



## GODS OF GEEKDOM

### SCOTTY

While there have been other notable engineers, the iconic Scotty from the Starship Enterprise is undoubtedly at the top of this wing in the halls of the Geek pantheon. In fact, he probably built the wing and the hall. Scotty, however, is so well known that he actually gets a negative rating on the obscurity coolness factor and will only score you 2 geek points.

The point of an engineer is to bridge the ideal and the real in a very hands-on, structural way, and if you watch Scotty throughout the *Star Trek* shows and films, you will

see the keeping-the-spaceship-from-blowing-up-except-when-we-want-it-to-blow-up version of many of the issues related to political institutions. If you think of the Enterprise as the institution, or specific manifestation, of the structure of a starship, you can see all of the same elements of historical legacy, compromises made across different functions and such that we see in political institutions. And Scotty is the man at the point where all those things meet, showing them to us and adding a dash of his own special wit to it as well.