

HacktionLab

A rural *hack meeting* in the beautiful Wye Valley

Thursday 11th till Sunday 14th June 2009

Event Feedback



Hacktionlab Feedback - Summer 2009

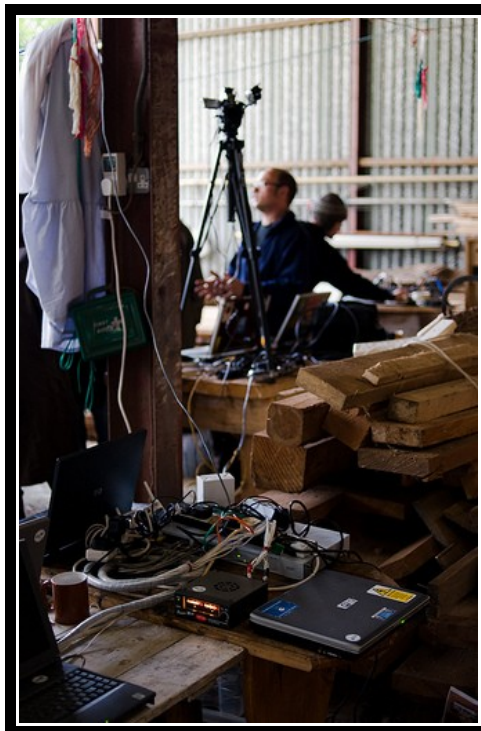
wrote by Hamish Nov 2009
version 0.9 – unproofed

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In Short

HacktionLab Participants: about 30 I think
Number of forms extracted: 13

Whilst recognising that the event is not corporate, ever likely to be corporate and perhaps is even keen to avoid most things that are 'corporate', it is perhaps suprising what you can do with a few completed feedback forms and the resultant bargraphs. See for yourself, and then decide what, if anything, you can read from a data set of 13 forms (which by my reckoning is a ratio of less than 50%). But what *I* read is that basically we may have to be more clear with ourselves as what Hacktionlab is, i.e. Is it a techy event or a not techy event. What we do know is that that we love the location and like the cider. Indeed cider was loved and yet its effects were disliked in apparent equal measure. Apparently we should have more practicals, perhaps should be less vague and more punctual. It is suggested that we could tool up with 'a watch'. What is clear, according to the stats, is that we love Hacktionlab! I look forward to seeing you next year. - Hamish



Workshop sessions

1. *What did you enjoy the most?*

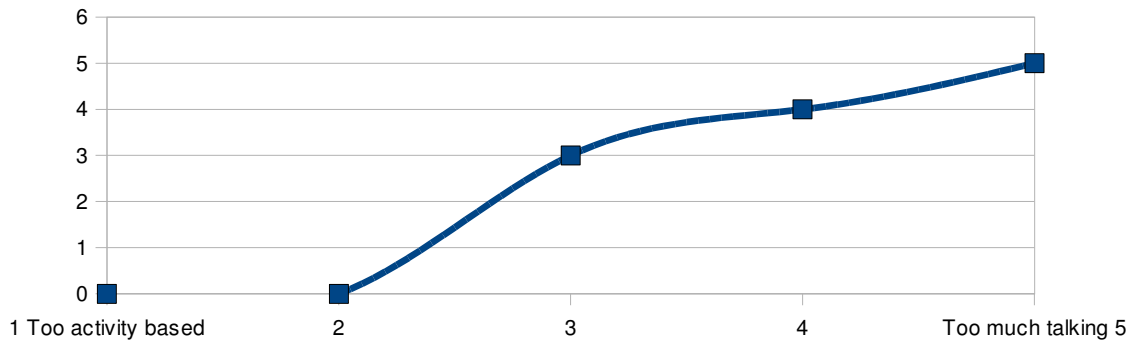
- Mostly all of it
- company
- The formal technical sessions
- Location!
- Summer gathering discussion\Crabgrass
- web2 session\campfires
- The cider.
- security and radio/media streaming
- meeting all the geeks and learning how they work!
- The chance to stay in contact with some of the electronic underground in a face to face situation and the view
- the view!
- Cider!
- The session on security

2. *Was there anything that you disliked?*

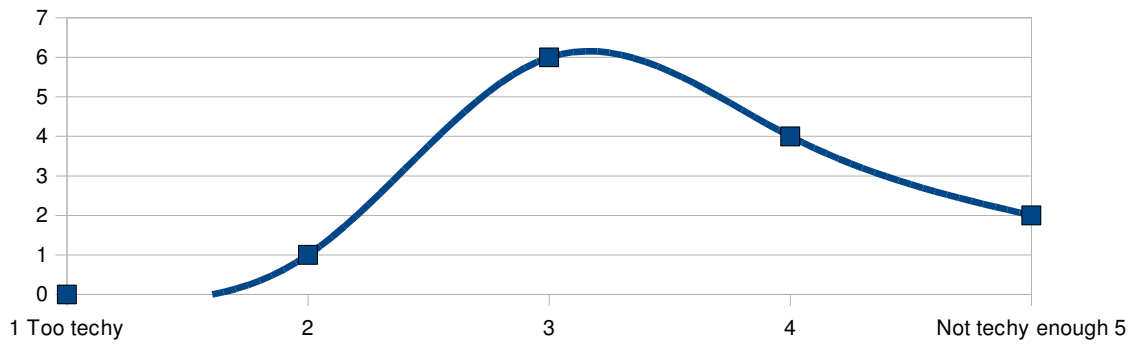
- late starts in the morning
- feeling guilty if not going to a workshop
- People wasting my time by not sticking to the agreed timetable
- Kitchen and general house-keeping - people appeared to be mostly un house-trained!!
- no
- late starts, mess on the floor, lack of facilitation\some sessions were too hung up on technicalities, others were to talky when they should have been more techie
- Throwing up after drinking too much cider.
- I think people didn't care much about basic tasks such as washing up, rubbish...
- would have been more actively participating women - but are they out there?! maybe more outreach needed to find them?
- Having to leave early cos I double booked, and not getting more involved
- the food was a bit flakey.. breakfasts good... the rest seemed a bit reheated!
- Maybe we were a bit lunched out at starting on time. See previous answer though ;-)
- Seriously, what's the hand-waving thing all about?



3. The balance of activity to discussion was?

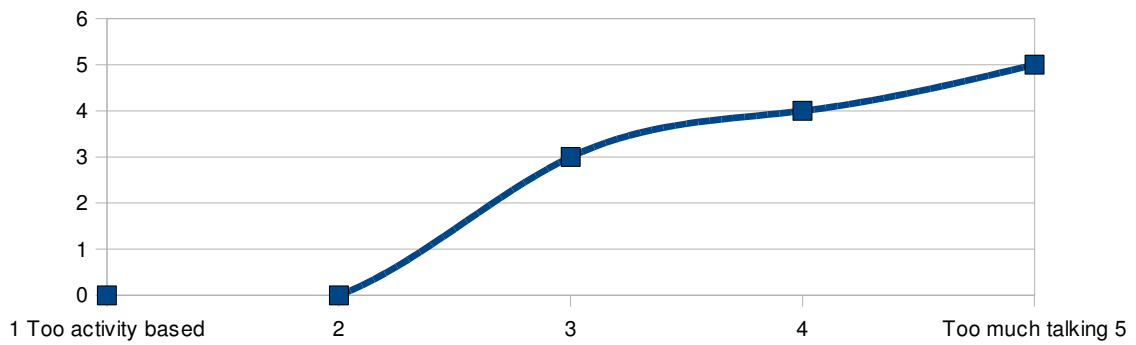


4. Was the level of discussion?

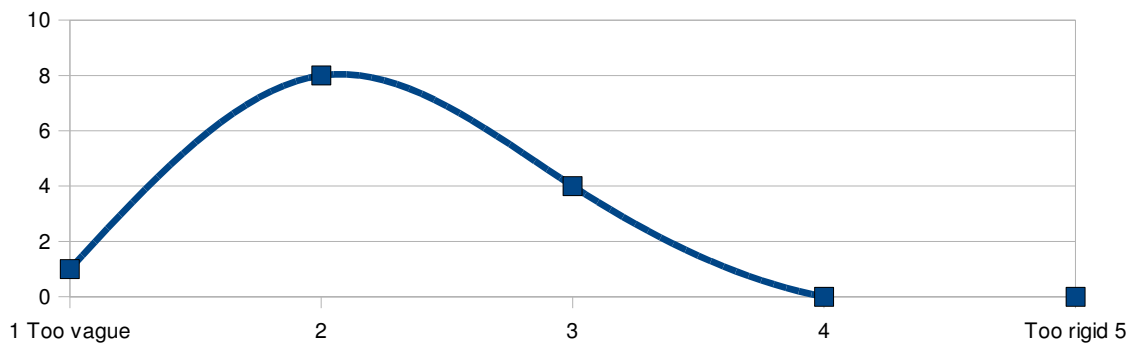


5. *Formal vs informal sessions*

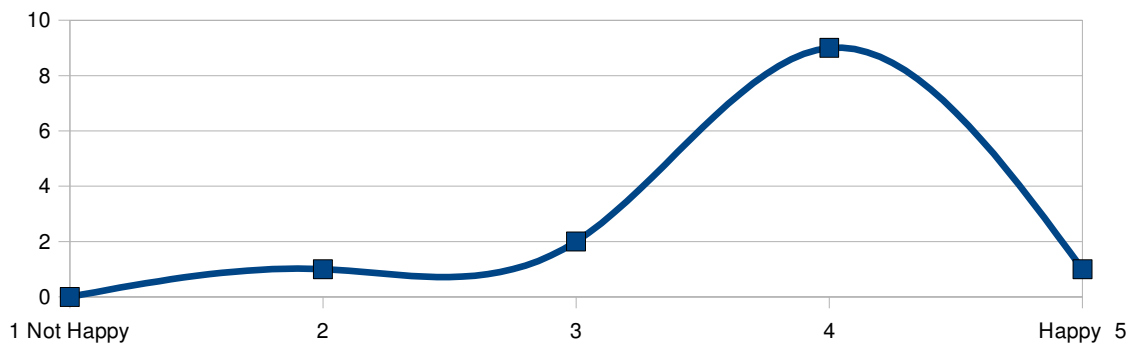
(you could read that as scheudled vs hacklab format)



6. *Was the workshop schedule*



7. How happy were you with the choice of topics?



8. Which was the best?

- The non-techies one, it was the biggest \eye opener\''
- Audio streaming\Key signing
- n/a
- Crabgrass\Summer Gathering session
- discussion on supporting climate camp / other stuff had political focus and deliverable outcome targets
- Informal practical sessions sessions.
- Security
- loved finding out how things work, eg satellite connections, crabgrass, activist security
- Good to have a reminder about GPG stuff
- Security, crabgrass and 3g

9. Which was the worst?

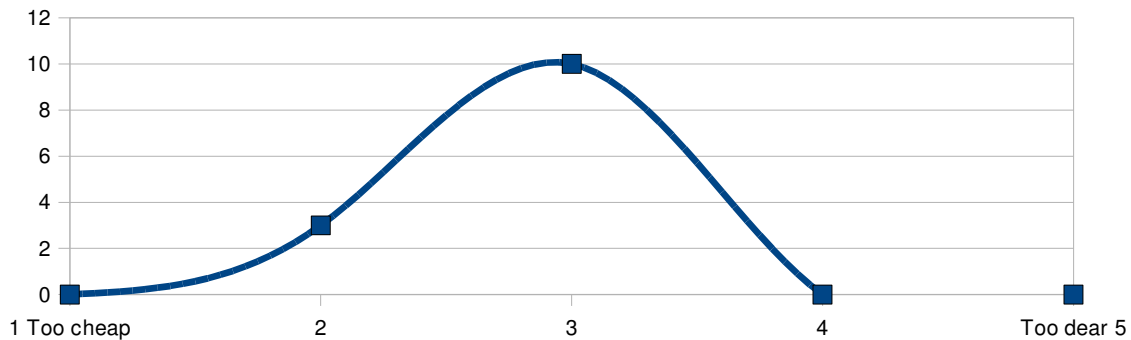
- key signing, confusing, though essential
- the ones where things were slowly explained to the newbies. took the wind out of it all and put them at the centre of attention. if this is the objective then it needs to be more overtly stated.
- n/a
- security encryption start, but got better
- Discussing timetable and hanging around in the morning waiting for stuff to start.
- uploading pictures/video in action, only talking no demos
- vague discussions with no real topic and late starts every day
- I was a bit frazzled at the convergence organizing session

10. Was there anything you would have like to seen covered that was not?

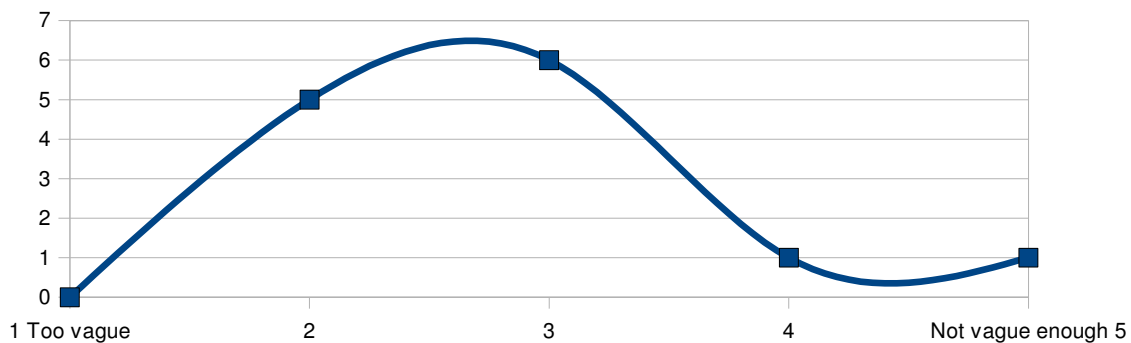
- Git versioning
- more note taking so that notes are available with urls etc by the end. ideally i would have sat there and updated the wiki or something.
- If we had made better use of the available time we could have covered much more - especially more advanced technical aspects of security, anonymity & privacy, and more on media production
- probably!
- rss co-operation between websites / campaigns, not so much a discussion as a strategy session
- Loads of stuff. Comms in actions. Hardware hacking. Micro radio broadcast. Mass text messaging how-to. etc
- we missed the wireless cracking as we run out of time, wouldn't have minded
- not sure I can think of anything
- the drupal video session\more info on hardhacks.. \taking things to bits and getting them to use alternative power sources... etc\Generating electricity.. etc

Organisation

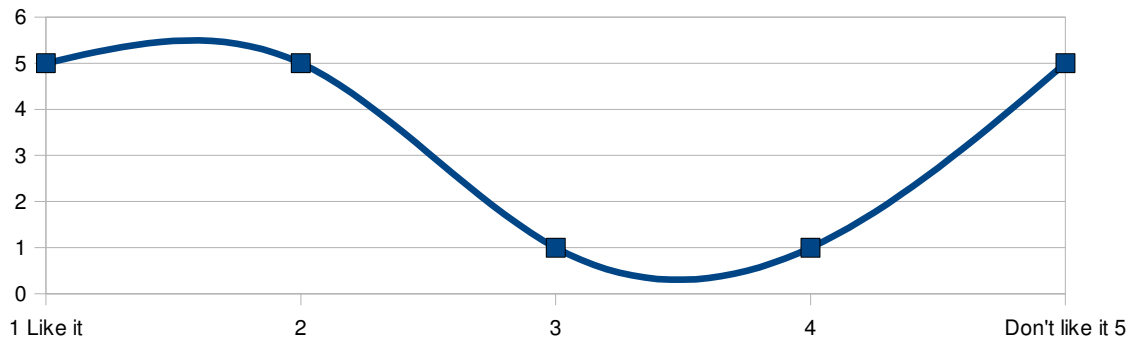
11. Was the charge of £20 too cheap or too dear?



12. The organisation of the event was loose in the style of a hack lab. Did you find this:



13. *What do you think of the name 'HacktionLab'?*



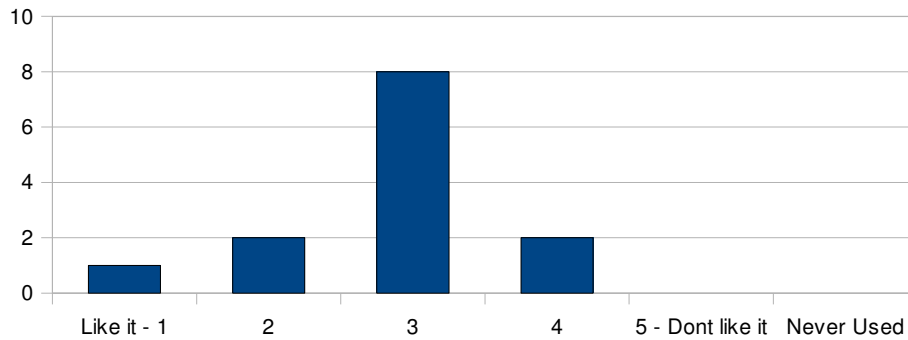
14. *If you're not keen on the name, do you have any other suggestions (new or existing):*

- geekcamp
- hacklab
- hacktionlab camp

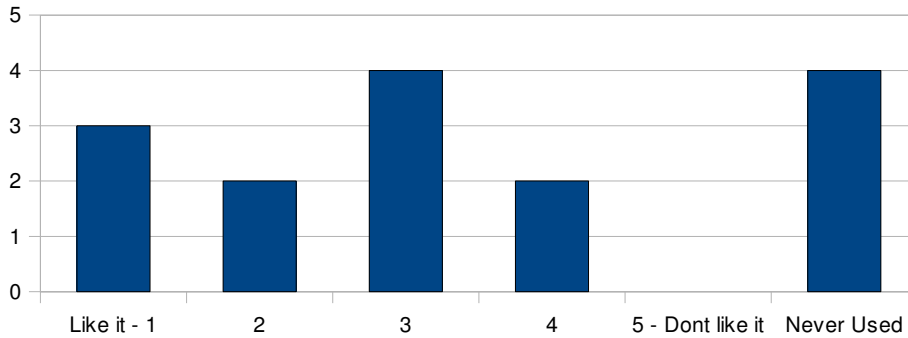


What do you think of the following HacktionLab resources for organising and discussion:

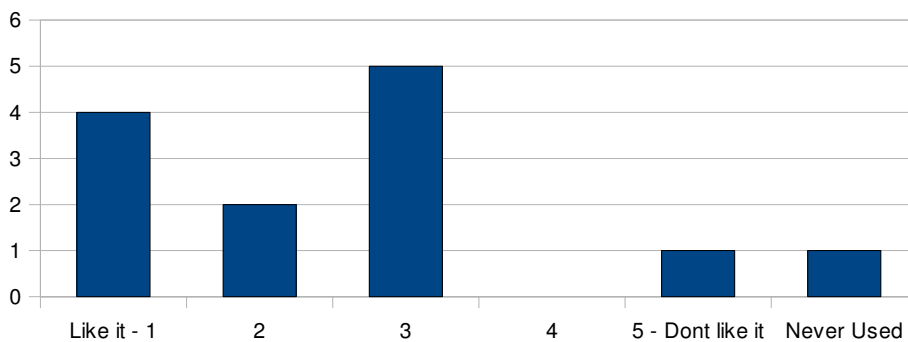
15. Mailing list (<http://lists.psand.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/hacktionlab>)



16. Crabgrass (<http://we.riseup.net/hacktionlab/>)



17. Wiki (<http://hacktivist.net/hacktionlab/>)



18. Can you suggest another tool we could use?

- a watch
- SILC

The future

19. *Would you come to another rural HacktionLab?*

- Yes 13
- No 0

20. *Would you come to an urban HacktionLab in the Autumn?*

- Yes 8
- no 5

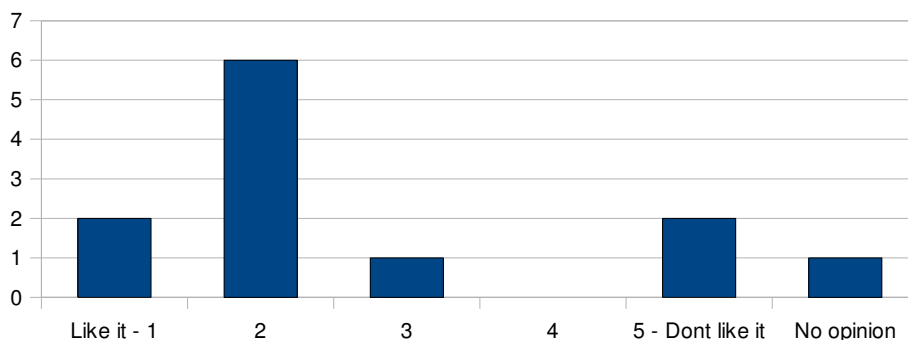
21. *If you have a proposal for another HacktionLab event, please use the space below to write it down:*

- We need a strategy to deal with the techy/non-techy aspects of it. There needs to be an intentional split between techy and non-techy events. People running workshop should provide an "entry level knowledge" list or some such."
- transform the simple how to booklet to a series of training events to be run in cities around the country
- I like the excuse to hang out somewhere rural!

22. *Would you like to be involved in organising the next HacktionLab?*
as a main organiser / helping out during HacktionLab / just as an attendee (I can't commit to anything more at the moment)

[Confusing Data]

23. *The Hactivista.net domain could be expanded to be a support portal for hackers in the UK and more events could be linked to it. What do you think of this idea?*



24. *Do you have any other ideas along the same lines?*

- Not yet
- one where geeks and non-geeks are identified at the beginning and allowed to mingle freely sharing skills - if that is the goal
- I'd be up for helping to organise other events, but only if we can get consensus on the need to agree and stick to a time-table. I don't mind a bit of vagueness, and fluidity is good but if people won't take personal responsibility for getting up in the morning, I'm not interested.
- Hackers and activists are two separate groups that at least only converge to a small degree - depends on definition of hacker really...
- keep 'hacking' away from political organising. it's a cool domain name but legal issues should be considered.
- looking forward to seeing the guide for non-techie activists
- I'd like to take part in a purely media focused event - which created a online magazine media product as a semi regular event.

25. *And the inevitable random comments box...*

- Hoping we'll be able to talk through some of this stuff and have a wiki/crabgrass fiddle in the process.
- cheap cider = hangovers in the morning!
- there are multiple possible enlarged objectives for the event:
- invite more campaigners or groups to meet the geeks a la social innovation camp - ie they have the problem, we have the solution and will make it happen
- invite more geeks to show and tell and do skillshares but there's a contradiction or tension between the two, they are different events
- i like the cosy current format, but other events should be spun off from it that are more focussed
- All in all was excellent
- Quite chilled out but at the same time got new ideas and learned lots
- amazing place, good people and nice cider
- had a great time, thanks to the hard work of all the organisers!

Thanks

Thanks to everyone for coming, Thanks to Highbury for hosting. Thanks to Mike for organising the event and feedback form.

Thanks to chopped_pork for gorgeous photos -

(http://www.flickr.com/photos/chopped_pork/sets/72157605640236602/).

Thanks to Gneb marker acesabe Llanos Amelia m3shrom ciderpunx and to those who also provided feedback but wanted to stay anonymous.