

HacktionLab:  
a personal retrospective

HacktionLab

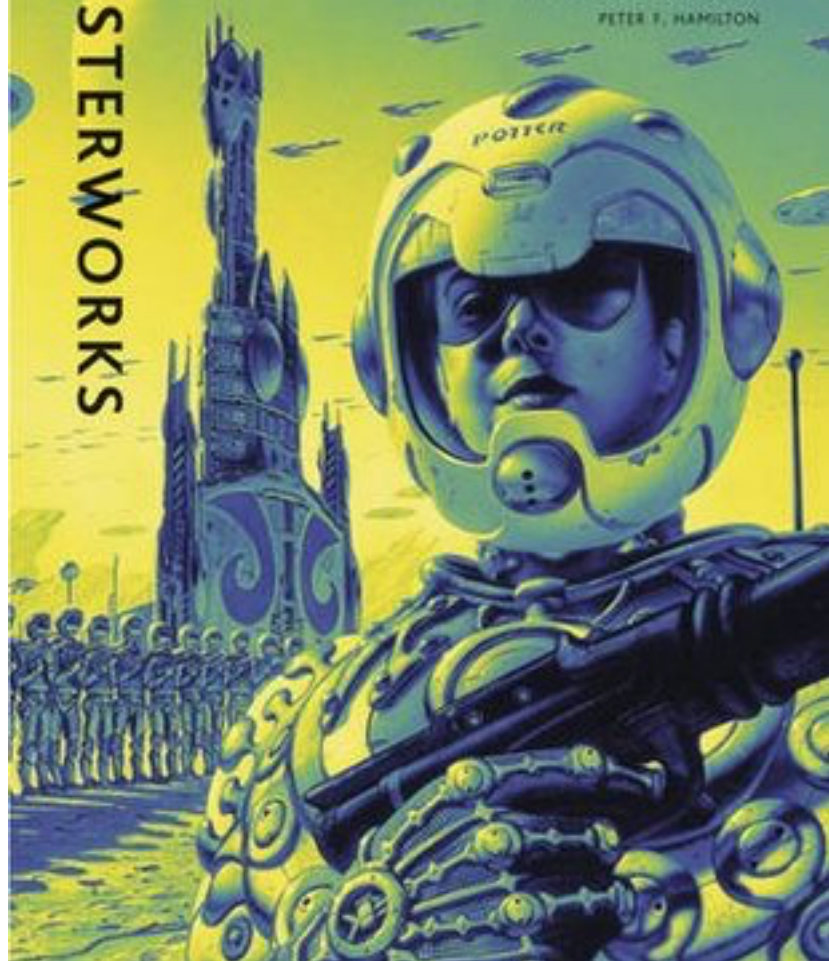
# The Plan

- Talk about Lean
- Explain my journey to TTFSC
- Assess how LEAN HacktionLab as been
- Share some of my favourite books with you
- Answer questions, debate some stuff

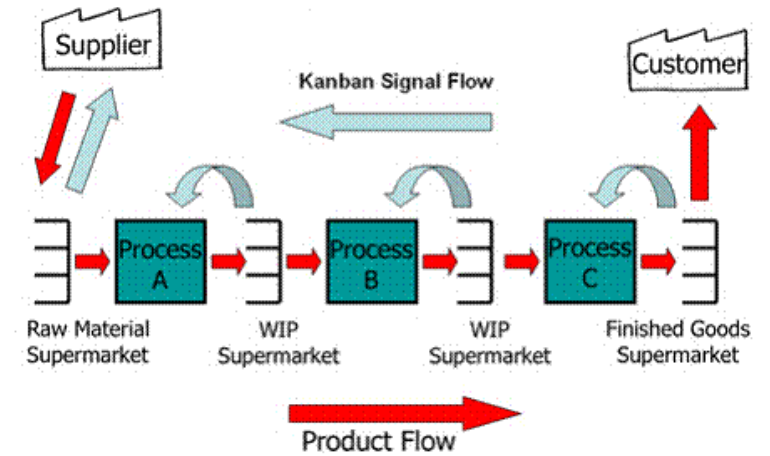
SF MASTERWORKS

JOE HALDEMAN  
The Forever War

'A book that's near perfect'  
PETER F. HAMILTON



# Lean

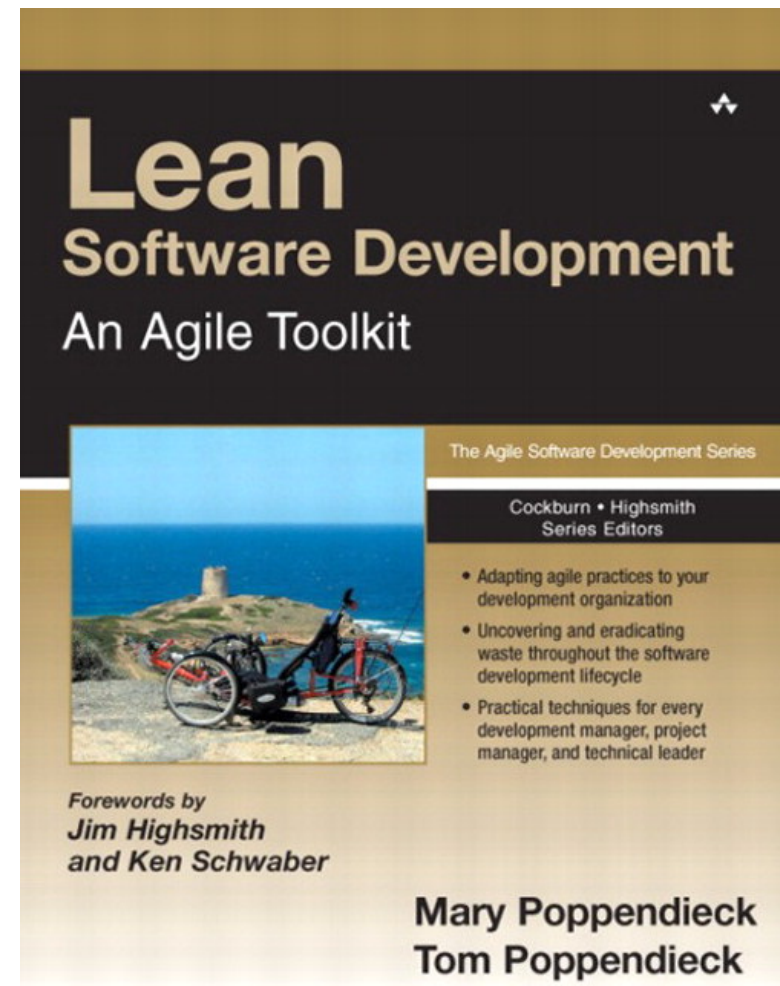


- Lean manufacturing
  - Systematic method for waste minimisation
- Lean Start-up
  - Hypothesis-driven experimentation
  - Iterative releases
  - Validated learning
- Lean Software Development
  - The above but for software

看板

# Lean Software Development (LSD)

- Eliminate Waste
- Amplify Learning
- Decide as Late as Possible
- Deliver as Fast as Possible
- Empower the Team
- Build Integrity In
- See the Whole

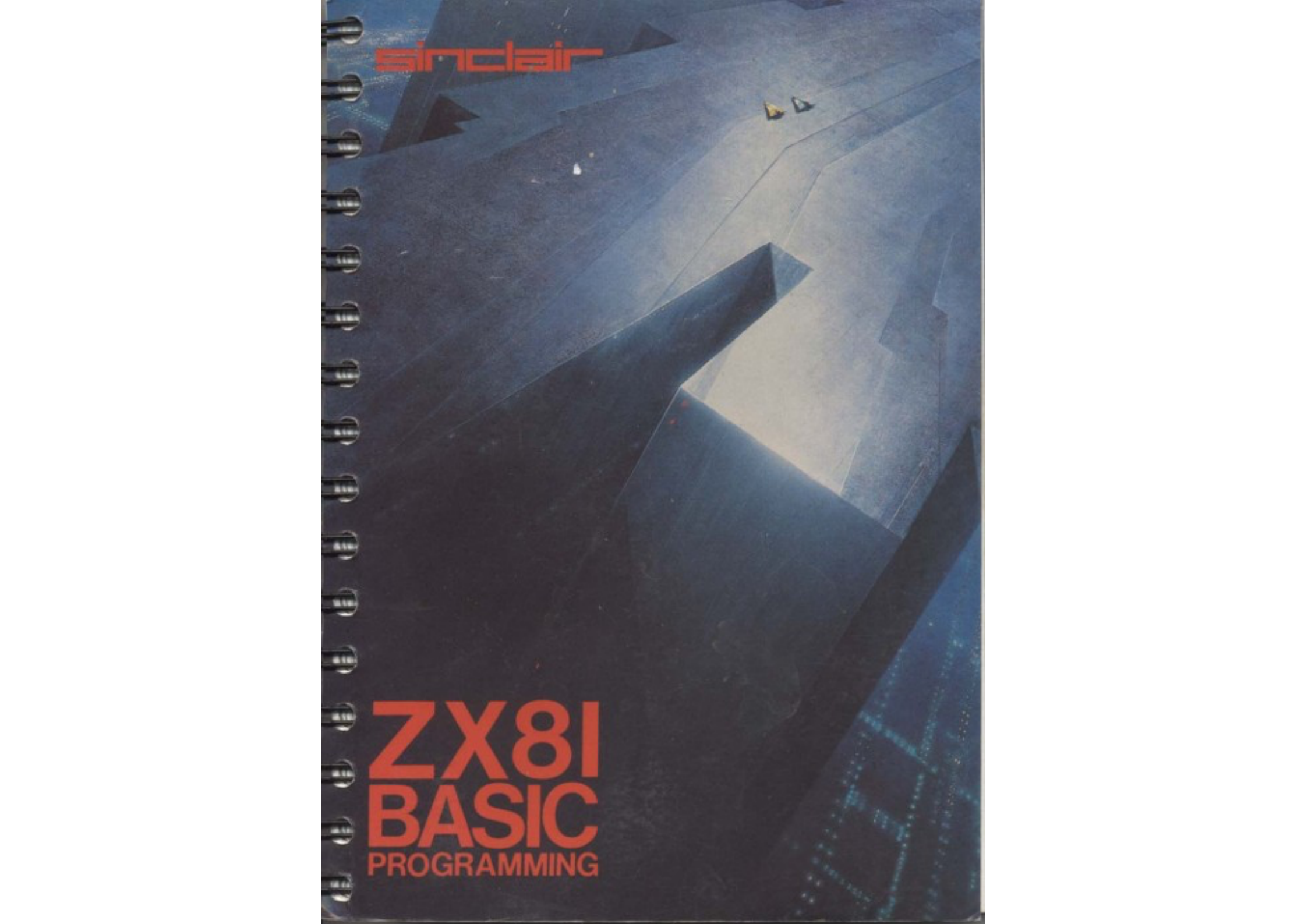


In the Beginning

airclic

ZX81

1 EDIT	2 AND	3 THEN	4 TO	5 ↵	6 ↵	7 ↵	8 ↵	9 GRAPHICS	0 RUBOUT
Q PLOT	W UNPLOT OR	E REM STEP	R RUN	T RAND	Y RETURN	U IF	I INPUT	O POKE	P PRINT
A SIN NEW STOP	S COS SAVE LPRINT	D TAN DIM SLOW	F FOR FAST	G RND GOTO LLIST	H STR\$ GOSUB	J CHR\$ LOAD	K CODE LIST	L PEEK LET	P TAB
SHIFT	Z LN COPY	X EXP CLEAR	C AT CONT	V / CLS	B * IN KEY\$	N < NOT	M > PAUSE	. LEN	SPACE BREAK



sinclair

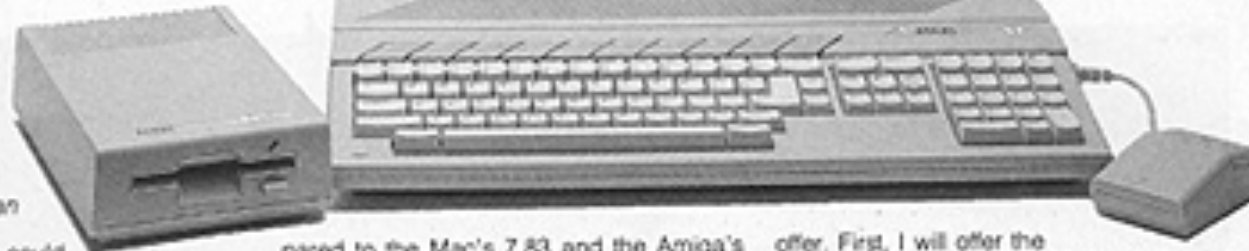
**ZX81**  
**BASIC**  
PROGRAMMING



# Atari Explodes

Atari's new computer  
serious threat to Macintosh.  
Will the Amiga survive?

The Atari 520 ST is a serious challenge to the Apple Macintosh and will open up a major fight in the personal computer market.



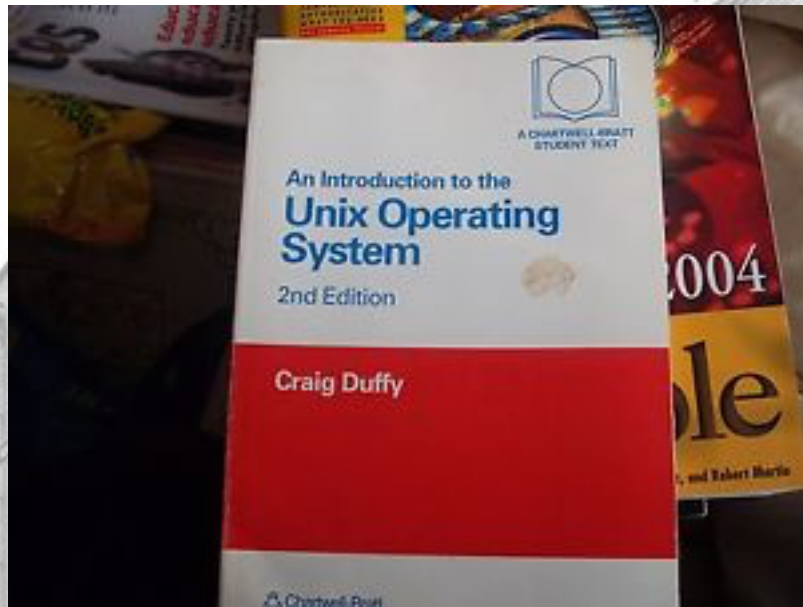
By Joseph Sugarman

Imagine this. If I could offer you a Macintosh computer—a computer that sells for over \$2000—for one third

pared to the Mac's 7.83 and the Amiga's 7.16. And the speed of the unit is hardly affected by the memory requirements of the

offer. First, I will offer the computer itself for only \$299. You will need, in addition, either one or two disk drives and

	Atari 520ST	iPhone X
Year	1985	2017
CPU	Motorola 680x0 8Mhz	Apple A11 @ 24,000+MHz
RAM	512 Kilobytes (KB)	3GB (3,145,728 KB)
Bus	16/32 bit	64 bit
Software	Atari TOS + DR GEM	Apple iOS
Storage	720 KB floppy disk	64GB (67,108,864 KB)
Price	£749 (1985) £399 (1986)	£999



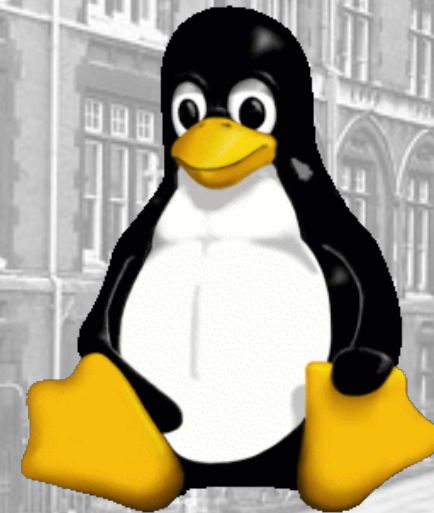
Welcome to the SLS installation program (copyright Softlanding Software)

**Install Source**

- 1 Install from Floppy Disks
- 2 Install from Hard Disk
- 3 Install from Tape
- 4 Install from CDROM
- 5 Install just bootdisk to HD
- 6 Install from Network (via NFS)

Where will you be installing SLS from (1-6): 2  
Enter the partition that the source is on (eg. /dev/hda1): /dev/hdb1  
Enter the type of the filesystem (minix/ext2/msdos): msdos  
Enter subdirectory name (if not /install): \_

psand

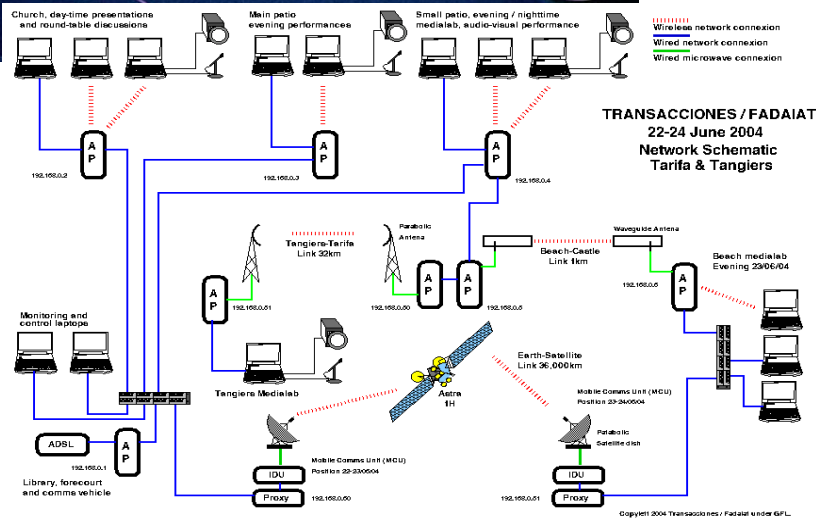
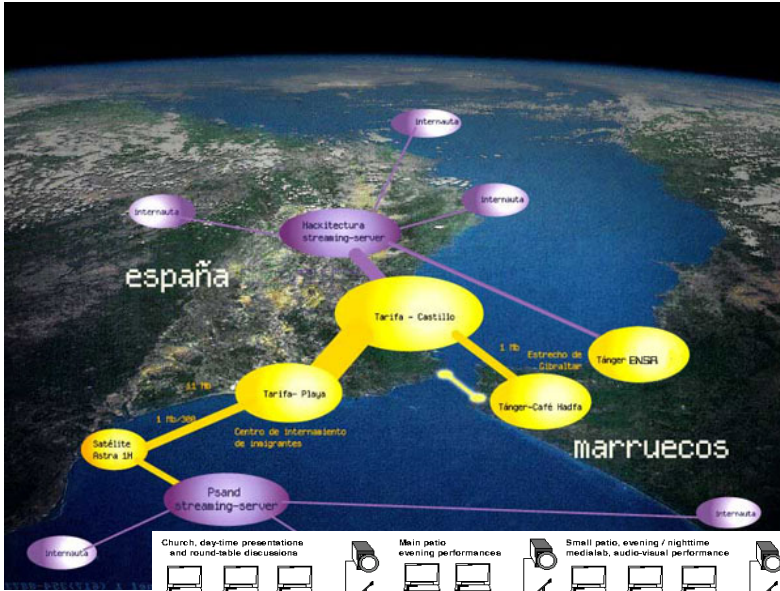


# Psand >> Psand.net



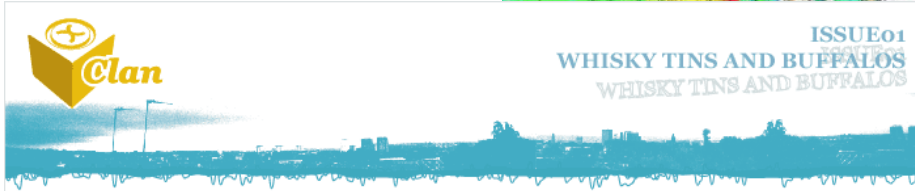
**psand**.net

# Hackitectura

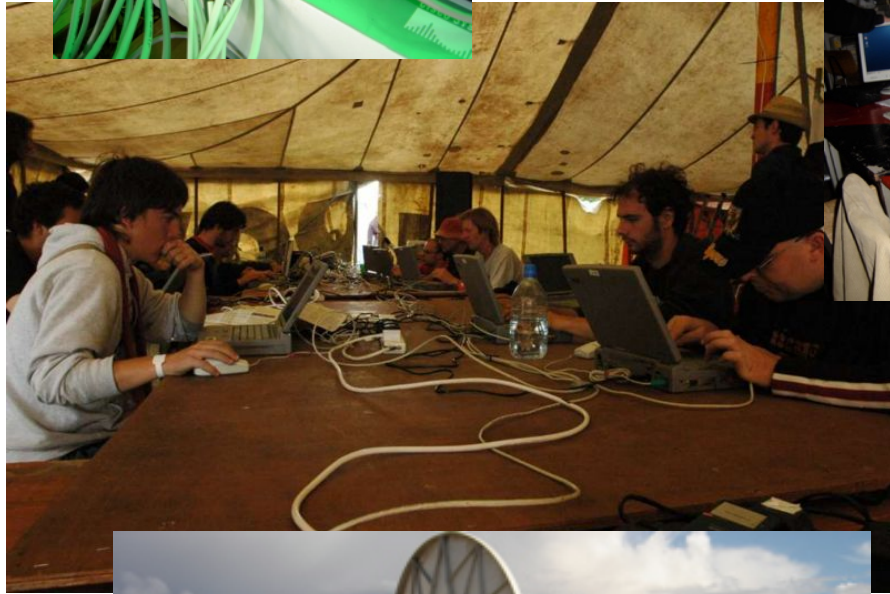


La Multitud Conectada  
Fadaiat

# Bristol Wireless



# IMC



# HacktionLab: the idea

- A space for collaboration and coordination
- A space to self-organise
- A space to learn new skills
- A space to grow networks, meet people, make friends
- A space to work not surrounded by paranoid activists in turn surrounded by police
- An opportunity to drink cider

# First HacktionLab Gathering

- 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2008
- Highbury Farm, Wye Valley
- About 22 people



**hacktivista.net**

upgrad3 y0ur act1vi5m

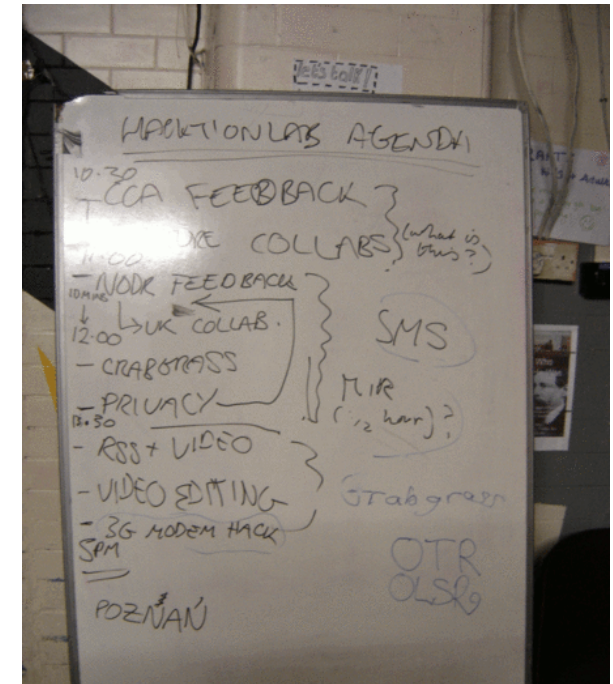
++ free software + open networks + hacking  
privacy + creative commons + media activism  
infoshops + squat telecoms + renewables  
sustainable computing + streaming ++

visit <http://www.hacktivista.net/hacktionlab/>  
for details of our next encounter and join our  
mailing list <http://lists.psand.net/hacktionlab>  
and give your activism a well deserved upgrade.



# The gathering after that...

- The Common Place, Leeds.
- 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October 2008.
- Invited by Northern Indymedia.
- Two-days.
- Made the one-off event in June into a network, and many subsequent events.



hacktivista.net presents ...

**AUTUMN 2008 INDYMEDIA UK  
HACKTIONLAB GATHERING**

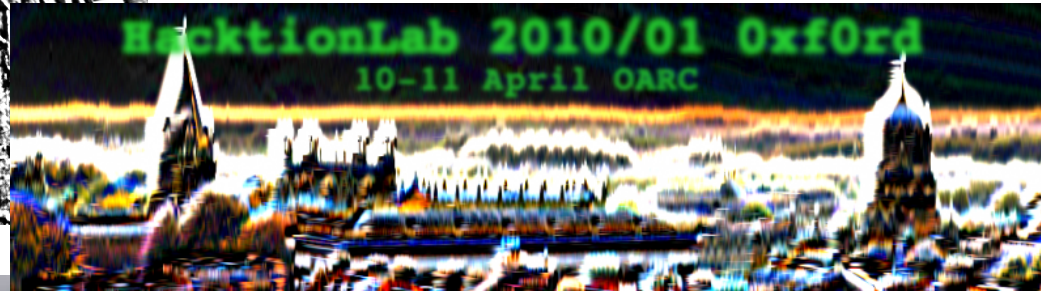
**FRIDAY 24TH TO SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER**

24/10 - GATHER & MEET : 25/10 - INDYMEDIA WORKSHOP DAY  
26/10 - HACKTIONLAB PRESENTATION + WORKSHOPS : DEPART

DATES AND VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

check <http://www.hacktivista.net/october08> for more details  
or join the **hacktionlab mailing list** at  
<http://lists.psand.net/hacktionlab>

# And more after that...

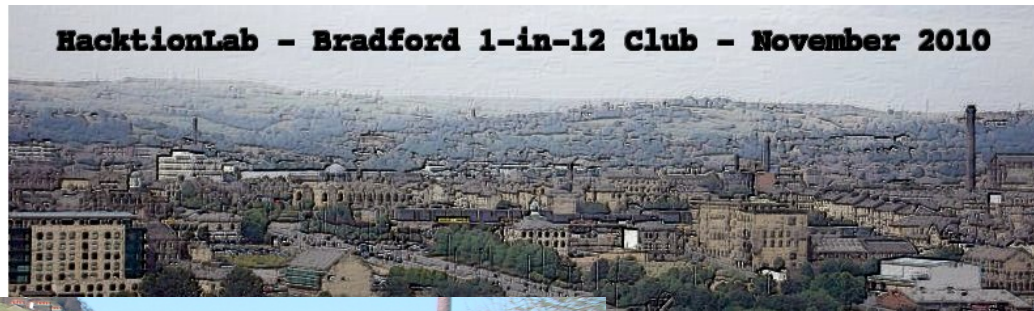


FREE SOFTWARE . FREE MEDIA . TECH TOOLS FOR ACTIVISM . NET FREEDOM  
HACKTIONLAB SPRING 2012 GATHERING  
LONDON ACTION RESOURCE CENTRE, WHITECHAPEL - 4, 5 & MAY 2012  
[HTTP://HACKTIVISTA.NET](http://hacktivista.net) - [HTTP://WWW.LONDONARC.ORG](http://www.londonarc.org)

## HacktionLab Manchester 2011 17-18 September



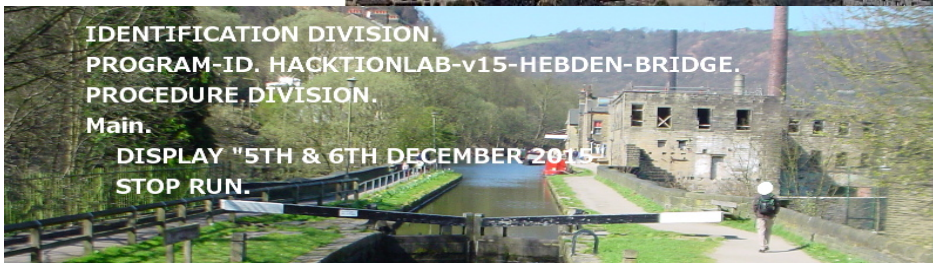
## HacktionLab - Bradford 1-in-12 Club - November 2010



IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.  
PROGRAM-ID. HACKTIONLAB-V15-HEBDEN-BRIDGE.  
PROCEDURE DIVISION.

Main.

DISPLAY "5TH & 6TH DECEMBER 2015"  
STOP RUN.



# hacktionLab #2009

upgrad3 your act1vi5m



HacktionLab is a convergence for people interested in and/or working in the areas of alternative media, renewable energy, on-line video distribution, free software and any other form of activism that utilises technology. The aim of HacktionLab is to encourage the amount of shared knowledge in the UK-wide media, free software and alternative technology activist network.

The weekend is most suitable for activists using media, geeks and hackers (as opposed to crackers) but is also likely to be of interest to others; anyone interested in attending is most welcome.

The first HacktionLab weekend took place back in June 2008 at Highbury Farm, a organic farm and housing co-op located in the beautiful Wye Valley. It proved to be a fun and rewarding weekend attended by activists and non-activists sharing experience and ideas.

The next HacktionLab weekend will take place in late spring 2009 and all are invited to come and take part. Get involved by joining the HacktionLab mailing list at <http://lists.psand.net/hacktionlab> and upgrade your activism.

<http://www.hacktivista.net/hacktionlab>

BarnCamp  
June 11/12/13th in the Lower Wye Valley  
2010  
upgrade your activism  
[barncamp/](http://www.barncamp.org)

7 - 12 JUNE // Wye Valley nr Chepstow // [barncamp.org.uk](http://barncamp.org.uk)  
BarnCamp 2017

BarnCamp  
2011  
June 9-12th in the Lower Wye Valley  
upgrade your activism  
<http://hacktivista.net/barncamp/>

HACKTIONLAB IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
BRISTOL WIRELESS & FLOSS MANUALS PROUDLY PRESENTS...  
BARNCAMP 2013  
7, 8, 9 JUNE, WYE VALLEY, UK  
DIY & ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY . MEDIA ACTIVISM . FREE SOFTWARE  
PRIVACY & ANONYMITY . HACKING & CODING . CYBERAGITATION  
UPGRAD3 YOUR SUMM3R . BOOK ONLINE @ BARNCAMP.ORG.UK

HACKTIONLAB PROUDLY PRESENTS...  
BARNCAMP 2015  
19, 20 & 21 June, wye valley, UK  
DIY & ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY . MEDIA ACTIVISM . FREE SOFTWARE  
PRIVACY & ANONYMITY . HACKING & CODING . CYBERAGITATION  
UPGRAD3 YOUR AKT1V15M AT BARNCAMP.ORG.UK

# BarnCamp

# Side Projects

- Network 23
- Tech Tools for Activists
  - Outreach

# Network23.org

NETWORK23

MEMBERS

SITE-WIDE ACTIVITY

HELP

SIGN-UP

DONATE

NETWORK UPDATES

NETWORK  
23  
XXIII

WWW.NETWORK23.ORG

## SEARCH IT!

Search

## RECENT ENTRIES

- [Recent Hack and How to Recover your Pages](#)
- You got your blog
- Scheduled maintenance outage on 2014-02-14
- New SSL certificate
- Recent outage and upgrades

## Free anonymous WordPress blogs for activists and agitators

### GET FREE, ANONYMOUS BLOGS AT NETWORK23.ORG...

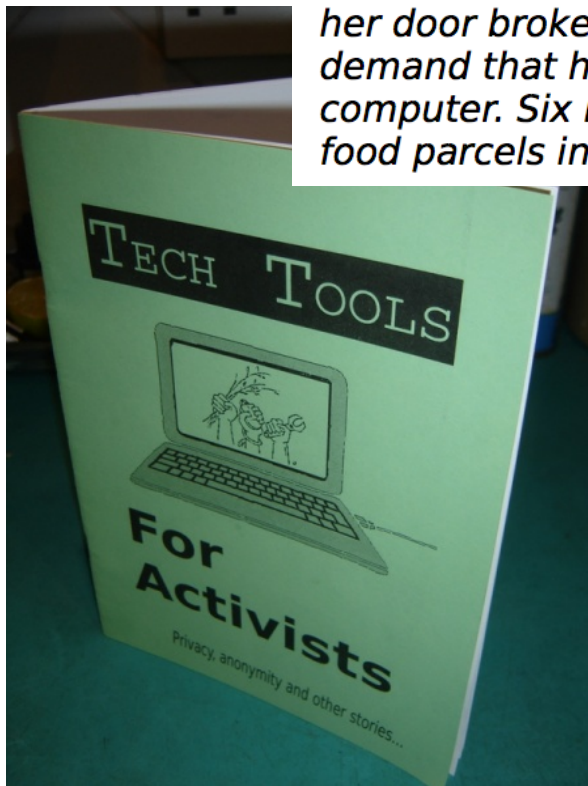
### WHY SHOULD I?

The bigger corporate blog and web site providers such as blogger or wordpress.com are required to hand over the details of users to the authorities. We don't keep any details to hand over (apart from your email). We think this project is a good way to support **freedom of expression, decentralisation of online content and the open web.**

# Tech Tools for Activists

## Browsing the Internet Anonymously

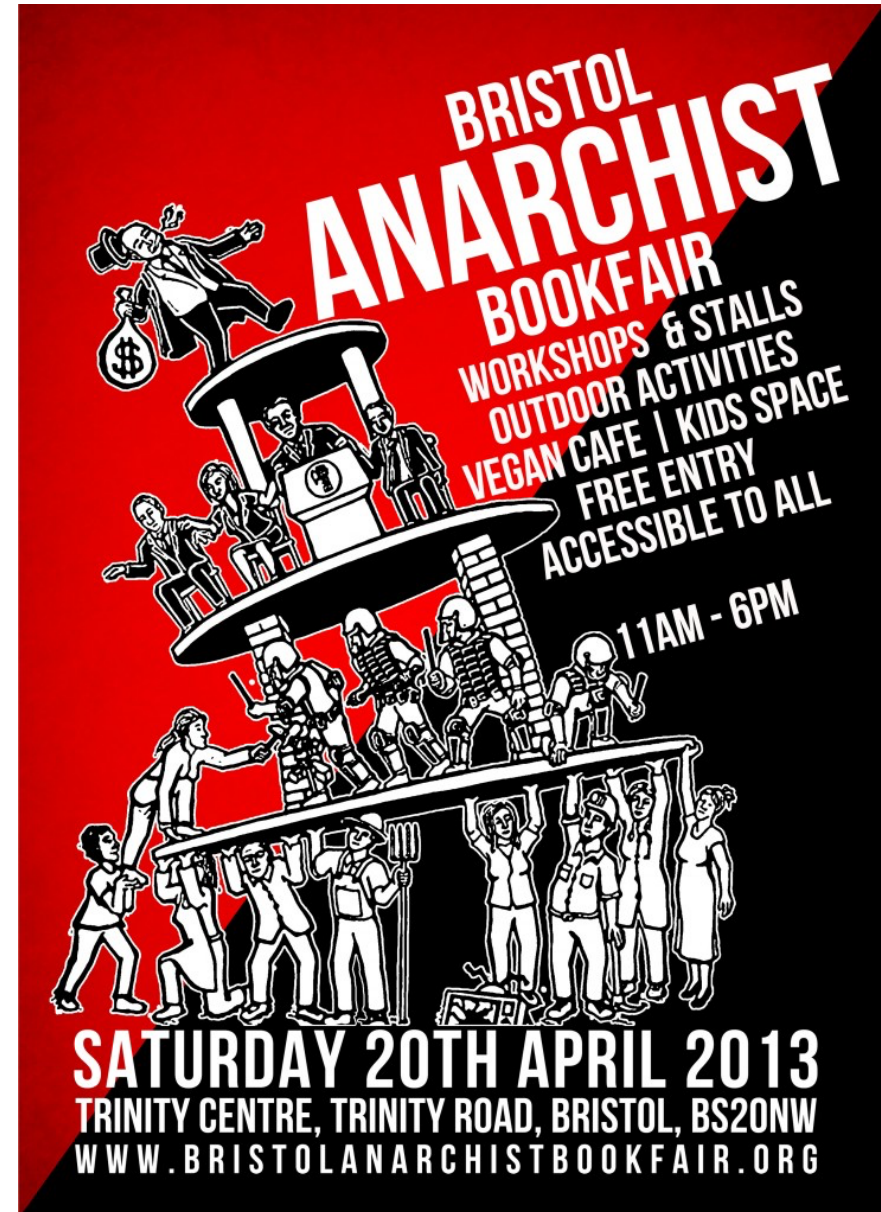
*Maria and her affinity group want to take action against a weapons factory near her home. She uses her home computer to do some research, including reading all of the websites that describe the factory and downloading some satellite images. After careful preparation, they get to the factory and spray some messages on the walls, then leave without getting caught. Next day, Maria has her door broken down by the police, who viciously demand that her house-mates tell them who uses which computer. Six months later, her affinity group are bringing food parcels into prison for her.*



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with buttons for Home, Email, Websites & blogs, Not Twitter, and Chat. Below this is a secondary row of links: TTFA Booklet, About us, Help Using the Tools, Events, and Resources. The main content area features the heading "Tech Tools for Activism (web site arch" and a paragraph of text: "This web site is an [archive](#) of Tech Tools for Activism, a gateway to a set of tools to help campaign and organise more securely online. These include [email](#), [email lists](#), [websites / blogs](#), [status.net](#), [instant messaging](#) and [VPN \(virtual private network\)](#). We also provide online help and real life workshops on how to use these tools as well as a [22 page printed booklet](#)". To the right of the text is a small image of a book cover with the date "7 - 12 JUL" and the word "Bar" visible.

# Outreach

- Anarchist bookfairs
- Festivals
- Activist gatherings
- Network meetings



## Be the Media & Bristol Wireless cybertent - programme 2009 - UPDATED!!

The Bristol Wireless cybercafé will be open from 9AM until 9PM daily (power permitting) with a one hour free session for kids first thing in the morning. We also hope to be showing some independent media films on some evenings. Please visit the Be the Media Cybertent during the Gathering for up-to-date details on cybercafé opening times and film showings.

	9AM	10AM	11.30AM	1.PM	2.30PM	4PM	5.30PM
Wednesday					Being the Media at the BGG: Photographers get-together.	Being the media at the BGG: Video get-together.	Being the media at the BGG: Audio + Radio get-together.
Thursday	Free Internet Access for Kids. Gathering Media Production Meeting.	Free software tools for home education.	Free Software for organising NGOs - how your organisation can benefit from open source management tools.	Privacy, security & encryption for activists. An essential introduction.	The GIMP for Photographers: Free and easy to use image editing - a practical introduction.	1. Video distribution strategies. ----- 2. Twitter Revolution: Micro-blogging for social change.	Audio blogging - practical intro guide from recording to publishing.
Friday	Free Internet Access for Kids. Gathering Media Production Meeting.	1. Creative commons & the Open Source Revolution  2. Stenciling and subvertising.	Web2forAction: Post G20 protests; How can we use Web2.0 tools to report and promote our campaigns?	Producing your own radical newsletter (SchNEWS, Bath bomb, Pork-Bolter etc)	Organising your social or activist group on-line: Tools for being effective (eg Crabgrass).	Making a 5 min video reportage: Learn the basics of each stage in a practical demonstration.	Free your computer! Ubuntu vs. Windows XP - Vista: A live head-to-head install challenge.
Saturday	Free Internet Access for Kids. Gathering Media Production Meeting.	1. Transition ICT computing & the carbon come-down.  2. Stenciling and subvertising.	Web2.0 Social Networking for Change: From Facebook to Transition Towns - Who's doing what and is it working?	1. Media activism in a police state: Updates, tips, tactics and legislation. 2. Handling the mainstream media (Interviews etc)	1. Being the media: How to start reporting for Indymedia. 2. Privacy, security & encryption for activists.	Mobile phones as a tool for media activism.	Run your own Internet radio show (recording, streaming, podcasting). Come and do it LIVE!
Sunday	Free Internet Access for Kids. Gathering Media Production Meeting.	No revolution 'til activists and anarchists can wake up and learn to be punctual.	1. Being the media at Climate Camp. 2. Connect your laptop to 3G and do it yourself. A practical guide.	Reflections on alternative media: Is it working? What can be done better?	Media activism drop in surgery.		



# Double French

## 1<sup>st</sup> time (Old/Norman French)

- Hostel
- Paste
- Feast
- Chief
- Castle
- Petty
- Ticket
- Liquor
- Troop

## 2<sup>nd</sup> time (Middle-later French)

- Hotel
- Pâté
- Fête
- Chef
- Château
- Petit
- Etiquette
- Liqueur
- Troupe

# HacktionLean?

- Eliminate Waste
- Amplify Learning
- Decide as Late as Possible
- Deliver as Fast as Possible
- Empower the Team
- Build Integrity In
- See the Whole

THE EXPERT'S VOICE® IN COBOL

# Beginning COBOL for Programmers

A TUTORIAL AND MODULAR REFERENCE  
ON COBOL FOR ESTABLISHED  
PROGRAMMERS

Michael Coughlan

Apress®

# Eliminated Waste?

- We didn't do too badly. We got through quite a few of the biodegradable corn starch pint glasses over the years.
- We cut out a lot of the administrative stuff by not having a licensed event, nor too much admin overhead, etc.
- Making it an un-conference event meant that there was little programming in advance.
- We generally rejected ideas that would make production harder.

# Amplified Learning?

- It was all about learning – the main focus was on the workshops.
- And also the conversations between, during and after the workshops.
- By involving people in helping to make the event happen, especially on site.
- The planning and organisation was maybe not de-centralised enough.
- I learned a lot!

# Decided as late as possible?

- A lot of BarnCamp and HacktionLab were open-space format events.
- Decisions as to what happened were made by those who went, and felt empowered.
- A safe and facilitated environment is needed for this to really work.
- People decided to come very late, which did make planning for food and drink difficult.
- To a certain degree 2017 made a loss because of deciding some things a little bit too late.

# CATCH-22



A NOVEL BY



# JOSEPH HELLER

# Delivered as fast a possible?

- As we did the event more, we were able to turn up and make it happen quicker.
- Keeping things simple, meant less to deliver, meant it could be done more easily, and faster.
- Rejecting ideas as too complicated kept the event lean.
- The cider didn't really make things go faster.
- The coffee did, albeit in a more sporadic manner.



# Empowered the Team?

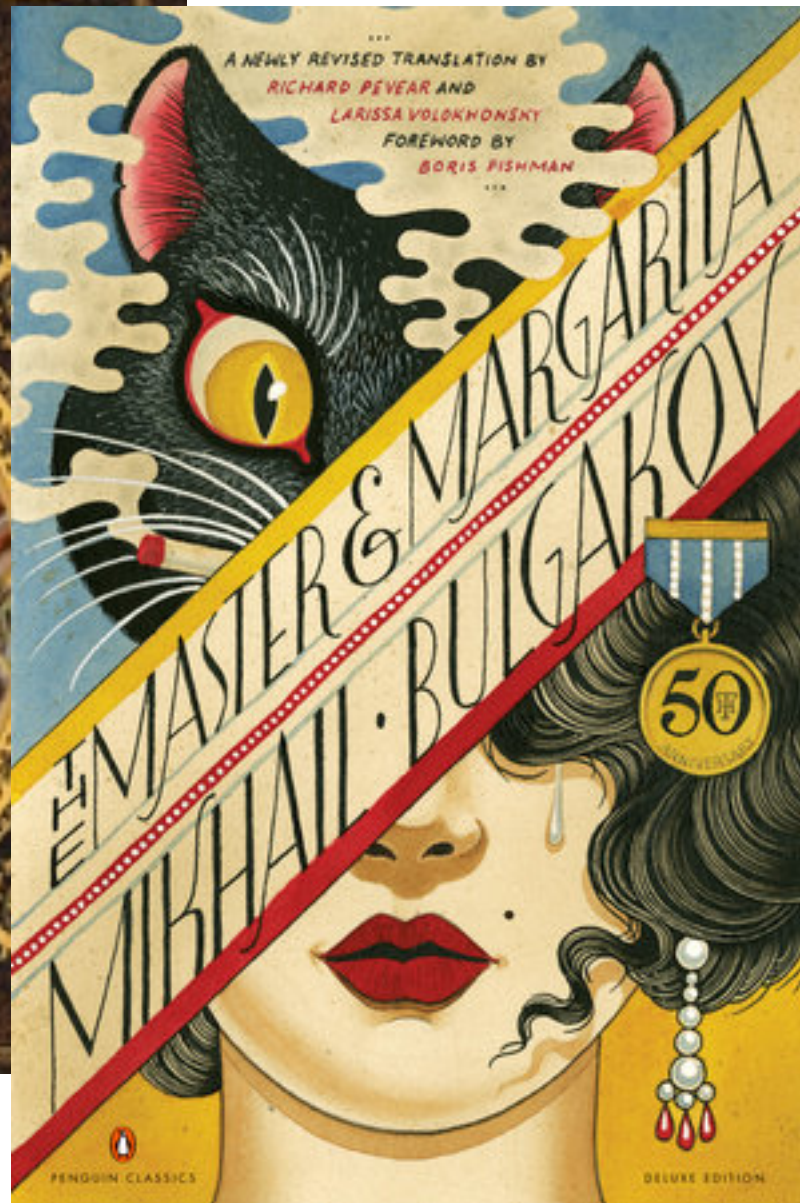
- Again during the event, lots of people got involved in making it happen.
- This was made possible by:
  - People being confident to step forward
  - Tasks being well defined and well facilitated
- 2015 was the zenith, although 2011-2015 also had a lot of pre-event organisers.
- 2017 lost momentum and hands to help.
- A few people doing too much and not delegating doesn't empower the team.
- Write-ups are all very well, but they don't empower people to go and do it themselves.

# Built Integrity In?

- We had a core crew and generally good communication.
- Made easier by there being few people organising it.
- There was a lot of trust in the network, meaning that people were happy to be involved.

# Saw the Whole?

- Some person, or group of people need to keep their eyes on the overall goal.
- There are many good ideas, but not all of them move us towards the goal.
- But who is to say what the goal is.
- What is the goal?



# Lean Start Up: BarnCamp

- Hypothesis-driven experimentation
  - There was an idea, we tried it
- Iterative releases
  - We gradually learned what worked...
  - and what didn't...
  - and changed and adapted
- Validated learning
  - What we knew that worked, we'd learned from our own experience

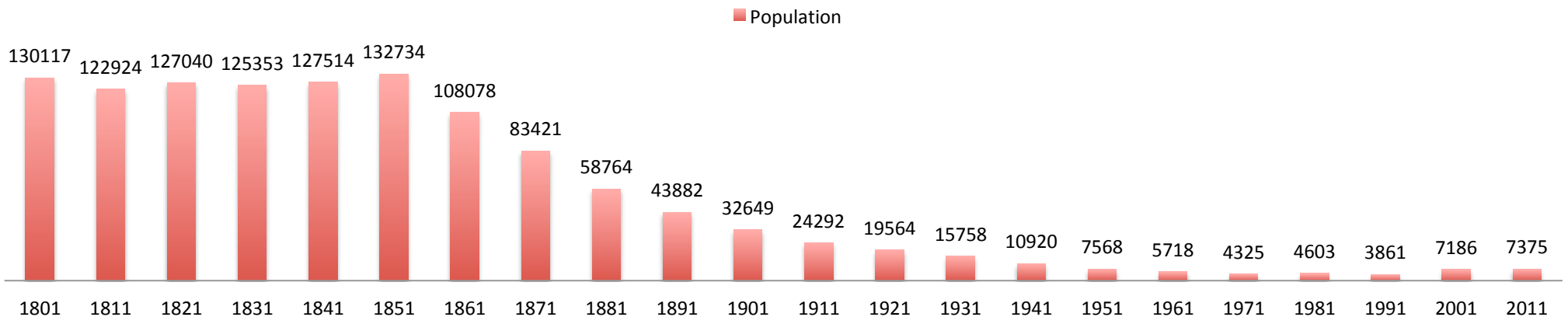
# Lean Start-Up: TTFSC

- Hypothesis-driven experimentation
  - A programmed format might work
  - Try to aim it more directly at social movements
  - It may work at Oxford Hackspace
- Iterative releases
  - This could be the first one
  - Or it might be the only one
- Validated learning
  - Whatever the outcome, by trying it, we have confidence about what we learned
  - We can feed that back into future ideas

# City of London

- Lowest car and van ownership in the country.
- Lowest number of people who travel to work by car.
- Although ~9,400 live there, ~300,000 work there every day.

City of London Population



# Lessons learned in Sustainability

- Projects need to be sustainable
- Projects need to stay fresh
- Projects need to have a number of active people driving them
- Projects need people to come and go
- Projects need continuity



# Lessons learned in Delegation

## Delegator

- Give clear directions, empower
- Trust others to make mistakes
- Having delegated, don't then *micromanage*
- Let people learn by doing, not by being lectured

## Delegatee

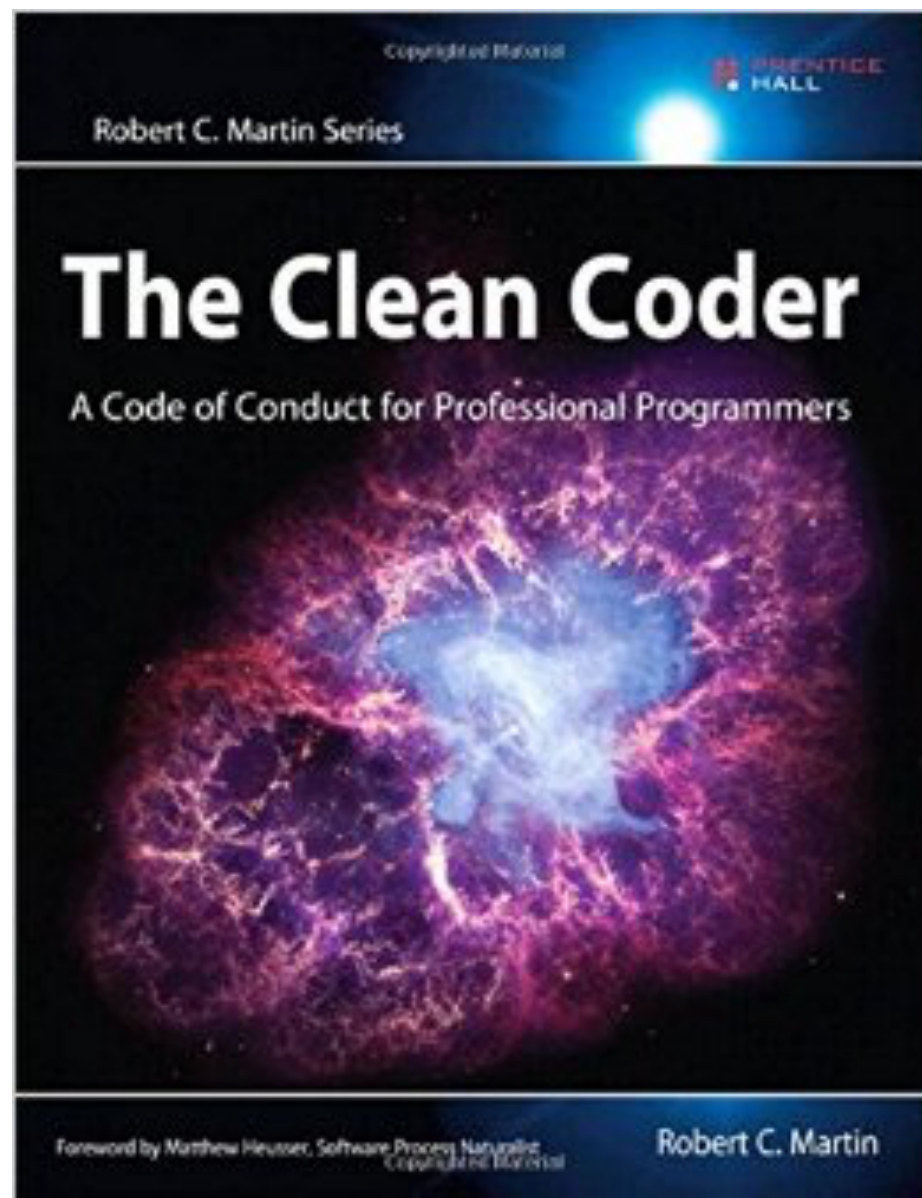
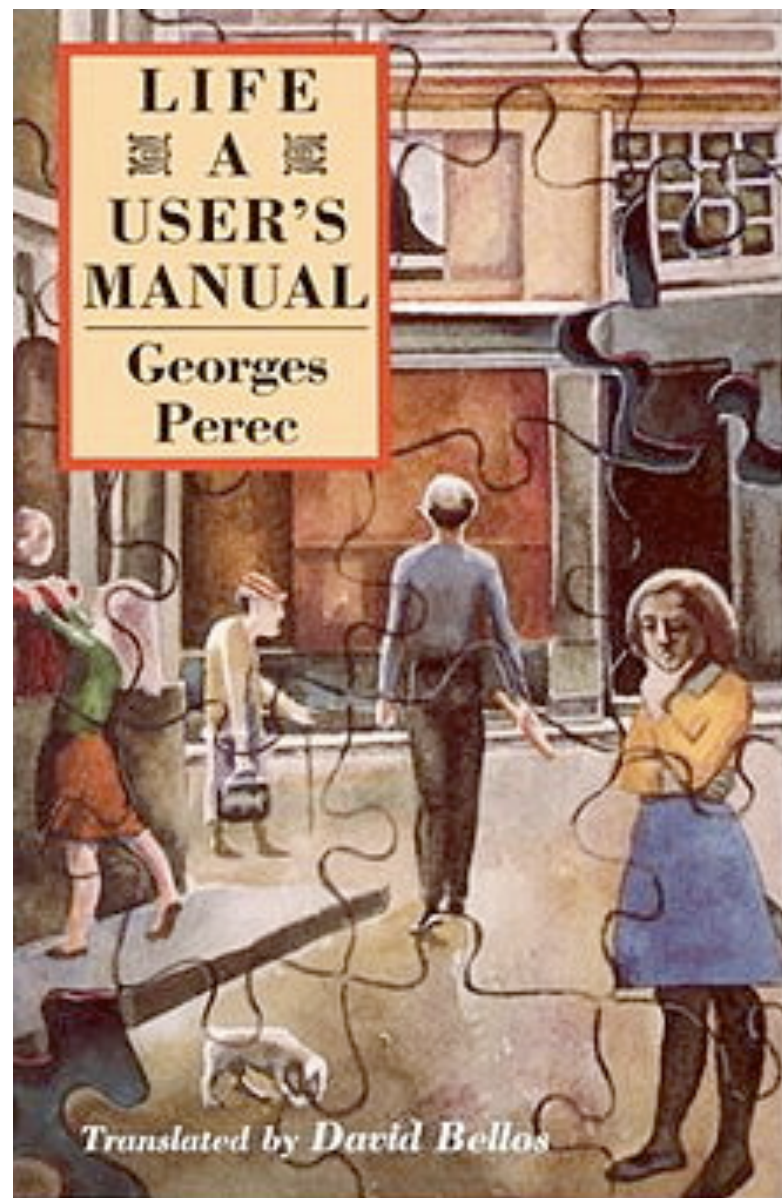
- Step up to the task
- Make sure you can achieve what you take on
- Be prepared to self-organise
- Be prepared to question, and be rebuffed
- Stand your ground

So how did I avoid burnout?

I found a nice place to hide....

# Home for old Tech-activists

- We have all the classic video games on tap
- There are copies of 2600 magazine in the toilet
- No-one talks about micro-services or clouds, ever
- Computers have lots of flashing lights on them
- No-one Tweets about anything
- There are no loud bangs or popping sounds
- Police are nice and help people to cross the road
- No-one is watching you; no-one actually cares at all



# Thanks

- <https://www.bristolwireless.net>
- <https://mbharris.co.uk/articles/>
- <https://hacktionlab.org>
- <https://psand.net>
- <https://xtreamlab.net>
- <https://hacktionlab.org>
- <https://barncamp.org>
- <https://techtacticsforsocialchange.uk>
- <https://network23.org>

HacktionLab