

## Quick Guide to Referencing: Conference paper

The diagram illustrates a conference paper page with several callouts pointing to specific information:

- Title:** Points to the title of the paper, "THE HACKER ETHIC".
- Author:** Points to the author's name, "Sarah Granger".
- Title of conference:** Points to the title of the conference proceedings, "Ethics in the Computer Age".
- Location of conference:** Points to the location of the conference, "Gatlinburg, TN, USA".
- Date of conference:** Points to the date of the conference, "1994".

The page content includes:

**THE HACKER ETHIC**

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**BACKGROUND**

The 'hacker ethic' can be a peculiar concept to those unfamiliar with hacking and what really is. In fact, the entire definition of 'hacking' is somewhat obscure. Hacking originated as a challenge between programmers. Programmers at MIT are known for coining the term. Individuals would 'hack at code' meaning that they would work at programming problems until they could manipulate their computers into doing exactly what they wanted. The MIT hackers began with simple programs and moved on to fiddling with UNIX machines, especially those on the Arpanet. Hackers started freely distributing their code to their friends and eventually to their friends across the network. This gave rise to a notion that software should be free. Eventually this was taken to the extreme and information and network access should also be free.

Several definitions for 'hacker' exist. *The New Hacker's Dictionary* states the following definitions:

1. A person who enjoys exploring the details of programmable systems and how to stretch their capabilities...2. One who programs enthusiastically...4. An expert at a particular program...as in 'a UNIX hacker'...7. One who enjoys the intellectual challenge of creatively overcoming or circumventing limitations.
8. A malicious meddler who tries to discover sensitive information by poking around. Hence *password hacker*, *network hacker*." (218) The hacker most often referred to in general is the hacker in definition no. 8, whereas most programmers refer to hackers by definition no. 1. Many of those who consider themselves hackers or are considered by others to be hackers fit into more than one of the definitions above. The 'hacker ethic' stems from these ideas.

The 'hacker ethic' is a belief that essentially all information should be open and available to anyone. Information to a hacker includes program code and programs themselves. Information also includes files of

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Ethics in the Computer Age, Gatlinburg, TN, USA  
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any sort that are available anywhere on computer networks. Sometimes hackers go as far as believing that other users' computer accounts, passwords, and e-mail should be open to their inquiries. This is when hacking becomes 'system cracking.' The plain fact of the matter is that hacking is a very difficult ethical issue and causes several problems regarding creation and enforcement of policies and laws.

**SYSTEM SECURITY**

It is the responsibility of the keeper of a computer system or network to insure system security. The person(s) usually in charge of such a task is the System Administrator (SysAdmin) or the System Operator (SysOp). SysAdmins on most systems keep them free of software bugs, security holes, backdoors, worms, viruses, Trojan horses, and all other kinds of dangerous entities that end up on public systems and sites. System security has several levels. Security exists on the user level such as password protection and file permissions. On the administrator level are several tools such as logs which record every move a user makes, even including keystrokes on occasion. These tricks allow the SysAdmin or SysOp to monitor all activity on the system thereby detecting any unusual occurrences.

The argument which a hacker who breaks into a system often uses is as follows: "If I can do it, and you have not taken the precautions to keep me out, then I cannot be held accountable for, nor punished for acts that have occurred because of your, or administrative/government omission or lack of safeguard." (Rezmierski, 2) Certainly a blatant lack of security is not only stupid but also infringement upon the expectations of the users of the system. Users expect a certain amount of security on their system and if they don't have it, they cannot trust the system and therefore will cease to use that system. If a system is at all commercial, which most are today, that can cause financial problems as well as security problems.

The argument the hacker or intruder makes is a viable argument. If a hacker finds a hole and exploits that hole on systems. A certain level of trust must be given to the system. Hackers should be considered as fuzzy. Hackers should be considered as their infringements upon system security.

### 1. Citing in text

If you refer to a paper taken from a collection of conference papers (proceedings) you cite the contributor:

e.g. As Granger (1994) states hackers are...

e.g. The 'hacker ethic' is "a belief that essentially all information should be open and available to anyone" (Granger 1994, p.7).

### 2. Reference at end of work

Contributing author's Surname, INITIALS., Year of publication. Title of contribution. Followed by *In:* Surname, INITIALS., of editor of proceedings (if applicable) followed by ed. *Title of conference proceedings* including date and place of conference. Place of publication: Publisher, Page numbers of contribution.

Granger, S., 1994. The hacker ethic. *In:* Kizza, J.M., ed. *Ethics in the Computer Age*, 11-13 November 1994 Tennessee. New York: ACM Press, 7-9.

If there are more than one contributing authors who wrote the paper, you must list all in the reference list at the end of your work e.g. Granger, S. and Smith, T., 2000.