Locksport

An Emerging Subculture
Intro and History

• Locks
• Lockpickers
Locks

- Egyptian Pin Tumbler
- Medieval Artistry
- Puzzle Locks
- Modern Advances
  - Pin Tumbler Sidebar
  - Wafer Lock
  - Disc Lock
  - Lever Lock
Lockpickers

• Pre-locks (the thief knot)
• Wax pad attack
• Similarity of keys
• Brahma Vs. Hobbs
  – Great Exhibition
  – Unsupervised?
  – Still controversy
  – Media Coverage
Modern Lockpicking

• TOOOL NL
• SSDEV (Germany)
• The Dutch and German competitions
• “Coming to America” (TOOOL US & LI)
• DEFCON / HOPE
The Open Organisation Of Lockpickers

• Originated from the NVHS (Dutch Association for Door Hardware Sport)
• Currently have several chapters and ~100 members.
• Struggles with manufacturers
• Developed relationships with many Lock firms:
  – Wink Haus
  – Assa Abloy
  – Geminy
  – RKS
• Han Fey, lock collector
• Dutch Open
SSDEV

• Steffan Wernery in 1997
• First major established organization
• Set out to provide a firm ethical foundation for the sport
• Host competition in Berlin
• Recently made the English language transition
• Top pickers in the world
• Over 1000 current members in ~ 10 chapters
• Proposed a lockpicking olympics
The German/Dutch Opens

- 1997 in Hamburg, DE
- 23 attempted in 1997
- 2002 in Sneek, NL
- 50 attempted in 2006
- Prizes
- 2007 dates
Coming To America!

- TOOOL establishes first US chapter in 2002
- Josh Nekrep, Kim Bohnet, and Devon McDormand form Locksport International in 2005
- TOOOL current membership
- LI current membership
- To merge or not to merge
- Differences
- Press
DEFCON / HOPE

• Con within a Con
• LP Village
• Other conferences that feature locksport
• Developed from this community
• Will always have common ties
The Internet

- Forums
- YouTube
- Blogs
Forums

• Lockpicking101.com
  – Black Hat
  – LI develops
  – Constant ethical debate
  – Division of material

• EZPicking.com
  – Anti-LP101
  – No division of material
  – Limited talent

• Bump Key Specific Forums
  – Limited info
  – Hopefully becoming obsolete
YouTube

- Lockpicking is a visual sport
- YouTube can be a convenient teaching tool
- Allows one ignorant person to propagate that ignorance
- Lot of people don’t know how their lock has opened
- Sketchy people out there…
- Giving us a bad name
- Example 1
  - Example 2
Blogs

• Marc Weber Tobias
  – Security.org
  – LSS+

• Barry Wels
  – Blackbag
  – Secondary interests

• Other blogs
  – Locks and security
  – Discreet Security Solutions
Why Locksport Matters

- (in)Security through obscurity
- Media representation
- Lock design
(in)Security through obscurity

- Unique locks were the standard
- Inconsistent quality
- Mass production led to standardization
- Standardization = consistent attack vectors
- Manufacturers still insist on secrecy over security
The Media

• Double Edged Sword
• Talented locksmiths are revered…
• Talented lockpickers are a reason for worry
• Wired Magazine at the Dutch Open
• Wall Street Journal
• Local news scare tactics
• The bumping phenomenon
• Competition bodes well for us
Lock Design

• Positive relationships with European groups
• Weiser / Kwikset smartkey & Master’s new pins
• The American bypass & “solution”
• SFIC sleeve improvements
• A staggering number of recent advancements
• Obvious influence
• Developing stateside relationships
Last Word

• Why we do it
  – Professionals keeping up
  – Related fields
  – Puzzles
  – Security evangelists
  – Young field
  – Constant challenges
  – The hobbyist ideal
Thank you!

Schuyler Towne

schuyler@ndemag.com

NDE Magazine

TOOOL US