Chapter 8
TOG Hackerspace

ABSTRACT

The TOG Dublin Hackerspace has been in existence since 2009 with a membership base of 73 users in 2017. The space is located in central Dublin, Ireland within easy walking distance of a number of public transport areas. The space is a not-for-profit business with shareholders and associate members who hold voting rights. The stated objectives of the space are to advance science, technology, modern culture, and the creative arts in the Dublin area. As such, the space is strictly non-commercial and does not provide manufacturing services. The space does not provide areas for or encourage start-ups or other types of commercial activity and self-police of members' activities. Known for its rubber duck mascot, TOG participates in a number of community-based activities like the Dublin Maker Faire and other events. The space also organizes a number of events and workshops open to the public and for members to connect and create learning communities around machines and group interests. This chapter explores TOG Hackerspace.

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Our main objective is a society for the advancement of science. That's our main objective and then our second objective is to provide a shared workspace for our members. We don't have that strict goal of educating the public. It's not part of our agreement. It's one of our secondary goals, it's not our main goal. — Jeffrey Roe

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Within walking distance from the iconic O'Connell Street Bridge, the TOG hackerspace serves the city of Dublin as the only physical makerspace operating at the time of the author's visit. TOG received its name from the shortened Gaelic word thógáil, now tóg, which can be interpreted in English "to build." Located in a commercial building with a kitchen, loading bay and meeting areas, the group started in 2009 with 17 people; at the time of the author's visit the membership totaled 73. Jeffrey Roe, a c0-ofounder of the TOG hackspace, provided a tour and answered the interview questions. The current location is the third "station house" or physical location for the group. The current space met the requirements of a kitchen and an open floor plan, with a total of 5,920 ft^2 (550 m^2). Moving into the space from the entry-way there is a keyed door that then opens into the common room, as shown in Figure 1. The common room has tables, chairs, and couches, plus games, books and snacks.

Moving past the common room there is a classroom space that is used on open nights when the public is free to attend the space. Roe indicated that every few months they have been adding walls and partitioning the space as funding becomes available. The classroom can hold up to 12 people and has a blackboard along one wall, sewing machines, large format printers, vinyl cutters, 3D printer, and a 3D printer graveyard as shown in Figure 2.

The next room in the space is the electronics room, as shown in Figure 3. In the space there is a wide variety of oscilloscopes, cables and components en masse around the room.

In the corner of the electronics room is a laser cutter that was sourced and built by members of the space, as shown in Figure 4. Roe referred to this as an open source laser cutter; the plans were obtained online, and the components were individually purchased then assembled. The space shopped around for components and was able to find the lowest price on each, which brought the total cost of the 100-watt cutter to around $8000. Roe indicated that the laser cutter is the most popular of the digital fabrication tools because of its

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