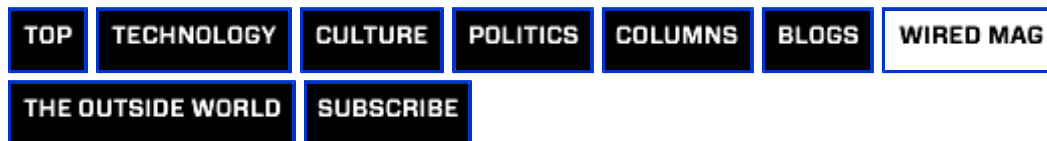




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## 10 Top Tech Towns

Using algorithms snuck out of Google and NASA, we did the math to find the nation's geek meccas.

Using highly scientific methodology as well as algorithms snuck out of NASA and Google, we analyzed cities across the US to find the top 10 places to get your geek on.

### SEATTLE

The charms of the Emerald City go way beyond late-night cafés, plentiful microbreweries, and the world's premier science fiction museum. Catch the local Weird Science Salon, where monthly meetings promise "cryogenic marshmallow liquid nitrogen shenanigans" and "blowing stuff up."

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### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Attend a dinner party in the Bay Area and be prepared to discuss Verizon's Bluetooth support, the inner workings of Ajax, or network neutrality. Nerds are in their element here, and the tech-celebrity sightings are legendary.

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### LOS ANGELES

Southern California is home to NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and Caltech. Plus, MySpace was born here, and Electronic Arts and Yahoo have offices. Then there's the porn industry, which can turn you into Scorsese for the cost of a camera, two girls, and a broadband link. Take that, Hollywood.

#### LEGEND:

Wired assessed the geek cred of more than 30 major US cities by crunching the following numbers:




Proximity to top-ranked engineering schools

Tech jobs, per capita, on Dice

Personal ads, per capita, on Geek 2 Geek




Craigslist postings per capita

Number of attendees at local meetings of dorkbot, a group for "people doing strange"

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## AUSTIN


Inspiration for *Slacker*, epicenter of the first EFF battle, home to Dell, Whole Foods, and South by Southwest. Not to mention host to the most dorkbot attendees in the country. Only downside: It's surrounded by Texas.

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things with electricity"




 Availability of free Wi-Fi

 Comic book stores per capita

 Circuit City stores per capita

## ORLANDO

All that *Battlestar Galactica* will come in handy: Walt Disney World and Epcot actually pay you to make the unreal seem real. When you're ready to engage with planet Earth again, check out the city's craigslist site, one of the most happening in the country.

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## RALEIGH-DURHAM

The jocks here may get worked up about college hoops, but the tech set is passionate about Linux distros and Mac-PC holy wars. North Carolina's Triangle is ground zero for Red Hat, SAS Institute, and an IBM center. Bonus: The area hosts two World Beer Festivals a year.

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## PITTSBURGH

Come for the country's top-ranked computer science school; stay for the robotics startups that Carnegie Mellon alums are founding. If androids aren't your style, try for a gig at Google's new engineering office.

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## NEW YORK CITY

Tech startups are back, and Wi-Fi is everywhere. And Asperger's sufferers can rejoice: Being antisocial isn't rude – it's your civic duty. New York is also perfect for marathon coding sessions, since anything – food, drugs, hookers – can be delivered.

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## BOSTON

Obsessive open source hacking, multitasking operating systems, involuntary celibacy ... it's like geekiness was invented here. Winters may be frigid, but at least there are lots of single nerds to hibernate with.

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## WASHINGTON, DC

DC isn't just a policy-wonk utopia, it's also the ultimate place to be a coder looking for love. There are more postings from the nation's capital on Geek 2 Geek, an online dating service for nerds, than from any other city we surveyed.

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- *Patrick Di Justo*

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