

## Lesson 26: Reading comprehension

# The early HACKERS

We hear news stories about hacking every day. But who were the first hackers? And where are they now?

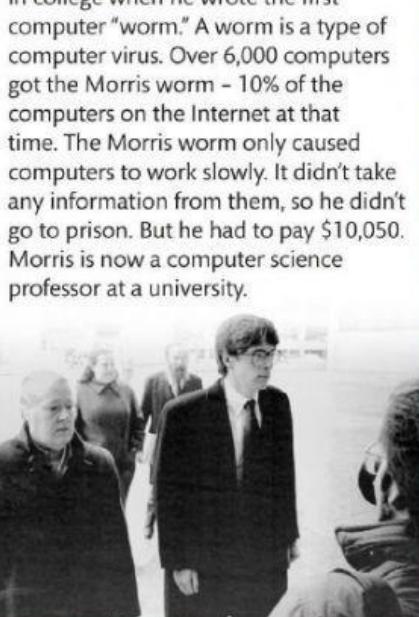


**John Draper** was one of the first hackers. He discovered how to hack the U.S. phone system with ... a toy whistle, free in a box of cereal! With the whistle, Draper could make free phone calls. After an article about the discovery appeared in a popular magazine, the police arrested Draper. But he didn't go to prison, that time.

Later Draper taught two young computer students to hack the phone system. Who were they? Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak – the founders of Apple computers! Draper now organizes hacking conferences.



In the 1960s and 1970s, phone companies used sounds to control the phone system. Draper used a toy whistle to make these sounds. The result? Free phone calls!



**Robert Tappan Morris** was studying in college when he wrote the first computer "worm." A worm is a type of computer virus. Over 6,000 computers got the Morris worm – 10% of the computers on the Internet at that time. The Morris worm only caused computers to work slowly. It didn't take any information from them, so he didn't go to prison. But he had to pay \$10,050. Morris is now a computer science professor at a university.



Like Draper, **Kevin Poulsen** was interested in hacking phone systems. But he used a computer to control the phone system. One day, there was a radio competition: the 102<sup>nd</sup> person to phone the radio station won a Porsche car! Kevin used his hacking skills and won the car easily. In total, Poulsen won two Porsches, two vacations in Hawaii, and \$20,000! The police tried to arrest Poulsen, but he escaped. They caught him eighteen months later while he was shopping in a supermarket. He spent five years in prison. Poulsen now writes for a magazine.



79 Read the profiles of three hackers. Complete the sentences with *Draper*, *Morris*, or *Poulsen*.

- 1 Draper didn't use a computer to hack something.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ now teaches students.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ is now a journalist.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ shared his hacking secrets with some famous people.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ went to prison after the police arrested him in a store.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't trying to commit a crime.

Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 What did Draper learn to do?

He learned to hack the U.S. phone system / make free phone calls.

- 2 How did the police discover his hacking?

---

- 3 How many computers were using the Internet when Morris wrote his worm?

a 6,000      b 16,000      c 60,000

- 4 Why didn't Morris go to prison?

---

---

- 5 What did Poulsen win?

---

---

- 6 Where did the police catch him?

