Lock-picking: A Perfectly Ethical Introduction to Smashing the State

University of Utah
Motivation

• Forgot your keys
Motivation

-Forgot your keys
-Can’t / Don’t want to ask for the keys (might say ’no’)
Motivation

- Forgot your keys
- Can’t / Don’t want to ask for the keys (might say ’no’)
- Were explicitly forbidden from having access to the keys but want something anyway
DISCLAIMER!

I am not a lawyer, and take no responsibility for individuals who act on my advice (which is neither legal, nor perfectly honest)
A Primer: How Locks Work
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How to Pick Locks

Create Tension
Tumblers are held in place by shear line

Align Tumblers
Raise each tumbler so that it’s break aligns with the shear line. This should be accompanied by a satisfying ’click’. When all tumblers are aligned, the lock should freely rotate under tension.
Not Getting Caught

1. Appear relaxed and casual
2. Hold keys in your picking hand
3. Work quickly
Getting Caught

- Give casual, yet ambiguous explanations (e.g. ”No problem, we get that a lot in this business.”)
- Appear confused about moral/ethical/legal boundaries
- Use media influence as a scapegoat
- Throw a minor tantrum to embarrass the accuser