The Hacker Crackdown: Law And Disorder On The Electronic Frontier

By Bruce Sterling

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A journalist investigates the past, present, and future of computer crimes, as he attends a hacker convention, documents the extent of the computer crimes, and presents intriguing facts about hackers and their misdoings.

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- Sales Rank: #871114 in Books
- Published on: 1993-11-01
- Released on: 1993-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.87" h x .85" w x 4.17" l, .37 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 336 pages

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Bruce Sterling's classic work highlights the 1990 assault on hackers, when law-enforcement officials successfully arrested scores of suspected illicit hackers and other computer-based law-breakers. These raids became symbolic of the debate between fighting serious computer crime and protecting civil liberties. However, *The Hacker Crackdown* is about far more than a series of police sting operations. It's a lively tour of three cyberspace subcultures--the hacker underworld, the realm of the cybercops, and the idealistic culture of the cybercivil libertarians.

Sterling begins his story at the birth of cyberspace: the invention of the telephone. We meet the first hackers--teenage boys hired as telephone operators--who used their technical mastery, low threshold for boredom, and love of pranks to wreak havoc across the phone lines. From phone-related hi-jinks, Sterling takes us into the broader world of hacking and introduces many of the culprits--some who are fighting for a cause, some who are in it for kicks, and some who are traditional criminals after a fast buck. Sterling then details the triumphs and frustrations of the people forced to deal with the illicit hackers and tells how they developed their own subculture as cybercops. Sterling raises the ethical and legal issues of online law enforcement by questioning what rights are given to suspects and to those who have private e-mail stored on suspects' computers. Additionally, Sterling shows how the online civil liberties movement rose from seemingly unlikely places, such as the counterculture surrounding the Grateful Dead. *The Hacker Crackdown* informs you of the issues surrounding computer crime and the people on all sides of those issues.

From Publishers Weekly
Cyberpunk novelist Sterling (Involution Ocean) has produced by far the most stylish report from the computer outlaw culture since Steven Levy's Hackers. In jazzy New Journalism proE;e, sounding like Tom Wolfe reporting on a gunfight at the Cybernetic Corral, Sterling makes readers feel at home with the hackers, marshals, rebels and bureaucrats of the electronic frontier. He opens with a social history of the telephone in order to explain how the Jan. 15, 1990, crash of AT&T's long-distance switching system led to a crackdown on high-tech outlaws suspected of using their knowledge of eyberspace to invade the phone company's and other corporations' supposedly secure networks. After explaining the nature of eyberspace forms like electronic bulletin boards in detail, Sterling makes the hackers-who live in the ether between terminals under noms de nets such as VaxCat-as vivid as Wyatt Earp and Doe Holliday. His book goes a long way towards explaining the emerging digital world and its ethos.
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From Library Journal
This well-written history of "cyberspace" and computer hackers begins with the failure of AT&T's long-distance telephone switching system in January 1990 (the subject of Leonard Lee's The Day the Phones Stopped , LJ 7/91). Subsequently, a number of hackers were accused of being responsible, although AT&T formally acknowledged otherwise. In detailing various formal efforts to prosecute the "phone phreaks" and hackers, cyberpunk sf author Sterling (Islands in the Net , LJ 6/15/88) avoids attributing the near-mystical genius qualities that too many authors have bestowed upon the computer and telephone "outlaws." Instead, he realistically describes their biases and philosophical shortcomings. Sterling's concern for the Steve Jackson Games prosecution, which occurred erroneously in conjunction with several legitimate raids in Austin, leads him to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and he concludes with a well-balanced look at this new group of civil libertarians. Written with humor and intelligence, this book is highly recommended. See

also Katie Hafner and John Markoff's Cyperpunk , LJ 6/1/91.--Ed.
- *Hilary D. Burton, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Livermore, Cal.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brittany Belliveau:

This The Hacker Crackdown: Law And Disorder On The Electronic Frontier book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Hacker Crackdown: Law And Disorder On The Electronic Frontier without we know teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't end up being worry The Hacker Crackdown: Law And Disorder On The Electronic Frontier can bring when you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cell phone. This The Hacker Crackdown: Law And Disorder On The Electronic Frontier having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Robert Kuehner:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find guide that need more time to be go through. The Hacker Crackdown: Law And Disorder On The Electronic Frontier can be your answer since it can be read by an individual who have those short free time problems.

David Stephenson:

Within this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely The Hacker Crackdown: Law And Disorder On The Electronic Frontier. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

Rena Campbell:

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