two out of every three were female. Nevertheless, the three top prizes went to men, and the jury did not understand the magnitude of Sollfrank’s contribution (or did not read her press release which explained the hack), which she called “‘the apparently meaningless flood of data’ produced by her ‘automatically generated net art’” (Shanken, 2009, 36).

Two other hacks are also worth mentioning here that both interacted with Amazon, the online bookstore. Amazon Noir was a major pirate event that was both a technological and conceptual performance that ended in November 2006. As the name suggests, it was a crime story in which the hacktivist team Uermorgenc.com (Paolo Cirio and Alessandro Ludovico) stole books from Amazon. They did so by repurposing Amazon’s search engine, which will allow you to search for 50 words out of any book at a time. From those 50 words Amazon Noir would begin to reconstruct each book it selected from front and back simultaneously, one paragraph at a time. An activist response to the criminalization of downloading, they called their backdoor bot a “robot-perversion-technology” and it was connected to: