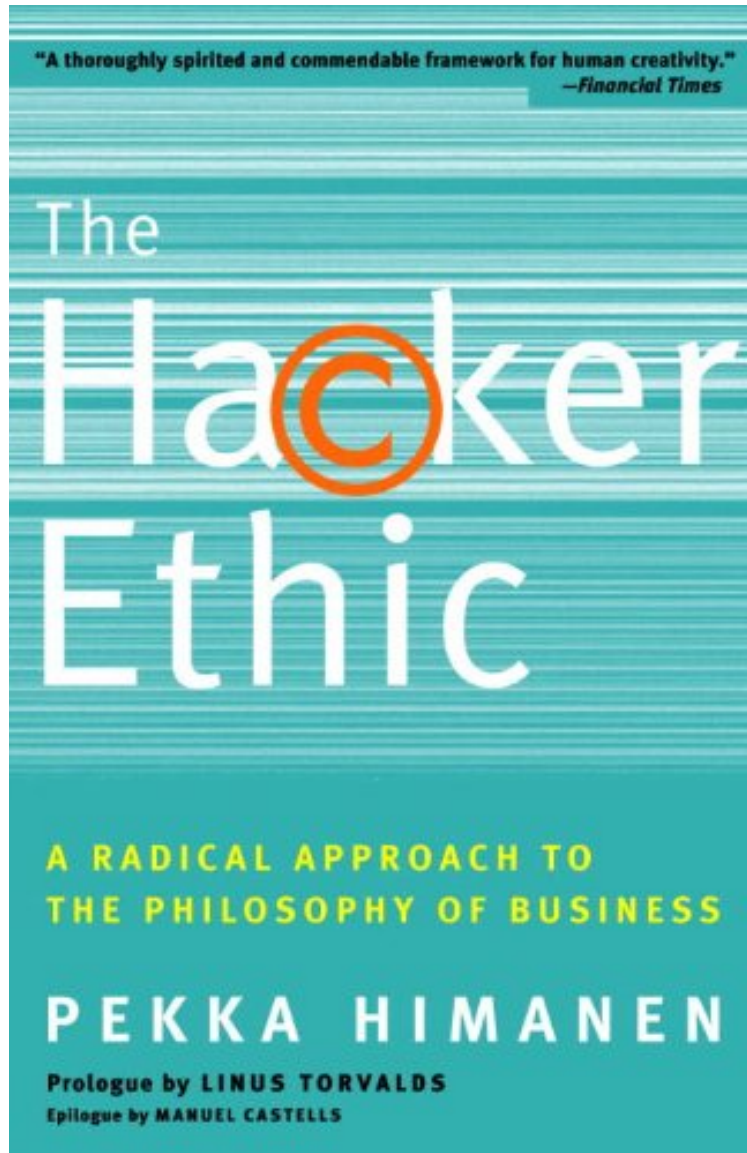


[Ebook free] The Hacker Ethic: A Radical Approach to the Philosophy of Business

The Hacker Ethic: A Radical Approach to the Philosophy of Business

Pekka Himanen

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Pekka Himanen : The Hacker Ethic: A Radical Approach to the Philosophy of Business before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hacker Ethic: A Radical Approach to the Philosophy of Business:

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Ehrenreich will certainly change how you perceive business and certainly gives a competitive advantage in terms of the content. The book was also delivered ahead of schedule, in really good condition, and included the dust jacket that my missing copy never had. Very good deal this business. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Long on sociology. Short on philosophy. By J. K. Paasch Briefly, as to general flow of the book some reviewers here have already mentioned that the marrow of this book is found in the early portions with chapters 5,6, and especially 7 very nearly if not completely skipable. Castells' futurist epilogue while a bit far reaching at times is a welcome respite after the preceding chapters. Torvalds' introduction piece while intended to provide some hacker credentials and tone-setting for the book, I imagine, though fun, came across as a bit glib and was essentially unnecessary. I believe Himanen's main points can be summarized as follows: 1. People are working longer and harder based on an out of date paradigm and find the work they are doing is less rewarding especially in regards to true personal satisfaction. 2. On the other hand hackers can be described as those people who, regardless of the field in which they work, do what they do for personal satisfaction and the inherent rewards of furthering their area of interest and peer recognition. In other words hackers are much like those who traditionally work in academia, the sciences, and the arts. In fact Himanen acknowledges as much during the course of the book. None of this is in itself problematic, however given the familiar ground covered here I kept hoping Himanen would do more than simply conjure (almost arbitrarily) a generic value system and just slap it on a group of people he generally terms hackers. My real displeasure with this book was its failure to offer any suggestions, in light of the obvious and underlying ethical considerations inherent within his argument, as to how one might create a society of hackers. If his intent was to keep to interesting historical and sociological observations then he could have, possibly, gotten through this without touching on deeper ethical currents. All along though Himanen challenges the presumptions of our current views on work, money, fun, creativity, etc... Nothing wrong with any of that, however such musings, and indeed the title of the book, suggests that at some point he might be inclined to address some deeper questions. Questions such as how does someone with few resources and limited access attain the position that allows him/her to engage in more self-fulfilling activities? Whose responsibility is it to ensure the essentials of survival are provided for so that people can pursue their passions? None of this is really given much attention and I suspect it isn't even seriously considered by Himanen. While some might argue that it was not his intent to raise and answer such questions, I believe his book suffers for his failure to delve more deeply into the basics of how to get beyond where we currently are to achieve his lofty but admirable goals. Another minor source of irritation was his heavy reliance on Weber. Obviously the title acts as a clear indicator of his intent to explore Weber's ideas. Again, nothing wrong with going to the well as it were, however at times it felt too much like a rereading of Weber's own work. I find it interesting, and philosophically useful, when an author provides an honest attempt at a dissenting viewpoint to her/his own proposal. Or at least makes the effort to provide a fair assessment of a viewpoint they wish to discredit. Such attempts work to lend an air of credibility to the authors stance and help the reader understand the framework of the argument better. Unfortunately Himanen does not do this here. On the positive side this is a very easy read and can be a nice introduction to more challenging works on the themes mentioned or alluded to throughout the text. The author is engaging and playful and doesn't run the risk of scaring off readers who don't typically enjoy trudging through heavy academic works. This ease of read is probably why a major publisher such as Random House picked this up and chose to release it. On the other hand, and for the very same reasons, this is most likely why a more scholarly publisher like the Oxford University Press or the like did not. In short, a lot more exploration of his own proposals and presumptions (e.g. the 7 values of the Hacker Ethic, etc...), as well as trimming some of the unnecessary portions (e.g. 10 pages on an imagined Protestant Genesis, etc...), as well as providing some illumination on the other side of the issue, would have made for a much better read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great for outsiders By A. Valentine I would highly recommend this book to people in the MCSE or management crowd who want to understand what motivates people to work on complex software projects without receiving any monetary reward. Although I would not classify myself as a hacker in the strictest sense of the definition, most people would consider me to be one. I find most of this information to be commonly known or discussed amongst the geek community, but it's great to have such keen insight packed in to this small book. Even if you're familiar with hacker culture, it's always insightful to look at subjects through the eyes of others.

You may be a hacker and not even know it. Being a hacker has nothing to do with cyberterrorism, and it doesn't even necessarily relate to the open-source movement. Being a hacker has more to do with your underlying assumptions about stress, time management, work, and play. It's about harmonizing the rhythms of your creative work with the rhythms of the rest of your life so that they amplify each other. It is a fundamentally new work ethic that is revolutionizing the way business is being done around the world. Without hackers there would be no universal access to e-mail, no Internet, no World Wide Web, but the hacker ethic has spread far beyond the world of computers. It is a mind-set, a philosophy, based on the values of play, passion, sharing, and creativity, that has the potential to enhance every individual's and company's productivity and competitiveness. Now there is a greater need than ever for entrepreneurial versatility of the sort that has made hackers the most important innovators of our day. Pekka Himanen shows how we all can make use of this ongoing transformation in the way we approach our working

lives.

"Pekka Himanen's theory of the hacker culture as the spirit of informationalism is a fundamental breakthrough in the discovery of the world unfolding in the uncertain dawn of the third millennium." -Manuel Castells, from the Epilogue "The Hacker Ethic is one of the most significant political ideas and value systems in history. Hackers are the warriors, explorers, guerrillas, and joyous adventurers of the Digital Age, and the true architects of the new economy. Demonized and often misunderstood, they are changing the world and the way it works. Pekka Himanen explains how and why in a book that is essential reading for anybody who wants to live, work or do business in the twenty-first century." -Jon Katz, columnist for slashdot.org and author of *Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho* "At last we have a book about the ethics of true hackers . . . not the criminals and vandals that the press calls hackers today, but the idealistic pioneers whose ethics of openness, enablement and cooperation laid the cornerstone for our new economy." -Danny Hillis, Co-Founder, The Long Now Foundation and Co-Chairman CTO, Applied Minds, Inc. From the Hardcover edition. "A person can be a hacker without having anything to do with computers." -Pekka Himanen "A thoroughly spirited and commendable framework for human creativity." -Financial Times "As comprehensive and instructive as any [survey] to date... Himanen has a powerful grasp on that strangely intoxicating contradiction that is open-source." -The New York Times Book "Engagingly written and provocative, and indubitably commendable in its vision of a transformation of how all of us relate to our working life.... We should all be more like hackers." -Salon.com From the Inside Flap "You may be a hacker and not even know it. Being a hacker has nothing to do with cyberterrorism, and it doesn't even necessarily relate to the open-source movement. Being a hacker has more to do with your underlying assumptions about stress, time management, work, and play. It's about harmonizing the rhythms of your creative work with the rhythms of the rest of your life so that they amplify each other. It is a fundamentally new work ethic that is revolutionizing the way business is being done around the world. Without hackers there would be no universal access to e-mail, no Internet, no World Wide Web, but the hacker ethic has spread far beyond the world of computers. It is a mind-set, a philosophy, based on the values of play, passion, sharing, and creativity, that has the potential to enhance every individual's and company's productivity and competitiveness. Now there is a greater need than ever for entrepreneurial versatility of the sort that has made hackers the most important innovators of our day. Pekka Himanen shows how we all can make use of this ongoing transformation in the way we approach our working lives.