

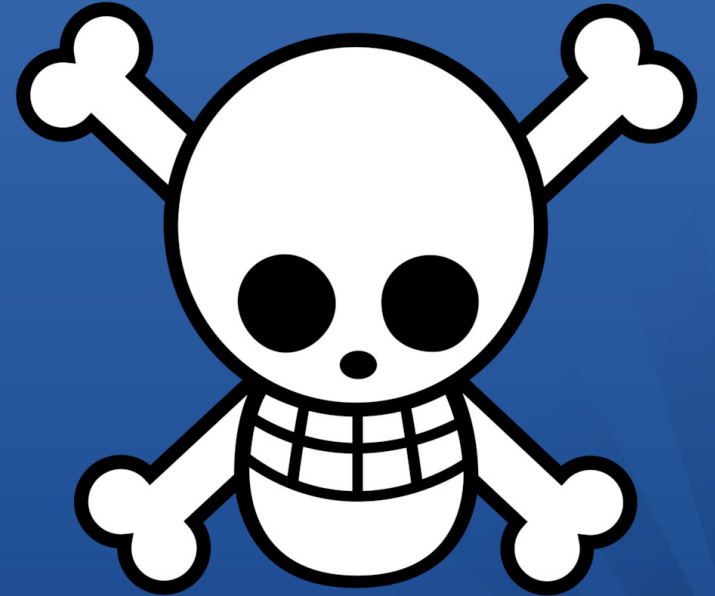
The Pirate Box! Yarr, Matey!

A quick little talk about an off-grid way to share files with others!

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Hack Manhattan, NYC

Open Hacker Consortium



The Pirate Box! Yarr, Matey!

Who am I?

- Currently: Beta tester and advocate for Veilid Framework
- Member of DC212, friend of DC615 and DC423, working to become runner of DC201
- Working to educate people on the importance of privacy and security for personal devices
- Budding pirate DJ
- Past: developer of the Rockbox open source jukebox firmware project (<https://www.rockbox.org>)
- Volunteer member of NYLUG and their Hack Workshop coordinator and teacher
- Future: Always open!



What Is the Pirate Box?

- TL;DR, a SBC, router, or other device that shares files over a LAN/WLAN (mesh networking is also part of this)
- An educational device to teach the public about online censorship, surveillance, and freedom of speech
- PRIVACY!! No logs or access information collected from users!
- More education! Teaching users and devs about networking and system design!
- Optionally, a communications network as well! Message boards, chat rooms, a forum... it can be done!
- Despite the name, it's not just about piracy!

Okay, how do I build one?

- Basic components are easy enough
- Key parts: SBC, OS, portable router, portable storage (and this is where the fun lies!)
- Original Pirate Box project allows for installation to routers or Raspberry Pi
- Revival project is aiming for more flexibility with SBCs and software setup
- Don't worry; we'll get to all that!

The Software Side of Things

- Bare basics: a Linux distro (Raspberry Pi OS, Debian, Ubuntu, Arch, etc.)
- Media server: Jellyfin, Enby, etc.
- Books server: Calibre
- Chat server: Rocketchat, etc.
- Landing page: Hugo
- (This is just a basic layout. The idea is flexibility!)

Reviving the Project and Why

- Fascism is on the rise; censorship is a very real danger
- Helping marginalized communities and people (POC, LGBTQIA+, lower class families, etc.)
- Easy way to get banned books and movies to communities that can benefit from them
- Spreading of education and ideas
- Makes for a cool way to share media with a large group of people
- Brings everyone together!

Some additional info

- The original Pirate Box project site:

<https://piratebox.cc>

- Inspiration and the snap I needed – Recipes for an Off-Grid ‘Internet’, written by HydroponicTrash (

<https://kolektiva.social/@hydroponictrash>)

<https://anarchosolarpunk.substack.com/p/offgridinternet>

Where to Find Me/Greets

- Mastodon (<https://hackers.town/@LambdaCalculus>)
- Bluesky (lambdacalculus.bsky.social)
- GitHub (<https://github.com/LambdaCalculus37>)
- Buy me a coffee! (<https://ko-fi.com/lambdacalculus>)
- LinkedIn (<https://linkedin.com/in/robertmenes>)

- Greets go out to!

DC212, DC201, NYC 2600, Philly 2600, hackers.town, cDc, Lonely Hackers Club, PhilTel, Hack Manhattan, Fat Cat Fab Lab, NYC Resistor, all my fellow Blue Rogue pirates and friends!