

Welcome to Interlock Rochester

As a new member, it's important that we give you the information you need to succeed in the group. This document gives you an explanation about what you can expect as a new member, where we came from, and where you can go to start interacting with the group.

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1115 E. Main St
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HACK

MAKE

LEARN

Being A Member

Membership Rights and Responsibility

As a new member, you are granted access to all of the offerings of Interlock. Our member benefits are always changing but here are some of the things you can expect:

- 24x7 access to the hackerspace
- Access to tools and hardware
- Electronic parts and equipment like oscilloscope, LEDs, breadboards, multimeters
- A voting right in all official Interlock decisions like purchases, upgrades, or design changes
- Access to classes and member only meetings
- Discounts on materials for group projects or classes
- Access to networking services like file sharing, virtual server hosting, and email
- Internet access 15mb/5mb
- Discounts to local organizations
- Dedicated space to keep your gear and projects you've been working on

As for responsibilities, we've put together a list that helps keep members happy while allowing the freedom to do whatever interests you have. Here are some of the main ones:

- Be excellent to each other
- Attend monthly meetings
- Contribute to the group
- Pay your dues on time

Contributing

Contributing to the group is pretty simple. You can teach us something, volunteer at an event, take care of some administrative tasks, or just improve something we've started.

We like to learn things in a hands-on way. If you have a project, we welcome you to show it off, show us how it works and in the same way, maybe you'll find a member that can help. A good time to discuss your projects are in a member report. For more information read how the monthly meetings work.

Interlock attends, sponsors, and throws lots of events. Sometimes we need volunteers to run a table, take part in a presentation, or just represent by wearing an Interlock shirt.

We are a member driven group so there are some non-hacker things you can do too like buying drinks for the fridge, taking out the garbage, cleaning up a mess, re-organizing an area, that will add to your hacker karma.

Finally if you see something that you think you could improve upon, do it!

Do-ocracy / Church of Do

Interlock, like other hackerspaces, is filled with people with great ideas and a lot of knowledge but sometimes putting those ideas into an actionable project is difficult. We promote the idea of that if you do something, then it is done. Let me give you an example.

The group decides to paint a bike shed and someone says, "what color should we paint it?" Everyone gives their opinion, Mark wants to paint it black, Brian wants to paint it lime green, Ashley wants pink stripes with lightning bolts, and Alan doesn't care but has a bike he wants to put in the shed. After days of discussion and heated debate of why pink stripes and lightning bolts is better than black, the bike shed hasn't been painted and everyone has become bored with the idea in general. Alan's bike has rusted because he had to leave it outside in the rain.

The Do-Ocracy is the countermeasure to this situation. When there becomes a point where the idea is being "bike shed'd," just do it. Make a decision yourself of what color you want and paint the bike shed. Alan can put the bike in the shed and it turns out that Mark and Ashley don't mind that you painted it red in the end.

Do you want to reorganize the tables to fit your needs? Do it. Do you want a better way to organize events? Do it. Do you want hang a poster, setup a computer, make something a different color? Do it. If you don't do it, it may never get done.

Meetings

On the first Tuesday of every month, an official member meeting takes place. Group decisions and officer reports are done during this time. The meetings are designed to be extremely quick with least discussion as possible. An ideal meeting would last less than 1 minute where everything was discussed prior to that night and all that was left was final approval.

The meetings follow the rules of MIBS which are simplified rules for coordinated consensus through chaos and they are:

- Keep meetings as short as possible
- Handle problems outside of meetings
- Keep drama manageable

See the wiki page on MIBs for more information.

Communication

It's tough to keep track of what everyone is doing at the space so we want to outline all of the forms of communication that we use to help you stay on top of what's going on.

Mailing List

groups.google.com/group/interlock-rochester

Our discussion mailing list is very active with communications between members. We ask that you are on this list so that you can receive announcements for upcoming meetings and decisions. Day to day discussions range from Ham Radio enthusiasts talking about their hardware, to an email asking the list for help on a website.

IRC Channel

[irc.freenode.org#interlock](https://irc.freenode.org/#interlock)

A lot of our members hang out in our IRC channel on Freenode. Fire up your favorite IRC client and join in the live discussion.

Wiki

[Interlockroc.org/wiki](https://interlockroc.org/wiki)

Our wiki is filled with information about Interlock. It keeps the meeting minutes from past meetings, documents the network design, keeps track of projects people are working on, and hundreds of other important factoids of information. It's a wiki so you'll notice some anarchy when it comes to organization so we all help out to keep it cleaned up for important information. Check out the main page for most of the important items.

Website

www.interlockroc.org

Our Website highlights the events and completed projects of our members as well as keeping an up to date calendar of what's going on. If you have something that you'd like to add to the website, send a request to the list and we'll put it up. There's also a web team that manages our Internet facing presence so if you have the skills, time, or interest, we'd love to have you.

Meetup.com

Meetup.com/Rochester-Hackerspace

Meetup.com is the site we used to start the organization of the group. We keep track of our events using it's scheduling features.

Twitter

@interlockroc

Our twitter account is basically used for social announcements. Follow us and RT to help get our name out to the public.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/pages/Interlock-Rochester/198421751824

Facebook has a page for us and we sometimes use it to keep track of events. Will you be our friend?

Phone Number

585.210.8HAK

This is our phone number that calls directly to the space.

Mailing Address

1115 E. Main St
Box #68
Rochester, NY 14609

You've already found the actual space, but this is our mailing address.

Background

Formation

Interlock Rochester began forming in the fall of 2009 when a group of people got together at a coffee shop to discuss organizing a hackerspace in Rochester. They quickly found a space at the Hungerford Building in the downtown area and moved forward in forming a Not For Profit Corporation.

Now Interlock Rochester maintains a 1000+ ft² hackerspace and is a New York State approved Not For Profit organization with the eventual goal of being a 501c(3) NFP.

Name

One of the first group decisions was to come up with a name for the Rochester Hackerspace. Some of the other names that were brought up were Lock 66, Whitenoise, Makerworks, Rochester Make Space(RMS), Makechester, RocHak, Grokchester, Garbage Plate Hackers, and many others. Check out the wiki page under naming to see the ideas that we came up with. In the end Interlock Rochester was agreed upon because it allowed interpretation of a lot of the different interests of the group. If you think about it, programming, making, security, networking, community could all be related to the word interlock.

Space

The Hungerford Building on E. Main St is the current home of Interlock. We looked at a lot of other places like a spot next door to a roof top skate park on St. Paul St., a giant barn in Henrietta, and an old illegal gambling building and a lot of others. The Hungerford ended up being our home because of cost, location, and the type of people that were already in the building. Our land lord has been open to all of our projects and easy to work with.

The number 42 was specifically chosen as the address. The space we inhabit didn't exist as that number until we requested it. You may have read the "Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy". In it, a group of hyper-intelligent mice create a super computer to calculate the answer to the "Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything." After seven and a half million years of calculation, the answer finally turns out to be 42.

Operating Costs

We are a 100% member driven organization which means that all of our operating costs are paid off with your membership dues. We have a goal to make our finances open to members so they know exactly where their money is going. Every month we have the following monthly costs

- Rent (including heat) \$464

- Electricity \$120
- Internet Connection \$153

All of the rest of the money is saved up for purchases decided upon by the group or incidentals throughout the year.

Corporate Structure

Part of the legalities behind forming a NFP corporation was the assignment of officers and directors. The bylaws are structured so that the officers have no authority and few responsibilities. This allows all decisions to be made by the group as a whole. For more information, see the Bylaws page on the Wiki.