

## Lock Pick Meets Hack Lab - a Virtual Introduction

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### Lock Pick Meets Hack Lab – a Virtual Introduction

There have been deafening media screams about it for years but reality often lags behind the hype - particularly in IT. Those in the industry are sadly accustomed to seeing shiny bright customer and even management facing stuff actually being driven by vaporware and overworked techs with duct tape in the background and powered by the same old frantic chipmunks at the center. But a sea change has happened: reality has caught up with the hype. It came wrapped in a bow symbolized, most appropriately, by the addition of a hack lab table to the ever popular steampunk lock picking table at this year's SecTor2015.



The chance to practice the romance of picking physical locks was always fun in a world where there were still mostly physical locks. The world's new locks demand a different toolkit and a new skillset and those who would break in sport an edgy vibe and the hoodie chic of a Mr. Robot.

Appropriately enough there wasn't even any signage at the hack table - just a few laptops scattered around, and a few devices on display in the corner to be hacked. The knowledgeable guys from TripWire who were manning the booth were kind enough to provide both a cheat sheet and one-on-one coaching if you got stuck. All you needed to get started was a basic understanding of Linux and you were cleared to try your hand.

Tyler Reguly, Manager @ Tripwire, told the story of this one university student who apparently spent five solid hours at the table and, in that relatively short time, was able to gain access to three of the devices. Another talented soul took only two hours to hack his first device. TV and movies collapse time – in those imagined worlds major systems are compromised in a matter of seconds, maybe minutes. In the real world, a few hours to hack a device is nothing - a lightening pace. We are all agog!

Truth be told, however, few security geeks are actually hackers and most wouldn't know where to begin. They come with better basic knowledge and the kinds of minds that could but mostly they don't – mostly because they have day jobs and better things to do. Clearly, however, defending the new frontier necessitates knowing how it's done to better defend personal perimeters even more than the corporate crown jewels. Corporations at least have professionals patrolling their space, however imperfectly, but the average person has both attractive resources and zip for


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by Rita Fundner

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protection against a targeted hack. In the IoT world when your image is left unguarded your whole system could be fried and your front door magically unlocks itself. Click.

The truly scary part for everyone, and this expert group is no exception, is realizing just how easily it is actually done. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

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