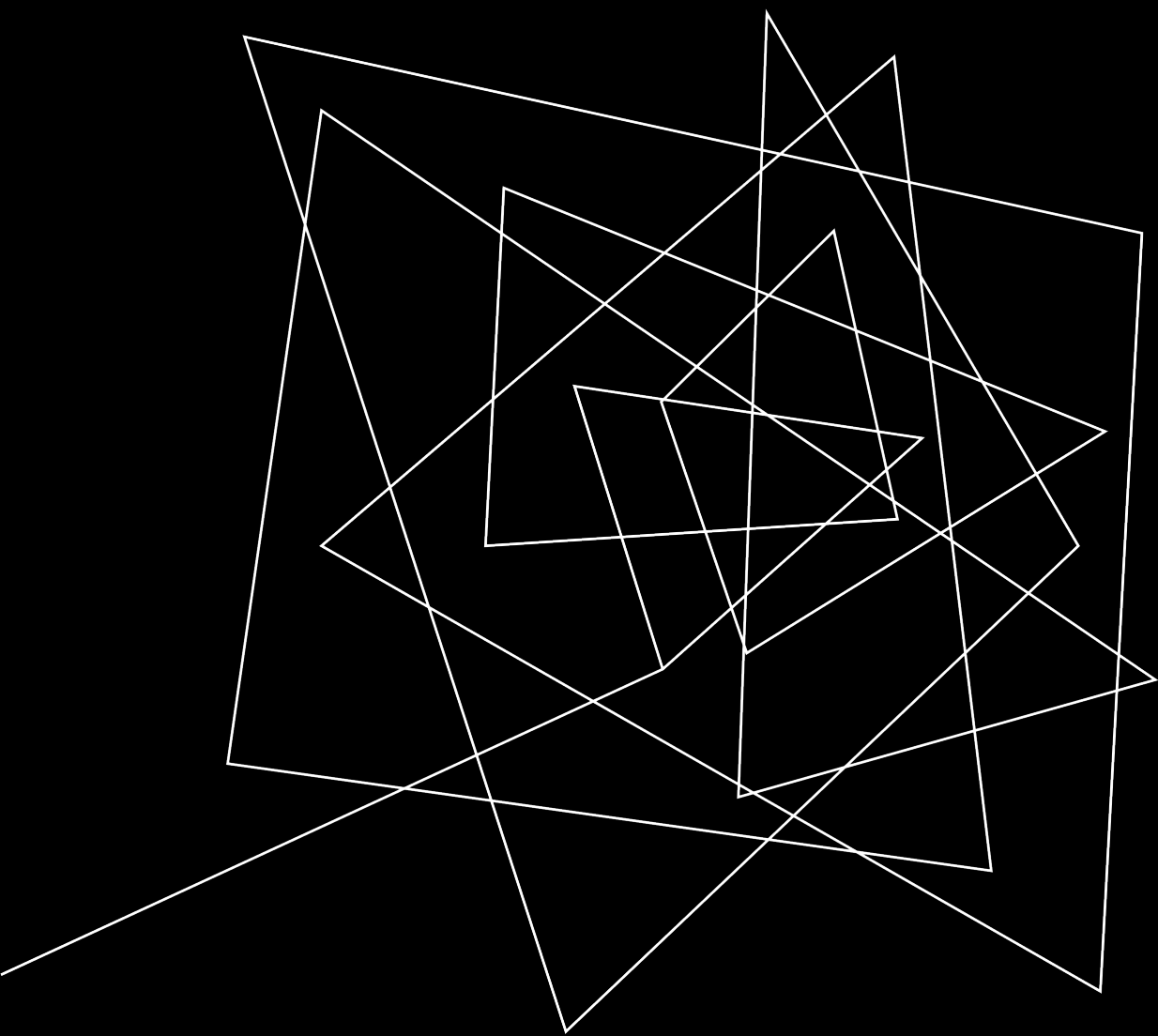
## **grey hat**

- line between “black hat” and “white hat”
- violates laws or ethical standards, but not for malicious intent

## **script kiddie**

- unskilled person, using automated tools written by other hackers
- vandalize for thrill and reputation, wannabe “hacker”





**CHARACTERISTICS**

# MY TAKE ON TERM “HACKER”

person with specific way of thinking due to characteristics like

- (consuming) **curiosity**
- **persistence and patience** (with oneself)
- **creativity**

usually expressed towards technology

# SCIENTIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF A “HACKER”

**systemizing** – drive to build and understand systems; **attention to details**

\* two traits that are typically enhanced in autism spectrum disorders

Systemizers Are Better Code-Breakers: Self-Reported Systemizing Predicts Code-Breaking Performance in Expert Hackers and Naïve Participants  
Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, 17 May 2016

# GROW A “HACKER”?





# THANK YOU

Questions?

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