

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [I went to my first IRL CTF event, it depressed me](#)

Bastille - June 28, 2025, 5:04 pm

The so called "War Game" started late, It was midnight. I pictured it with an underground vibe — dark, with music, lights, something like the 1995 movie Hackers. But instead, it was depressing rows of cafeteria tables under blinding white hospital-like lights. No one talking. This was supposed to be the biggest event in France. I was ready to kill myself.

I know the real world isn't Hollywood, but putting guys who spend their time in the dark in front of a PC into an operating room setting — damn, it ruins everything.

Imagine something like this :

With music like this :

I think there is something missing in hacker's culture nowadays, they looked like vegan hackers, they need more testo, more punk / grunge things, more "off the grid" vibe

Have some of you been to CTF events? Is it like that everywhere?

Spaced - June 28, 2025, 5:59 pm

That sounds very much like my first one. And our team of 2 came second, we won a hoodie and a Rapid7 branded travel mug and some stickers. First place got some airpods... and that was it. Funnily enough both had Android phones.

But yeah I get what you mean. It's not like the movies at all. I don't think any of the CTFs I have done are like it.

Pimping - June 28, 2025, 6:03 pm

(Jun 28, 2025 05:04 PM)Bastille Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think there is something missing in hacker's culture nowadays, they looked like vegan hackers, they need more testo, more punk / grunge things, more "off the grid" vibe

Have some of you been to CTF events? Is it like that everywhere?

Agreed most of the new hackers dont know most of the culture nowadays even im not that old but i know and look at things before my time like phreaking/2600 quarterly and phrack zines. the new gen hackers only care about the money and honestly the recognition or making a name for themselves. they dont take their time to look at how the culture was before them its not about the culture anymore which is sad since the 90s and early 2000s culture was the best and most aethstetics

Rsynced - June 28, 2025, 7:33 pm

You need like an underground hacking blackhat tournament / rave invite only. People on Psychedelics, Molly, Lots of weed and ACID house, D&B, Techno playing. Light show, Dj's all sort of women dancing, this is the kind I went to..... I wish....

(Jun 28, 2025 06:03 PM)Pimping Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Agreed most of the new hackers dont know most of the culture nowadays

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Yes, it was, thankfully I got to experience that first hand.

Syndicate - June 28, 2025, 8:52 pm

I haven't been to one but I was definitely interested... unfortunately not anymore if it is as you described :(

Bastille - June 29, 2025, 2:29 am

(Jun 28, 2025 05:51 PM)Lowkey Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) LARSON mentioned.

That's crazy that it's not even a little bit like the movies. Well lit areas just don't really seem like the place to hold any sort of "hacking" activities.

Yeah I mean that was a big event, I expected some animation and hackerish atmosphere

(Jun 28, 2025 05:59 PM)Spaced Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That sounds very much like my first one. And our team of 2 came second, we won a hoodie and a Rapid7 branded travel mug and some stickers. First place got some airpods... and that was it. Funnily enough both had Android phones.

But yeah I get what you mean. It's not like the movies at all. I don't think any of the CTFs I have done are like it.

Well done ! Yeah, I know that many people are getting into hacking because of series / movies which are often far from the reality, but for events like these I think it would be cool to have a more hackerish atmosphere

(Jun 28, 2025 06:03 PM)Pimping Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Agreed most of the new hackers dont know most of the culture nowadays

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You said everything man, I can see it on threads stats, people don't even bother replying on threads / tutorials to say "thanks" or stuff like that, there are like 10.000 of views and 50 posts, they're just leechers

We need more of this spirit :

In the event I've heard for the first time the word "hackerspace", I met someone who will host it, it's far from where I live but I'll travel to participate at few events. I'm living near Paris and it's crazy that there is nothing there, or maybe there too underground and people don't talk about it.

(Jun 28, 2025 07:33 PM)Rsynced Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You need like an underground hacking blackhat tournament / rave invite only. People on Psychedelics, Molly, Lots of weed and ACID house, D&B, Techno playing. Light show, Dj's all sort of women dancing, this is the kind I went to..... I wish....

Yes, it was, thankfully I got to experience that first hand.

I've talked to many people at the event and drug is definitely a common denominator, few of them take drugs to work at the office that's crazy

Man you describe a place I would love to own, like this :

(Jun 28, 2025 08:52 PM)Syndicate Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I haven't been to one but I was definitely interested... unfortunately not anymore if it is as you described :(

The one I'm talking about was like this, but maybe it's different at other events ... This one was the biggest in France (around 3000 people), but other in the USA are way bigger (like the DEF CON with more than 20.000 people). I wish we could bring more hackerish atmosphere to these events

Walter - June 29, 2025, 2:43 am

Just by looking at the event module, you can tell how well-structured and thorough it must've been. The event seems to have covered almost every important aspect. These kinds of events are honestly great to attend.. You walk away realizing how much more there is to learn, and it really motivates you to level up your game.

And I bet not a single one of those speakers has a tattoo.. probably too busy building their skills, careers, and accomplishments to even think about that stuff, lol. ?

Sky - June 29, 2025, 2:49 am

Why not collab with someone to host your own? And do exactly what you envision.

Bastille - June 29, 2025, 3:11 am

(Jun 29, 2025 02:43 AM)Walter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Just by looking at the event module, you can tell how well-structured and thorough it must've been. The event seems to have covered almost every important aspect. These kinds of events are honestly great to attend.. You walk away realizing how much more there is to learn, and it really motivates you to level up your game.

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Yeah it was definitely interesting, the main stage was really good in term of lights and stuff like that, but when you go from the stage like this to a white and cold room for the wargames, damn, the disillusion is hard lol

Few people actually had tattoos about hacking, we discussed a lot of it because we recognized each others as I have many myself haha

(Jun 29, 2025 02:49 AM)Sky Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why not collab with someone to host your own? And do exactly what you envision.

Interesting, but there is a problem : ??

As I said above, the overall atmosphere was good, but the CTF was really disappointing.

I'd love to have my own place to create a hackerspace, like in the 1995 Hackers movie.

Sky - June 29, 2025, 3:14 am

(Jun 29, 2025 03:11 AM)Bastille Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Interesting, but there is a problem : ??

Tell [Omniscient](#) to chip in some of that primo HF cash to fund the event. ;)

Bastille - June 29, 2025, 3:19 am

(Jun 29, 2025 03:14 AM)Sky Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Tell [Omniscient](#) to chip in some of that primo HF cash to fund the event. ;)

Haha, I'll first see how it goes with videos I'm planning to make for HF, I'll start promoting Hackforums at events wearing a t-shirt, giving some badges, stickers, stuff like that

Sky - June 29, 2025, 3:23 am

(Jun 29, 2025 03:19 AM)Bastille Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Haha, I'll first see how it goes with videos I'm planning to make for HF, I'll start promoting Hackforums at events wearing a t-shirt, giving some badges, stickers, stuff like that

Get sew on patches. Thatd be dope.

Syndicate - June 29, 2025, 11:13 am

(Jun 29, 2025 03:19 AM)Bastille Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Haha, I'll first see how it goes with videos I'm planning to make for HF, I'll start promoting Hackforums at events wearing a t-shirt, giving some badges, stickers, stuff like that

That's actually a really cool idea. Unfortunately, I have nowhere that would be good to wear such paraphernalia to promote HF :/

K4RM4 - August 18, 2025, 11:02 am

Damn that is kind of disheartening. I always picture the Mr Robot scene when I think about what a ctf would look like.