From Hackers to Makers

Dale Dougherty
**hack** (hǎk) *n.*, A non-obvious solution to an interesting problem.
From Problems to Interesting Projects

- Event-driven home monitor
- Radio PVR
- Music PC -> Home stereo
- Roll your own PVR
- Laptop -> Digital Pictureframe

Fun Process

Visible/Community
Dale Dougherty

The Making of Make:

More than mere consumers of technology, we are makers, adapting technology to our needs and integrating it into our lives. Some of us are both makers and others, like me, become makers almost without realizing it.

Maybe it started when I burned my first music CD, ripping individual songs from packaged CDs and assembling my own playlist. This was unthinkable just five years ago, and now it's how we make our own music — much of the chugging of the recording music industry.

Maybe it started when I got Wi-Fi working, not just for myself but for my whole family. Suddenly, the computer isn’t locked down to a desk and wired to an outlet. It was free to roam, like a cell-phone, and I began finding new places such as coffee houses that I could call home, or at least home-office.

Maybe it started when I bought my digital camera and laptop on vacation and found that my slideshow was ready before the vacation was even over.

I’m sure that most of us share these experiences, and many others that demonstrate the impact of new technologies in our lives. Think of how many devices each of us interacts with on a regular basis today. And that’s only the beginning. Neil Gershenfeld of MIT’s Center for Bits and Atoms, who is featured in this issue, writes in his book When Things Start to Think that “personal computing has not gone far enough; it lets us shape our digital environment but not our physical environment.” In other words, technology that allows us to create complex things will soon become as affordable as the technology we use to create and manage data. We are just beginning to see the impact of technology in our personal lives.

So much is possible.

MAKE is a new magazine dedicated to showing how to make technology work for you. At the core of the magazine are projects that show you how to use technology in interesting and practical ways. A MAKE project is rewarding and fun as an experience, and it produces something you can share with your friends and family. Becoming a maker is a lot like learning how to become a better cook — you can follow or improvise upon the work of experts.

In the process of developing MAKE, I have met all kinds of expert makers who were excited to contribute their ideas and their favorite projects. There are some I call extreme makers who bring highly specialized skills and experience working with both new and old technology. They specialize in the unexpected and go beyond what you or I would ever consider practical. We can learn a lot by following what they do, and I’m happy that MAKE provides a showcase for their work.

I hope you enjoy getting to know the experts as well as meeting other makers like yourself. We expect that our website will become a place to share your experiences building the projects in the magazine, as well as a home for projects that you develop. I look forward to meeting you there.

Let me know what you think of MAKE and how you use technology to make your own life better. You can contact me at dale@oreilly.com.

Dale Dougherty is the editor and publisher of MAKE and the publisher of O’Reilly Network (www.oreillynet.com).
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Makers:
All Kinds of People Making Amazing Things In Their Backyard, Basement, and Garage
By Bob Parks
From the Makers of MAKE Magazine
Maker Faire Playbook

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Hackerspaces in America
Makerspace

a space that supports young makers and education
MENTOR Makerspace

Establish digital and physical workspaces to support the collaborative practices of making in high schools.
Makerspace

• A physical workshop space that organizes:
  • Tools
  • Materials
  • Expertise
  • Projects

• A variety of organizational models.
Having a good name is important
Be open and inclusive