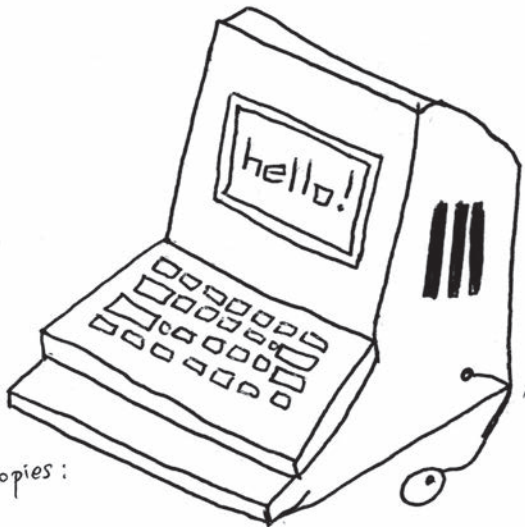


LA Cryptoparty

PRIMER



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LA Cryptoparty is a group of friends who host workshops on privacy, security, and anonymity to participants of all skill levels.



our cute story

LA Cryptoparty was started by noname, profX, and taze in 2014, a year after Edward Snowden leaked information about government surveillance programs and Chelsea Manning leaked military information on U.S. airstrikes. We had heard of other

cryptoparties where you could only get in if you showed your PGP key at the door. Some of us would never make it through that door.



we decided to ground our workshops in the idea that learning how to use encryption tools shouldn't be an exclusive club for those who are already tech savvy. Some time in 2014, profx taught a workshop at Machine Project in LA on anonymity online. Taze attended and leaked the class content to NoName who learned the skills that were taught

through Taze. They then approached prof X about expanding these workshops and doing them together.

We had all been thinking about surveillance and counter-surveillance in our own ways and from our different experiences so it seemed coming together to do workshops might open up a different space. And we became friends.

Our workshops

Our workshops have taken on different topics, like anonymity online, data protection & data smuggling, whistleblowing, e-mail encryption, signal blocking pouch-making sewing classes (with Aram Bartholl), hard drive-blocking manicures (with Nadja Buttendorf).



We've done these work-shops in art spaces, museum: hackerspaces, and in profX's airstream. We've had crowds of educators, activists, artists, and folks from just about anywhere on the tech-familiarity spectrum. The conversations came from so many experiences, interests, and concerns - this was always our favorite part!

crypto time travel

Tools can always be coopted. It's what we do with them that matters. Because the surveillance landscape always finds

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ways to reinvent itself and creates new ways to monitor us, control our access to resources, and place us into hierarchies, we, too, need to stay creative.

In these zines, we share some of our favorite tools from our workshops from the past decade because they're still useful.



Love,

LA Cryptoparty

noname, taze, & prof X