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2008-2009 Watson Fellow
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Without A Traceroute

**Traveling the world hanging out with
hackers**

Who am I?

- Brendan McCollam
 - Neuroscience major, Pomona College (Los Angeles, CA)
 - Worked for the IT department
 - General-purpose computer nerd
 - 2008 Watson Fellowship recipient (www.watsonfellowship.org)



What is the Watson Fellowship?

- From the website: *The mission of the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Program is to offer college graduates of unusual promise a year of independent, purposeful exploration and travel outside of the United States in order to enhance their capacity for resourcefulness, imagination, openness, and leadership and to foster their humane and effective participation in the world community.*
- Basically, you make up some crazy project that you're really interested in, and they give you \$28,000 to do it.
 - Examples of Watson Projects:
 - Spanish sports slang in South America.
 - Evolution of outrigger canoes in Polynesia.
 - The effect of four ant species' behavior.
 - The culture of ultimate frisbee

Wait, who pays for this?

- The Watson Foundation, established in 1961 by Jeannette K. Watson, the widow of Thomas J. Watson Sr., the founder of IBM as a charitable trust for his wealth.
- In 1968, TJ Watson Jr., established the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship.



PUSCII, Utrecht, Netherlands

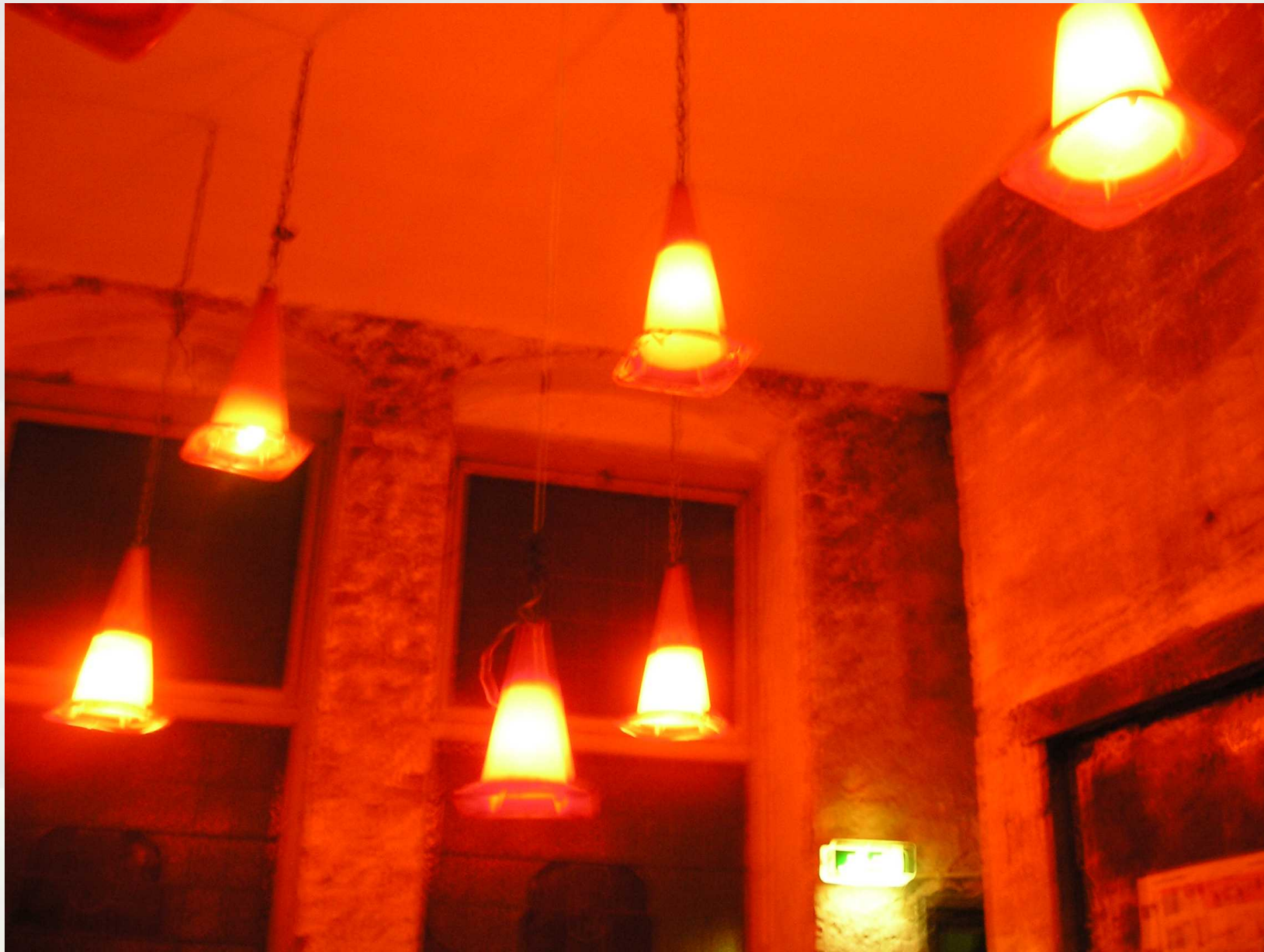
- <http://puscii.squat.net/>



PUSCII, Utrecht, Netherlands



PUSCII, Utrecht, Netherlands



EU Data Retention Conference, Budapest



EU Data Retention Conference, Budapest



EU Data Retention Conference, Budapest



EU Data Retention Conference, Budapest



Italian Hackmeeting, Palermo, Italy



Italian Hackmeeting, Palermo, Italy



Italian Hackmeeting, Palermo, Italy



C-Base, Berlin, Germany



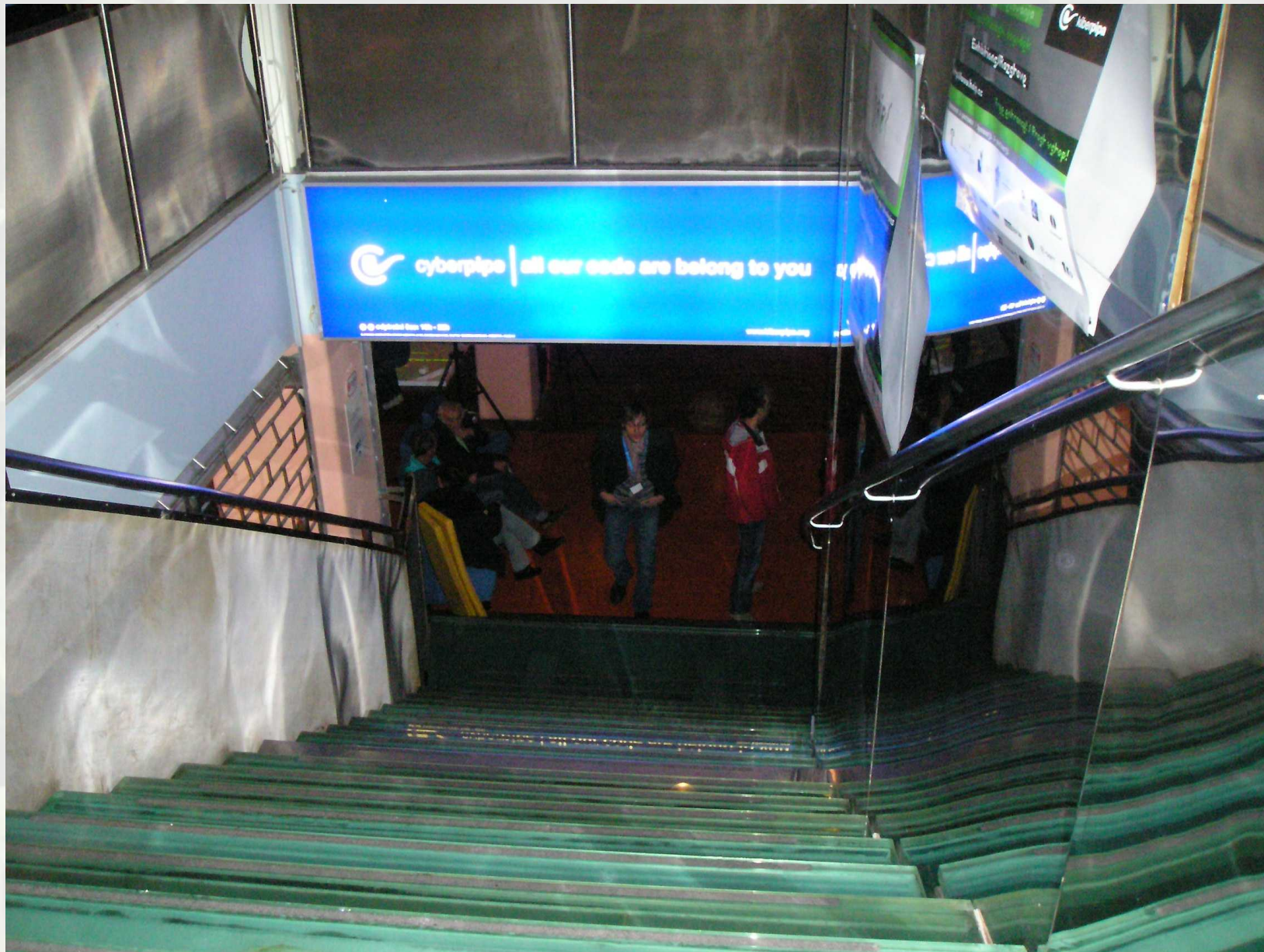
C-Base, Berlin, Germany



C-Base, Berlin, Germany



Kiberpipa, Ljubljana, Slovenia



The types of people I've met

- Pure/"true" hackers:
 - Concerned with technology for its own sake.
 - Generally less-political
 - Intuitive understand of "hack value" without the need for application.

```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
mccollam@TinyTim: ~
top - 18:56:05 up 2:34, 1 user, load average: 0.85, 0.73, 0.65
Tasks: 112 total, 1 running, 111 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
Cpu(s): 6.0%us, 1.0%sy, 0.2%ni, 77.6%id, 15.3%wa, 0.0%hi, 0.0%si, 0.0%st
Mem: 1028948k total, 935224k used, 91724k free, 8612k buffers
Swap: 0k total, 0k used, 0k free, 378416k cached

  PID USER   PR  NI  VIRT  RES  SHR  S %CPU  %MEM    TIME+  COMMAND
 6085 mccollam 20   0 234m 119m 26m  S  5 11.9 22:13.26 firefox
 5215 root      20   0 346m 35m  10m  S  2  3.5 11:03.46 Xorg
 8587 mccollam 20   0 256m 106m 58m  S  1 10.6 13:20.27 soffice.bin
 4851 messageb 20   0 2868 1332 792  S  1  0.1 0:33.84 dbus-daemon
 4865 root      20   0 18216 5504 1768  S  1  0.5 0:59.55 wicd
 5733 mccollam 20   0 33220 21m  10m  S  1  2.2 0:14.84 wicd-client
 5737 mccollam 20   0 25048 10m  7296  S  1  1.0 0:19.58 gnome-power-man
 5964 mccollam 20   0 74686 20m  10m  S  1  2.1 0:01.70 gnome-terminal
25022 mccollam 20   0 2308 1116 852  R  1  0.1 0:00.30 top
   1 root      20   0 2844 1692 544  S  0  0.2 0:00.76 init
   2 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.00 kthreadd
   3 root      RT  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.06 migration/0
   4 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.26 ksoftirqd/0
   5 root      RT  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.00 watchdog/0
   6 root      RT  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.06 migration/1
   7 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.62 ksoftirqd/1
   8 root      RT  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.00 watchdog/1
   9 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.28 events/0
  10 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.10 events/1
  11 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.00 khelper
  40 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.56 kblockd/0
  41 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.16 kblockd/1
  44 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.18 kacpid
  45 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.00 kacpi_notify
 132 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.12 kseriod
 174 root      20   0   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.34 pdflush
 175 root      20   0   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.24 pdflush
 176 root      15  -5   0   0  0  S  0  0.0 0:00.08 ksvcpd0
```

The types of people I've met

- Tech Activists:
 - “That's great, but how does this bring about the revolution?”
 - Generally way more paranoid and harder to get in touch with.
 - Tend to be narrowly focused: security, communication, organization.



The types of people I've met

- Artists:
 - Also concerned about application of technology.
 - Generally the easiest group to get in touch with.
 - Usually are trying to say something, to communicate an idea.



Where do I go from here?

- Probably Croatia, Poland, France, back to Berlin; then Argentina, Chile, Mexico and maybe Brazil.
- If you have any contacts you think I'd enjoy visiting, I'd love to hear from you!
- brendan@withoutatraceroute.com
- Thanks to Kiberpipa for having me, and thanks to the Watson Foundation for giving me such an awesome opportunity.