

# On Hackers and Enterprise Developers

I rarely find it good use of my time to read random blog posts, but every once and a while you hit a gem. The following is not written by me but I agree with it word for word, and is one of the reasons I left the enterprise world:

*"Today I found myself thinking again of what I see as two distinct cultures in the development world: Hackers and Enterprise Developers. This really isn't any kind of a rant just an observation that I've been thinking over lately.*

*Hackers are really bleeding edge. They have no problem using the commandline, using multiple languages, or contributing back to open source. They'll find and fix bugs in the opensource software they use and issue pull requests frequently. They'll always be willing to use new tools that help them produce better software when there might not even be any good IDE support. Finally, they're always constantly investigating new technologies and techniques to give them a competitive edge in the world.*

*Now when I say hacker I don't mean someone who just hacks lots of random shit together and calls it a day (that kind of developer isn't good for anyone). Just someone who isn't afraid to shake up the status quo, isn't afraid to be a bit different and go against the grain. They're the polar opposite of enterprise developers.*

*Enterprise Developers on the other hand are fairly conservative with their software development methodology. I'm not saying that a lack of standards is a good thing, but enterprise developers want standards for doing everything and they want it standardized across the company. If there isn't IDE support for a tool they'll refuse to use it. Want to use mongodb, riak, etc? Not unless there's a fancy GUI client for interacting with it. If they find a bug they'll back away from the framework they're using and simply declare that the company shouldn't use the framework until the bug is fixed externally. I find this group prefers to play it safe and work on solidifying their existing practices rather than explore new ideas.*

*Now don't get me wrong, this isn't another rant on IDEs or developers who don't use the command line. But give me a couple days in any organization and I can quickly point out who the Hackers and Enterprise Developers are."*

It's also noteworthy to point out that at least from my experience, the average enterprise developer typically makes much more than the average hacker. So who's really the smart one, eh? Read the whole post at: <http://www.javacodegeeks.com/2012/03/tale-of-two-cultures-hackers-and.html>