

# house4hack

*founding document & by-laws*

This document is the founding document & initial by-laws of the **house4hack**, a *hacker space* which was conceived on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 and which is currently based at 4 Burger Avenue, Centurion, South Africa.

## Article I: Why We Exist

### Section 1: General Purposes

**house4hack** is a not-for-profit self-organising collective, which loosely subscribes to the *hacker space manifesto* (included below), and which aims to pursue member education, technical & scientific endeavours, as well as provide an innovative environment in which to operate member driven think-tanks and to incubate promising member driven projects to economic existence in their own rights.

**house4hack**, while not yet being incorporated as a Section 21 not-for-profit company, will operate as such and will invest all proceeds it may derive from it's activities to the achieving of its stated purposes spelled out herein.

#### **The Hacker Space Manifesto**

Hackers create. We build unique devices to interact with our environment. We write code to do new and interesting things. We learn about systems, and we help make them better. We educate those willing to learn. We view the human pursuit of knowledge as inherently good.

We believe that to further our ideals, we must reach beyond the electronic communication medium and establish a physical presence. Personal interaction and collaboration are valuable opportunities. To realize our full potential within the physical world, we require physical space. With this space we contribute to both the hacker community and our local communities.

Our space is governed by a respect for individual sovereignty. We value both the intellect and property of each individual. We encourage individuals to pursue the constructive outlets of their choosing, as long as those outlets do not restrict those of another.

As a collective, we guard our reputation. We consider each individual responsible for maintaining our values when dealing with the public on our behalf. We consider constructive communication and action our method for demonstrating our ideals; we consider belligerence and destruction to be their antithesis.

We, the Hackers, in order to forge a union of creativity, curiosity, and individual expression through technology, establish this as our Manifesto.

## **Section 2: Specific Purposes**

Subject to and within the limits of Section 1, **house4hack** shall:

- Build and maintain spaces suitable for all forms of technology, hardware and software collaboration.
- Provide space & infrastructure to support member driven activities & projects, both non-commercial and commercial.
- Apply the results of its collaboration to educational, technological, and engineering endeavours.
- Freely share its knowledge, using what is learned to teach others.
- Recruit and develop talented members dedicated to these purposes by reaching out to the greater community.

## **Article II: Membership**

### **Section 1: Membership**

**house4hack** has a single membership class with voting rights for paid-up members.

### **Section 2: Qualifications for Membership**

Any natural person who supports the purposes laid out in Article I of these by-laws is qualified to become a member. The standing rules shall specify procedures for inducting new members. For purposes of these by-laws, all persons listed as founding members shall be considered the initial voting members and the initial **house4hack** office bearers

### **Section 3: Membership Dues**

The amount, payment period, due date and acceptable methods for collection of dues shall be reviewed each year at the annual general meeting, and shall be specified in the standing rules.

### **Section 4: Rights and Responsibilities**

Each voting member shall have an equal right to voice their opinion and vote their preference or abstain from voting in the affairs of the **house4hack**. Each voting member shall exercise only one vote for each decision before the **house4hack**. Each voting member shall have reasonable inspection rights of **house4hack** records. Each voting member shall be responsible for timely payment of dues, providing their current address, contact information, and preference for electronic receipt of communications. Each voting member is responsible for continuing to support the purposes of the **house4hack**.

### **Section 5: Membership Resignation and Termination**

Any voting member may resign by filing a resignation with any Officer. Resignation shall not relieve a voting member of unpaid dues or other monies owed. Voting membership shall be suspended for non-payment of dues by the Treasurer after a period of three (3) months. Any suspended voting member may restore their membership as shall be specified in the standing rules. Voting membership may also be terminated for any reason by written petition signed by more than



three quarters (3/4) of the voting members.

## **Article III: Meetings**

### **Section 1: Regular Meet-ups**

Regular meetings of voting members shall be held as designated in the standing rules.

### **Section 2: Annual General Meeting**

An annual general meeting (AGM) of all members shall take place by the end of March of each year. The Chairman shall select the date, time and place no later than January 31 of each year. The date, time and place of the AGM must be communicated to members electronically at least two weeks prior to the AGM. At the AGM, the voting members shall elect the Board of Directors, review and vote on the standing rules and policies of the **house4hack**, receive reports on the activities of the **house4hack**, approve the budget and determine the direction of the **house4hack** in the coming year.

### **Section 3: Electronic Forum**

An open electronic forum will be maintained to allow member and non-member feedback on any **house4hack** issue. In the spirit of a *hacker space* collective, forum members have equal influence, whether paid-up voting members or not, regarding all issues discussed on the open forum.

### **Section 4: Quorum**

At a duly called meeting, at least 50% or 7 voting members (whichever is the most) of the entire voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 5: Voting**

When a quorum is present, all issues, except when otherwise specified in these by-laws, shall be decided by show of hands of more than 50% (one half) of the voting members present. It is **house4hack's** expressed desire to achieve decisions by consensus, resorting only to voting when consensus can not be achieved.

### **Section 6: Conduct of Meetings**

The conduct of all meetings shall follow the rules of order as specified in the standing rules.

## **Article IV: The Officers**

### **Section 1: Role, Number, Qualification, Term and Compensation**

There shall be at least three officers, a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each officer must be a voting member and each officer shall serve from the time of their election until their successor is elected and qualifies. No officer shall be compensated for their service as an officer by the **house4hack**.

## **Section 2: Duties of the Chairman**

The Chairman shall preside over all meetings or designate an alternate, attempt to achieve consensus in all decision-making, ensure the membership is informed of all relevant issues, and serve other duties of a Chairman as required by law or custom.

## **Section 3: Duties of the Secretary**

The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining membership and shall be primarily responsible for the information systems and communication processes and for serving all other duties of a Secretary as required by law or custom.

## **Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall serve as custodian of corporate funds, collect dues, present a financial report at each regular and annual meeting, assist in the preparation of the budget, make financial information available to members and the public, and serve all other duties of a Treasurer as required by law or custom.

## **Section 5: Duties of the Officers to provide an Annual Report**

The Officers must provide an annual report. The report shall chronicle the activities of the **house4hack**, including specific narratives on the **house4hack's** work, the annual financial statements, relevant legal filings, and relevant copies of the **house4hack's** tax returns.

## **Section 6: Officers are Directors**

The Officers shall also serve as bona-fide directors on the Board of Directors.

# **Article V: The Board of Directors**

## **Section 1: Role, Size, Term and Compensation**

The board of directors shall consist of the three Officers as defined in Article IV and optionally two at-large directors, all of whom are considered directors for the purposes of this article. All directors must be voting members of the **house4hack**. Each director shall serve from the time of their election until their successor is elected and qualifies. No director may be compensated for their service as a board member, though the **house4hack** may provide insurance and indemnity for board members as allowed by law.

## **Section 2: Board Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall meet when necessary. Minutes shall follow the standing rules for meetings as approved at an annual meeting. Minutes of each board meeting shall be electronically distributed to members within 48 hours. Minutes shall be considered approved when signed by all board members in attendance.

### Section 3: Quorum

Two-thirds of board members at a duly called board member meeting shall constitute a quorum.

### Section 4: Voting

All issues, except when otherwise specified in these by-laws, shall be decided by affirmative vote of more than half of the directors present at a duly held meeting.

### Section 5: Resignation, Termination and Vacancies

Any officer or director may resign by filing a written or electronic resignation with the Secretary or two other board members. An officer or at-large director may be terminated in their role by written petition signed by more than two-thirds (2/3rds) of the voting membership. Vacancies on the board shall be filled at the next regular meeting.

## Article VII: Amendments

These by-laws may be amended only when an amendment proposal petition is approved at a membership meeting and signed by more than three quarters (3/4ths) of voting members. Notice of such petition must be submitted electronically to all members.

## Founding Members

Schalk Heunis

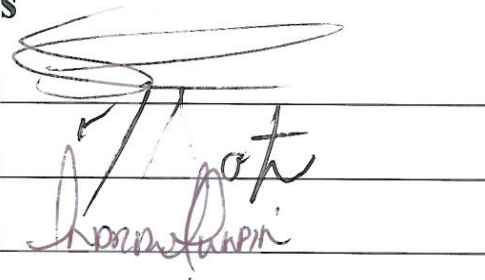
:

Tobie Nortje

:

Andrew Turpin

:



The image shows three horizontal lines for signatures. The first line has a large, loopy signature. The second line has a signature that appears to be 'Tobie Nortje'. The third line has a signature that appears to be 'Andrew Turpin'.