

1) The Rural Problem

I don't live in a big city, how can I get enough people together?

- Renting space is cheap!
- If you build it, they will come!
- Fewer “distractions” = more committed people.
- More opportunities for redevelopment

(Texarkana)



2) The Urban Problem

I live in a big city, good spaces are so expensive!

- There's more people to help pay the rent
- More potential members closer to a central point
- More existing groups to draw members from

(Hacklab.to)



3) The People Problem

I don't know anyone who wants to start a hackerspace in my area

- Put up a web page
- Go to tech, art, burner, 2600 DCG, LUG, etc. meetings
- Subscribe to all their mailing lists and post actively
- Meet on Tuesday, make them believe

(HacChicago)



4) The Politics Problem

I know lots of people who want to start a hackerspace, but there's drama!

- "He who does is right."
- Find the quiet, dependable people in your group and start building
- Make everyone contribute equally
- Use sudo leadership

(Noisebridge)



5) The Time Problem

I don't have the time to do it!

- Make time to get enough people involved, agree on duties, distribute the workload
- Find people with time and not a lot of money!
(Students)
- Run creative events that make people want to spend time on building a space!

(C4)



6) The Money Problem

We can't get enough sponsors, we don't want to sell out, it costs too much, etc

- Start small. Get people contributing dues immediately
- Be Independent. Make sure members can equally cover the rent and basic overhead
- Find people with money who may not have the time to help!

(NYCResistor)



7) The “Not Enough Problem”

**I don't have any furniture, tools or equipment.
I don't know how to (x), I just know how to (y).**

- If you have a space, people will give you stuff
(Note: You will have to throw most of this stuff out or sell it at cons.)
- Show people that you're building a space where tools will get used
- Get people who are in your interest base, but outside your expertise base

(The Hacktory!)



8) The “Reaching Out” Problem

**I have lots of tools and I know lots of things.
But people are stupid! They break stuff. They
don't listen.**

- Find a few people who are as skilled as you are, or create them!
- Mentor people. Find those who are interested in learning by doing and slowly give them more responsibility

(NYCResistor)



9) The Trust Problem

How can I trust people? There are lots of freaks out there. They steal. I can't open up my space to the world!

- Don't be Microsoft. The problems of being closed and exclusive are much, much worse than the problems of being open and inclusive
- Also, freaks make good minions

(Metalab)



10) The "Hacker" Problem

If I say Hackerspace, people are going to think we are criminals

- Show them the true meaning of the word Hacker. Build small, nice projects, offer tech support, show them existing spaces.
- Win over the doubters. Help take back the term.
- Be full of WIN (Like Kelly + Astera)

(C4)

