Making of
The DEFCON Documentary

Jason Scott & Rachel Lovinger
DEF CON 21, August 2, 2013
I. HOW IT BEGAN
BEFORE THE FIRST PERSON SHOOTER THERE WAS THE SECOND PERSON THINKER.

GET LAMP
A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ADVENTURES IN TEXT
I agreed to do it, but some questions remained...
How do you film hundreds of activities, happening simultaneously over 4 days?
How do you film people who have traditionally rejected media attention?
How do you capture the spirit of DEFCON – past and present?
How do you put it all together in 6 months?
II. PLANNING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>IMDB Link</th>
<th>Submitted by</th>
<th>Available?</th>
<th>RL</th>
<th>RS</th>
<th>NH</th>
<th>DC</th>
<th>OA</th>
<th>Netflix</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td>o</td>
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<td>matt</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>o</td>
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<td>o</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>83 min</td>
<td>Orson Welles examines antifce</td>
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<td>Fast, Cheap &amp; Out of Control</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>82 min</td>
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<td>115 min</td>
<td>documentary about Phillip Glass by Scott Hicks (Shine)</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Germanium on line</td>
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How do you film hundreds of activities, happening simultaneously over 4 days?
The Jason Scott Documentary Three Pack
by Jason Scott · You're a backer

A Fourth Documentary Appears

Update #25 - For backers only · Mar 29, 2012 · 5 comments

What?

This news is going to break wide any day now, and the backers always get first awareness when I can swing it, and that's certainly the case here.

So, about a month and a half ago, I was approached about doing a documentary for-pay, i.e. given a budget and a sum and a deadline and an expected output. I accepted, with the condition that I have essentially freedom to do it how I wanted.

This will be: DEFCON, the Documentary.

NOW, THE LAST BIT

As part of this project, I will be overseeing a staff of people who will be on the ground at DEFCON 20 to record the events. We'll be doing a mass of filming, which will then be ground down into the final work. I.e. I will need people who will be working terrible hours, in Las Vegas, at a hacker convention. I am requesting a hotel room for this, and will have the room for a few days past defcon so these sorry sacks of meat that were once happy human beings will be able to relax in style.

I think it only fair that I open this up to the backers first. If you want one of the most unpleasant filming experiences of your life, working under me, for a few days in Las Vegas, well today is your lucky day. As a caveat: If you are looking to attend DEFCON and were hoping to do so, do not do this way. I will work you (and myself) to death and you will not be sitting in any talks, any events, or seeing much of anything in a way a normal human being will want. OK?

To discuss details or interest or anything else, please mail me at jason@textfiles.com - we'll see if this is something you could do if you want to see me up close and personal and god knows whatever other horrors we will face in this, the 20th DEFCON.

That's it. Now you all know. Things, already exciting, just got more exciting.
Schedule

This Schedule is tentative and may be changed at any time

Key:

- Demonstration
- Tool Released
- Exploit

Jump to: Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday

Thursday, July 26th

Go to: Speakers / Events

08:00 - 22:00
Registration in the Rotunda - $200 USD CASH ONLY - Avoid the lines and get your badge early.

Official DEF CON Store in the Rotunda until 22:00 - Get your official DEF CON swag at the DEF CON Store.

Thursday Speaking Schedule

10:00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penn &amp; Teller</th>
<th>Track 1</th>
<th>Track 2</th>
<th>Track 3</th>
<th>Turbo Track</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Security</td>
<td>Breaking Wireless Encryption Keys</td>
<td>Databases</td>
<td>Unit $10.50</td>
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11:00
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shot</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Crew</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Status of shoot</th>
<th>Narrative Sketch</th>
<th>Interviews</th>
<th>B-Roll/Background Shots</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hacker Jeopardy</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Jason BLUE - Fri</td>
<td>Friday 9pm</td>
<td>Track 3</td>
<td>DONE</td>
<td>This is the legendary game show that has run for all of this conference. Rolling drinking games combined with a game show, the most legendary nights have included vendings, flipping out, near misses and all sorts of shenanigans. Sometimes it feels like a fun party that has gone wrong and other times it is sublime test of wits and wit. A secret but vital difference this year is the return of Bad Kitty, a retired adult performer turned teacher who is coming back to celebrate this special anniversary. Phone transcription.</td>
<td>* Any announcements or introduction of the competition</td>
<td>* The game being played</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Ball - MC</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>GREEN / RED</td>
<td>Friday 8pm-4am</td>
<td>Track 1</td>
<td>DONE</td>
<td>The black and white ball which plays on 2 different nights, is host to several special musical guests this year. Here a hardcore rapper and an 8 bit music group will be playing for the audience. We see hackers dancing and having a great time and performing on stage for the camera and being a part of the festivities.</td>
<td>* Interview the organizers about why they did it</td>
<td>* People drinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front Line, Minibosses,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* Ask about the return of Bad Kitty</td>
<td>* The audience watching the game</td>
<td>* Any shenanigans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goon Band</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* Interview participants about why they did it and what they think of the event</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Bag contest</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>RED</td>
<td>Saturday 1-5pm</td>
<td>Contest Area</td>
<td>DONE</td>
<td>The creators of gringo warrior, a high stakes packing and lockpicking role playing game, present black bag, and even more high stakes live role playing game. Interviews have been conducted with 1 of the organizers (Davoud Oblin). This should be an action packed contest as people use their computer skills and physical entry skills to win. Many will try, few will succeed.</td>
<td>* Any announcements or introduction of the competition</td>
<td>* People competing in the event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverage Cooling Contest</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>Saturday 1pm</td>
<td>Miranda Patio</td>
<td>DONE</td>
<td>The competition is to cool a beverage as quickly as possible to a cold temperature as possible, while still remaining a drinkable liquid. This has been going on for several years, and people have brought some pretty impressive ideas ranging from very low tech to very high tech. Some of them work incredibly well, and some go really poorly. Some result in the beverage being undrinkable (either because it’s no longer liquid or for other reasons) We have also reached a point where it’s almost physically impossible to get a faster or colder result, so they’re looking at changing some of the parameters of the competition to make it more challenging in other ways.</td>
<td>* Any announcements or introduction of the competition</td>
<td>* People getting their entries ready for presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crash and Compile</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>GREEN (early and</td>
<td>Saturday 8pm-Midnight</td>
<td>Palma G and</td>
<td>Assigned</td>
<td>This high spirited computer competition takes place across 2 packed evenings, where organizer Mark</td>
<td>* Hackers coding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>early and</td>
<td></td>
<td>Palma H</td>
<td></td>
<td>* Any announcements or introduction of the competition</td>
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**Crew**

- **Jason BLUE** - Friday, 9pm
- **RED** - Saturday, 9pm
- **GREEN / RED** - Friday, 8pm-4am
- **GREEN** - Saturday, 8pm-Midnight
- **GREEN (early and)** - Saturday, 8pm-Midnight

**Schedule**

- **Track 3**
- **Track 1**
- **Contest Area**
- **Palma G and Palma H**

**Where**

- **Field 3**
- **Field 1**
- **Field 2**
- **Field 0**

**Status of shoot**

- **DONE**

**Narrative Sketch**

- This is the legendary game show that has run for all of this conference. Rolling drinking games combined with a game show, the most legendary nights have included vendings, flipping out, near misses and all sorts of shenanigans. Sometimes it feels like a fun party that has gone wrong and other times it is sublime test of wits and wit. A secret but vital difference this year is the return of Bad Kitty, a retired adult performer turned teacher who is coming back to celebrate this special anniversary. Phone transcription.

**Interviews**

- * Any announcements or introduction of the competition
- * Interview the organizers about why they did it and what they think of the event
- * Ask about the return of Bad Kitty

**B-Roll/Background Shots**

- * The game being played
- * People drinking
- * The audience watching the game
- * Any shenanigans

**Comments**

- * Performances
- * People hanging out
- * People dressed up in interesting outfits
- * Interviews about the party and general questions about DEFCON
- * If there’s a green room or a dressing room, try to get in with the bands to talk about DEFCON and their own thoughts on hacking, and what they think of this party they’ve been brought into.

**Social**

- * Interviews about the party and general questions about DEFCON
- * If there’s a green room or a dressing room, try to get in with the bands to talk about DEFCON and their own thoughts on hacking, and what they think of this party they’ve been brought into.

**Links**

- * Interviews about the party and general questions about DEFCON
- * If there’s a green room or a dressing room, try to get in with the bands to talk about DEFCON and their own thoughts on hacking, and what they think of this party they’ve been brought into.

**Extra**

- * Any announcements or introduction of the competition
- * Interview participants about why they did it and what they think of the event
- * Film people presenting their entries
- * Film the end and the announcement of the winner

**Questions & Tasks**

- * Interviews about the party and general questions about DEFCON
- * If there’s a green room or a dressing room, try to get in with the bands to talk about DEFCON and their own thoughts on hacking, and what they think of this party they’ve been brought into.

**Shooting Schedule**

- * Interviews about the party and general questions about DEFCON
- * If there’s a green room or a dressing room, try to get in with the bands to talk about DEFCON and their own thoughts on hacking, and what they think of this party they’ve been brought into.
How do you film people who have traditionally rejected media attention?
DOCUMENTARY
III. PRE-PRODUCTION
Meet the crew
Prepping them for DEFCON

- Start walking a little every day
- Watch “Comic-Con Episode IV: A Fan's Hope”
- Bring comfortable clothes and shoes
- Look over the schedule from last year
- Respect security and privacy concerns
- Stay fueled and hydrated
Eddie Codel

LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE
FROM AUSTIN TX
MARCH 16 - MARCH 19

8bit Chiptunes

MakerBot TV
Meet the equipment
The Gear

- 3x Canon Vixia HFG10
- 2x Canon 5D
- 1x Canon 7D
- 11x Kodak Playsports
- 4x H4N Zoom recorders
- 5x monopods
- 3x tripods
- 2x dual battery chargers
- Power strip
- USB chargers
- Card readers
- Hard drives
- Segway
Social Media
DEFCON Documentary

Bits and bobs on the path to the upcoming DEFCON Documentary.

[Latest Tweets]

Spoiler alert: Now you are ALL movie stars.

We continue to add new people to the IMDB entry as we determine which of you are not movie stars already, and what names you want to use.

The IMDB entry:
http://t.co/P4UJm2whH7

The DEFCON Documentary premieres at DEFCON XXI at 5pm just 8 days.

We figure that we and others will really backfill the IMDB after the premiere, as people will know they're in it and add themselves.

We're adding IMDB entries as we go, making sure people don't already have other IMDB credits and how they want their names shown.

[On the shoot]: Fabricated DEFCON logo hanging in the loft of 23b shop.

Posted 1 year ago

2 notes
IV. PRODUCTION
How do you capture the spirit of DEFCON – past and present?
The crew assembles at DEFCON
“Film School” bootcamp

- Cameras DOWN near the casino
- Expect the unexpected
- Defer to the Goons in all things
- Mid-day check-ins to recharge batteries & copy footage & audio files
- Stay hydrated
- Communications: TBD
  - Give me your receipts
Shot List - Friday

**RED Crew**
- **By 10am:** Welcome to Defcon (Track 1)
- **By 11am:** Intro to Documentary (Track 1)
- **When we leave the stage:** General Alexander (Speaker Room?)
- **12pm:** General Alexander talk (Track 1)
  
  **GREEN Crew**
  - **By 10am:** Welcome to Defcon (Track 1)
  - **By 11am:** Intro to Documentary (Track 1)
  - **By 12pm:** Tamper Evident Contest (Contest Area)
  
  **BLUE Crew**
  - **9am-10:30ish:** Scavenger Hunt (Drew & Rachel, Contest Room)
  - **By 11am:** Intro to Documentary (Track 1)
  - **When we leave the stage:** General Alexander (Speaker Room?)
  - **12pm:** General Alexander talk (Track 1)
  
  **Any Crew - as Opportunity Arises**
  - Friday Pool Party 7pm-2am
  - People checking into / loading into hotel with computer gear
  - Black Badge Holders

**GREEN Crew**
- **By 10am:** Welcome to Defcon (Track 1)
- **By 11am:** Intro to Documentary (Track 1)
- **By 12pm:** Tamper Evident Contest (Contest Area)
  
  **GREEN Crew**
  - **4 or 4:30pm:** Interview Cory (TBD)
  - **9:30pm:** Defcon Military Veteran Meetup (Wireless Village)
  - **After that:** Black Ball (Track 1)

**JASON**
- **By 10am:** Welcome to Defcon (Track 1)
- **By 11am:** Intro to Documentary (Track 1)
- **12pm:** Q&A (Q&A 1)
  
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**JASON**
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Black Bag Contest 1pm (noon setup)

Hack Fortress

CTF

Beverage Cooling Contest 1p, Miranda Patio

Defcon Kids Copy Keynote 3pm Belize 1pm

Room Video

DC Kids Hardware + soldering 3p, Belize Joe Grand

Mystery Challenge (started Internal Thursday?)

Mohawk con Mullet con days contest area

Badge Contest When? Joe Grand

Crash and Compile 8 - midnight Palma G + H

Hacker Jeopardy J

Contest Area (Red)

BroCTF Contest Room

Ilan, Belize

Pick Image Daily Tropical

Anytime

Ilan, Antio's Restaurant
Then we started filming...
Missing Reel

Sorry for the inconvenience - Management
“We can’t have you shoot from that angle. This machine violates the patriot act.”
First, The Kaminsky Problem

- At multiple cons, over multiple years, speaking in opposite rooms
- Getting rather ridiculous
- I have yet to see any of his talks live

DakaRand Flow

- Short version
  - Push all bits into a SHA-256
    - Don’t undercount entropy
  - Only count them as entropy if Neumann’s debiasing check succeeds
  - Count 1’s to decide whether
  - Throw away 00 and 11 counts
Frequently Asked Questions
FAQs: Pretty straight forward

• Who are you working for?
• When is this documentary coming out?
• How will it be made available?
• Will there be a feelie/challenge coin?
• What if I don't want to be in it?
• How much have you guys shot?
• Are you guys getting any sleep?
• What kind of equipment are you using?
FAQs: Let's talk about these

- If I agree to be in it, will I be embarrassed?
- What kind of badge is that? Can I scan your badge?
- I need help.
- Who do I have to roofie to get one of those vests?
- Do you want a drink?
- You guys should do this every year.
If I agree to be in it, will I be embarrassed?
What kind of badge is that?
Can I scan your badge?
I need help.
Who do I have to roofie to get one of those vests?
Do you want a drink?
You guys should do this every year.
No breakage,
no lost equipment,
no lost footage.
V. EDITING & FINALIZING
How do you put it all together in 6 months?

You don’t.
VI. CONCLUSIONS
Documentary making is hard,
DEFCON Documentary making is doubly hard
If all else fails, include a Segway
Alex will always get in a shot
Alex will *always* get in a shot
Aim high with the goals, especially when nobody has tried something like this before.
Ok, now who want to see some bonus footage?
Thanks

- Contact us: documentary@textfiles.com
- Twitter: @defcondoc

- Most images shown were shot by our crew
- Additional photos from amishrabit (Dateline reporter fleeing), vissago (various DC19 & DC20), hackerphotos.com (various DC20), Thomas Hawk (Walgreens), Nicola (drugstore)