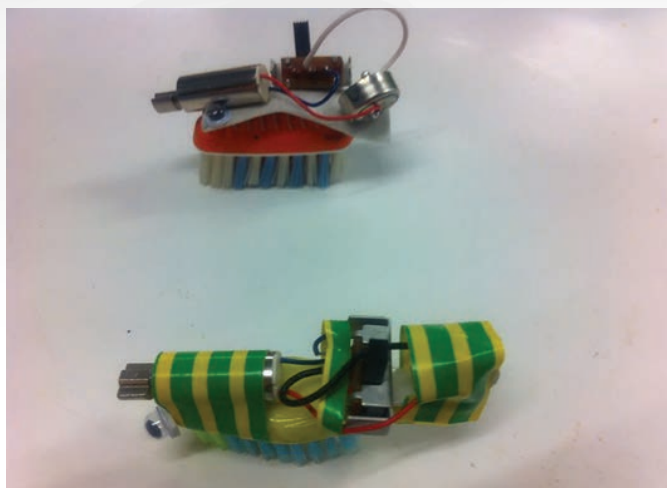


Kids in (Hacker) Space

BY VESNA MANOJLOVIC



There are several hacker-oriented spaces in Amsterdam: hacklab LAG, FabLab maker-space, and the large hackerspace called Technologia Incognita: a community-run club for makers, hackers and nerds, where some of RIPE NCC staff are quite active.

For a year already TechInc has been organising events for children. Kids are natural-born hackers: they are creative and curious, hands-on and innovative. There were five workshops in 2014, and there are plans to continue in 2015. The workshops are geared to kids from 4 to 12 years. Crowds are between 10 and 25 kids strong, activities last for about one hour, but the whole event consists of two active slots and pizza and pancakes break in the middle.

Activities that are the most popular were: making “bristle-bots” -- small robot-bugs made out of toothbrushes, vibrating motors & batteries; decorating T-shirts; learning to solder (LED-throwies, small kits...), and of course 3D printing. Once we had a Scratch workshop, where a young instructor taught other kids programming!

As special activities we also made: sock-to-puss, robo-hand, key-hangers, and mini-kites. There's a lot of playing, too: with 3D-VR goggles (Oculus Rift), the arcade machine, and the regular board games.

If you are interested in helping out, or just want to bring your kid to play and learn with us, check out the links, and pay attention to the Blade mailing list, where I'll announce upcoming events.

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