

wth 2005

stephan humer

digital identities and the
power of hacking

free university of berlin
chaos computer club

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

1. introduction

2. at a glance

3. present research results

4. questions

5. the future

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

1 . introduction

1 .special thanks to the audience

2.personal introduction

3.status

4.area of expertise

5.containment of the lecture

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

1 . introduction

1 .special thanks to the audience

1 .technology together with social science

2.technicians are not automatically
interested in social impacts

3.but the necessity is there due to the times
we live in

1 .more complex machines

2.digital everyday life

3.digital effects on our identity

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

1 . introduction

2. personal introduction

- digitally working since 1986
- online since 1992 („the internet“)
- technician -> social scientist

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

1 . introduction

3. status

- free university of berlin
- department of political and social sciences, institute of sociology
- chaos computer club berlin
- editor of G064!

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

1 . introduction

4. area of expertise

- sociology, psychology, journalism
- cultural sociology, historical anthropology, cultural studies, media and technical sociology

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

1 . introduction

5. containment of the lecture

- short summary of recent research activities
- hacking („good and bad“: hacker vs. cracker)
- chats and online games
- data privacy and security

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

2. at a glance

1. questions of the presentation information
text shown on wth program website
2. the imaginary of the internet
3. digitality and imagination
4. potentials of digital identities – imagination
and reality in the contradictory context of
hacking, chatting and the protection of data
privacy and security

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

2. at a glance

1. questions of the presentation information
text shown on wth program website
 1. what creates our identity?
 2. what creates our *digital* identity?
 3. which part do we create, which one is the work of others?
 4. is it possible to manipulate us deep inside?

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

2. at a glance

2. the imaginary of the internet

1. internet and society – theories and impacts
2. media and society – the effect of the „s-i-s“ formula
3. realization and expansion – imaginary, but real

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

2. at a glance

4. potentials of digital identities – imagination and reality in the contradictory context of hacking, chatting and the protection of data privacy and security

very important is the general meaning:

- aggressive level (ingoing)
- progressive level (outgoing)
- protective level (core)

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

3. present research results

1. detailed illustration
2. research examples
3. research methodology
4. data collection
5. present times and the future

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

3. present research results

1 .detailed illustration

- 1 .the new character of identity
- 2.new fundamentals of identity: digitality and imagination
- 3.cultural analysis and the relevance for the understanding of identity
- 4.history and development of identity
- 5.present chances and risks
- 6.the responsibility of the individual
- 7.cultural projections of technical revolutions

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

3. present research results

2. research examples

- scripture
- depiction
- relational reversions
- data privacy and security
- possibilities and limitations

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

3. present research results

3. research methodology

based on

1. cultural sociology
2. historical anthropology
3. cultural studies

4. media sociology
5. technical sociology
6. psychology
7. educational science

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

3. present research results

4. data collection

1. sources
2. material
3. experience

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

3. present research results

5. present times and the future

examples of todays problems

- identity theft (i.e. phishing, keylogging)
- viruses, malware, spyware, extortionware, adware, etc.
- communication in general
- anonymity, privacy, security, etc.
- combinations of digital and non-digital problems

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

4. questions

1. methodology and the future
2. pace of developments
3. analysis and their appropriateness for future problems

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

4. questions

1 .methodology and the future

1 .cultural sociology

2.cultural studies

3.ethnography

4.psychology

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

4. questions

2. pace of developments

1. always respect the pace
2. working double tracked to analyze
 - > the individual problem
 - > the procedure behind it

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

4. questions

3. analysis and their appropriateness for future problems
 1. young discipline
 2. changes come quick and technology ages
 - chance of understanding technology
 - chance of developing a historical guide
 - risk of losing track of developments
 3. usability of existing methods

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

5. the future

- 1 .the project itself
- 2.methodology and further developments
- 3.connecting factors in the future of research
- 4.services for the scientific community and externals

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

5. the future

1 .the project itself

- 1 .data collection
- 2.development of basic issues
- 3.refining the methodology
- 4.importance of todays identity
- 5.literary models and influences (the matrix)
- 6.cultural projections

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

5. the future

2. methodology and further developments

1. methods from macroscopic to binary
2. always an invitation to think beyond the ordinary
3. forget pure empiricism – culture and society: more complex

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

5. the future

3. connecting factors in the future of research

- new technologies (macroscopic level)
- problems (microscopic level)
- popular and scientific topics

stephan humer @ wth 2005

digital identities and the power of hacking

5. the future

4. services within the scientific community and for interested externals

- network building
- taking part in ongoing scientific and technical discussions
- ethnographically exploring new technologies
- analyzing problems and theories (mainly data privacy and security due to the meaning of this core element)
- ...

stephan humer @ wth 2005
digital identities and the power of hacking

stephan humer
institute of sociology
free university of berlin

wth@humer.de
shhhhh@jabber.ccc.de

postfach, 10724 berlin
germany