

HOPE_163



August 15-17, 2025

St. John's University
Queens, New York City

HOPEL163

connecting...

Hackers On Planet Earth August 15-17, 2025
St. John's University, Queens, New York City

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Announcing

Hackers On Planet Earth, or HOPE. Inspired by conferences like the Chaos Communication Congress in Germany and the Galactic Hacker Party in the Netherlands, HOPE was created in 1994 to give a voice to hackers and other curious, open-minded people. At HOPE, you'll find a wide variety of interesting talks, cool projects, vendors, and workshops.

HOPE attendees are hackers, phreaks, activists, artists, whistleblowers, tinkerers, makers, and more. For the intersection of activism, hacking, and making, HOPE is the premiere destination to meet influential people and join or share cool projects.

History

HOPE_16 is the 16th conference in our 30+ year series, and marks the first annual event. Previously, HOPE took place every 2 years.



Many amazing speakers have joined us for enlightening and rousing talks, from Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Adam Savage of Mythbusters, and representatives from Wikileaks, to NSA

whistleblower William Binney, and Jon Johansen of DeCSS fame (who testified on 2600's behalf in the first DMCA lawsuit back in 2000).

We've featured major projects like OpenAMD, a real-time location-aware conference badge created to help attendees meet people with common interests. HOPE has a Hackerspace Village where you can learn how to solder and build your own electronic projects, and a Lockpicking Village, even a workshops on crafting Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to hack the U.S. government's excessive secrecy.

“So you're like a Maker Faire?”

At HOPE, tinkering, technology, and hacking meet policy and philosophy. We have workshops focused on teaching kids, and we also feature more political projects and deep technical discussions. We consider HOPE a melting pot of many cultures. HOPE is information-rich with approximately 100 speakers and dozens of workshops, spanning three full days.





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“Ok, so you’re another hacker conference?”

While technology is important, we believe it is a tool that can enable freedom. Therefore we seek out topics and projects of a great diversity and controversy. Because HOPE is inspired by **2600 Magazine**, we believe in giving a wide variety of people a public platform is an important part of free speech. While other hacker conferences may focus on technology and security exploits, we inject a lot of social elements and try to combine different worlds into something unique.

“What will I see at HOPE?”

HOPE has hackerspace villages, live performances, a lock-picking village, a variety of hacker-oriented vendors, art installations, live video, vintage computers, an amateur/ham radio station, electronics workshops, book signings, more. And you’ll meet lots of interesting people. Many attendees have claimed that HOPE changed their life.

40+ years of **2600**,

30+ years of HOPE

1984 **2600 Magazine** created, borrowing the namesake from the Captain Crunch whistle.

1987 **2600 Meetings** started.

13-14 August 1994 The first Hackers On Planet Earth Conference (HOPE), 10 year anniversary of **2600**

15 February 1995 Kevin Mitnick arrested, resulting in the „Free Kevin“ movement

8-10 August 1997 Beyond HOPE, the second HOPE conference. Held at the Puck building.

14-15 July 2000 H2K, keynoted by Jello Biafra



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12-14 July 2002 H2K2, keynoted by Aaron McGruder and Siva Vaidhyanathan.

9-11 July 2004 The Fifth HOPE, celebrating 10 years of HOPE and 20 years of 2600, also 20 years of Cult of the Dead Cow, keynoted by Kevin Mitnick and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak.

21-23 July 2006 HOPE Number Six, keynoted by Richard Stallman, founder of the Free Software Foundation. Speaker Steve Rambam arrested by the FBI on bogus charges that were later dropped.

18-20 July 2008 The Last HOPE, named due to pending (later postponed) destruction of the Hotel Pennsylvania. Keynoted by author Steven Levy and Adam Savage from the TV show "Mythbusters." Also featured the Attendee Meta-Data (AMD) project, a location-aware active RFID badge that tracked conference attendees' movements.

16-18 July 2010 The Next HOPE, featuring keynote by then still relatively unknown Wikileaks, as well as Dan Kaminsky.

13-15 July 2012 HOPE Number Nine, featuring keynote by NSA analyst-turned whistleblower William Binney, as well as the activist-prankster group Yes Men.

18-20 July 2014 HOPE X included a live conversation with Edward Snowden via teleconference from Russia. Snowden met virtually with whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, who was live at HOPE.



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22-24 July 2016

The Eleventh HOPE brought author, futurist an activist Cory Doctorow to the stage.

20-22 July 2018

The Circle of HOPE turned out to be the last ever HOPE at the Hotel Pennsylvania. Subsequent years were disrupted by COVID-19, and then the Hotel was razed. This HOPE featured on on-stage interview with whistleblower Chelsea Manning.

25 July – 2 August 2020

HOPE 2020 was during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and was entirely online, spanning 9 complete days. Featured keynotes were given by Libby Liu, Flavio Aggio, Idalin Bobé, Tiffany Rad, Yeshimabeit Milner, Jaron Lanier, Cindy Cohn, Cory Doctorow, and Richard Thieme, each of whom represented a unique and essential part of the hacker community.

22-24 July 2022

A New HOPE was named to represent the return from COVID-19, as well as HOPE's first event at a new venue: St. John's University in Queens, New York City. Whistleblower Sophie Zhang was interviewed by Yan Zhu, live on stage.

12-24 July 2024

HOPE XV improved on the use and layout of St. John's and by some accounts was the best HOPE ever. Attendees were encouraged by a return to near normalcy following the disruptions of previous years. Cory Doctorow graced the HOPE stage again, to help celebrate all that HOPE offers.



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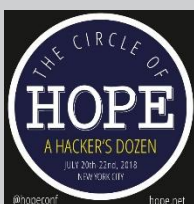
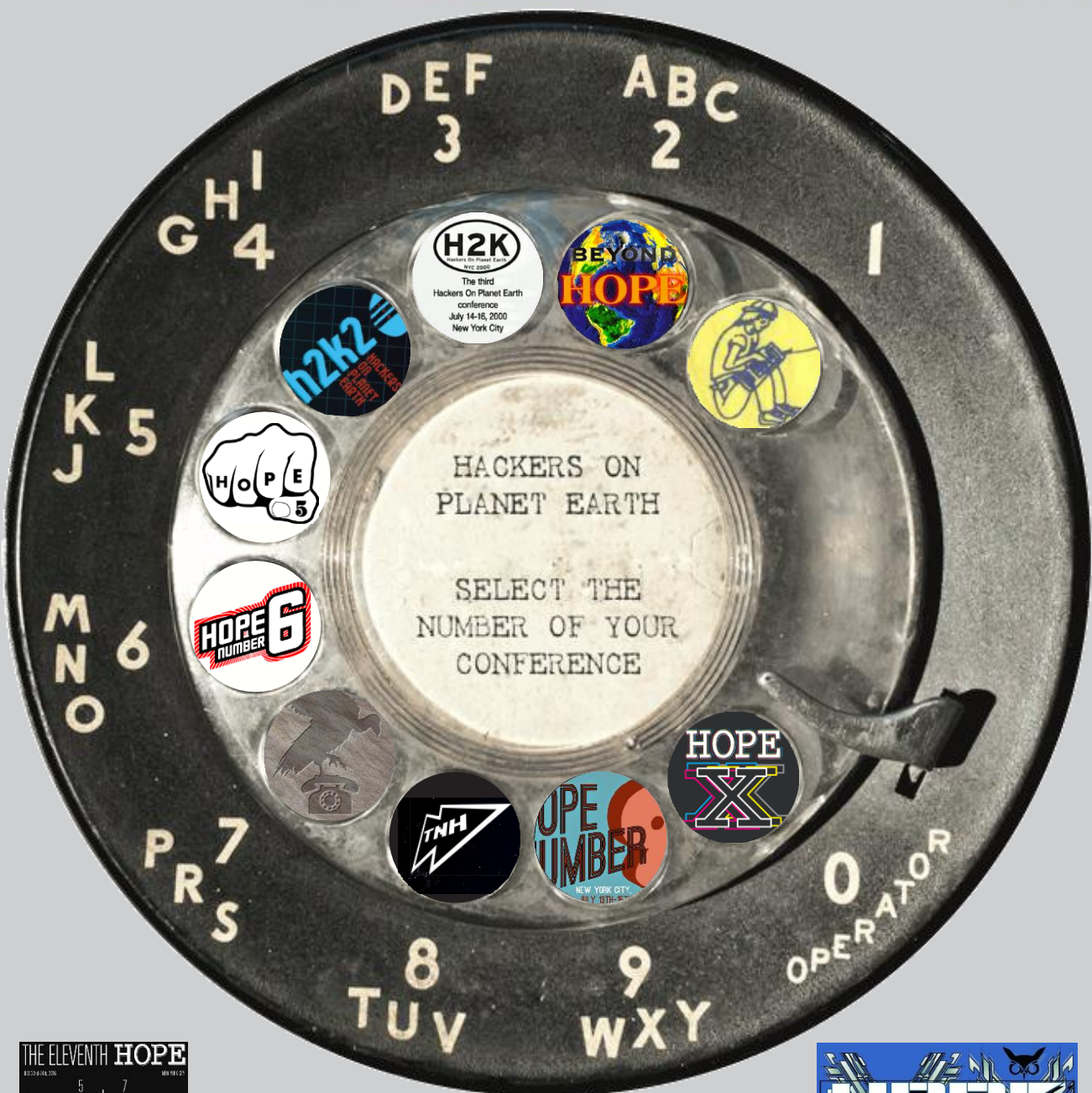


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