

## 12 Tithe us your Alms of Oday!

*from the desk of Pastor Manul Laphroaig,  
International Church of the Weird Machines*

Dear neighbors,

It's easy to feel down in these dark times. The prices are up, the stocks are down, and even in this twenty first century, innocent kids are imprisoned or driven to the brink of madness in the name of justice.

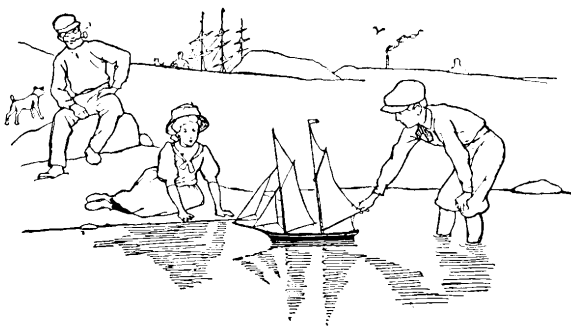
But don't despair! There are clever things to be done and good conversations to be had, while the barbarians aren't yet at our door.

I have a good friend named Jacob. He's a bartender, but to his regulars, he is a professional conversation pimp. When you sit down at his bar by yourself, you'll barely have time to take that first sip of your whiskey before he introduces you to Alice and Bob, as you all three do something with that fancy cryptography stuff.

Or he might introduce you to Mallory, as you both enjoy a malicious prank or two. Or to Sergey, as you both enjoy rare cat pictures.

And when it's too early or too late for him to introduce you to a new friend, he'll strike up a conversation himself like those bartenders do on television shows, but so rarely in real life.

So be like Jacob, and make the world a better place through good conversation. Verily I tell you, Jacob's bar, and our pews, and the timbers of whatever roof you strike a friendly conversation under are all part of the same great ladder of neighborliness!



Do this: write an email telling our editors how to reproduce *ONE* clever, technical trick from your research. If you are uncertain of your English, we'll happily translate from French, Russian, Southern Appalachian, and German. If you don't speak those languages, we'll draft a translator from those poor sods who owe us favors.

Like an email, keep it short. Like an email, you should assume that we already know more than a bit about hacking, and that we'll be insulted or—WORSE!—that we'll be bored if you include a long tutorial where a quick reminder would do.

Just use 7-bit ASCII if your language doesn't require funny letters, as whenever we receive something typeset in OpenOffice, we briefly mistake it for a ransom note. Don't try to make it thorough or broad. Don't use bullet-points, as this isn't a damned Powerpoint deck. Keep your code samples short and sweet; we can leave the long-form code as an attachment. Do not send us L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X; it's our job to do the typesetting!

Don't tell me that it's possible; rather, teach me how to do it myself with the absolute minimum of formality and bullshit.

Like an email, we expect informal (or faux-biblical) language and hand-sketched diagrams. Write it in a single sitting, and leave any editing for your poor preacherman to do over a bottle of fine scotch. Send this to [pastor@phrack.org](mailto:pastor@phrack.org) and hope that the neighborly Phrack folks—praise be to them!—aren't man-in-the-middleing our submission process.

Yours in PoC and Pwnage,  
Pastor Manul Laphroaig, D.D.