Through the Lens Geekly: How SysAdmins Are Portrayed in Pop Culture

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Note to people downloading this presentation:

When I gave this presentation in 2003, I included examples (fair use sized/quantity) for each of the points. I can't include those examples here for legal reasons, so I'm afraid this particular talk won't be particularly interesting in the play-at-home version. Sorry!

-- dNb

Rating Information

G | GENERAL AUDIENCES
All Ages Admitted ®

Potential spoilers also enclosed!

Portrayed in Whose Popular Culture?

Sorry!

It is what I know best....

What Media

- Least common denominator approach:

Why Question is Hard

SysAdmin

Programmer

Hacker/Cracker

Random Computer Person

The Human Brain
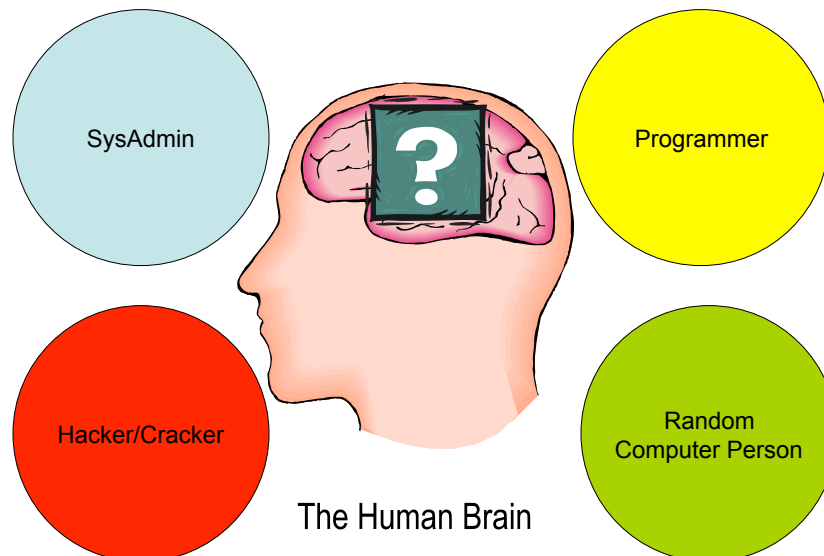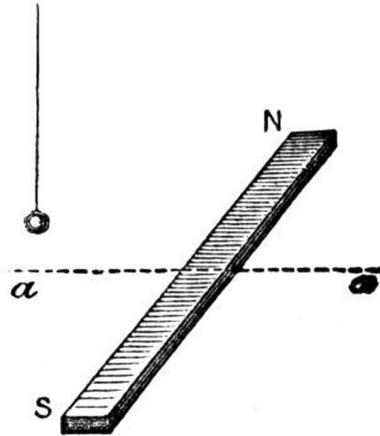
The Three Stereotype Polarities

- Competence

- Morality

- Hipness

Very Competent

Highly Competent

Too Competent

Much Too Competent

Incompetent

How evil?

Hero

Not Nice:
Condescending

Not Nice:
Condescending and Mean

Villain/Arch-villain

What is Hip?

- Dress
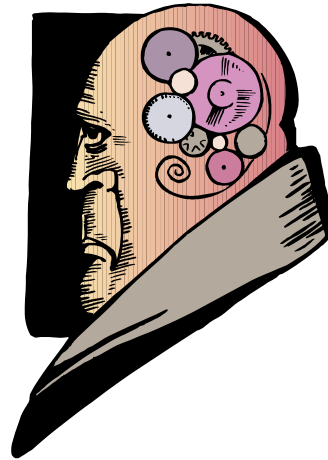
- Social graces & Style

- Humor

Uncool

Really Uncool

Musings

- Really all about people's attitudes towards **computers** and **technology**
- Computers are:
  - Competent or Incompetent
  - Good or Evil
  - Hip or Un-hip (read: the other)

One idea for what to do about it

- A great therapist I know said:
  - know common fears
  - Acknowledge stereotypes/dynamics
    - "lots of time people think that..."
  - work to act differently (present contradiction)

≈ Thanks To ≈

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