

HACK IN A BOX

*The Comprehensive Hackathon
Guide*



So, you want to start a hackathon.



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INTRO

Hi!

We're so glad that you've taken the first step to putting on your own Hackathon (a hackathon is any sort of hands on learning experience). Hackathons also employ many of the strategies of design thinking and the maker movement. These hands-on engaging workshops will actually be able to disrupt current education models and make an impact on the student body. Hackathons are not just for coders - they're powerful learning experiences for everyone.

Education disruption is a movement to incorporate many of the advances that have been made in pedagogy to develop students from just containers full of knowledge to actual leaders and thinkers that have the capabilities to tackle real world problems. Hands on learning and actively practicing "innovation" will allow children to set right expectations of themselves and actually learn "how to think".

This pamphlet will give you a general idea of our Hack-In-A-Box and how to put on your own Hackathon! For full, detailed guides and hundreds of useful resources catered to your specific needs, visit hackinabox.io







Purpose of a Hackathon

Hackathons are extremely beneficial for attendees. Countless students get to spend a time having fun, meeting new people, and preparing themselves for technical careers or exercising their brains. Hackathons provide a real-world experience for students, as they compete in teams to create a product.

Similar to the product cycles of a startup company, hackathon teams quickly transition from the idea stage to the final product. Students have a chance to gain time management skills, along with expertise and new connections. In addition, students get to spend one-on-one time with mentors who spend the hackathon teaching students new skills and helping students with their projects.

Hackathons help students build up their resumes and learn the latest things in their fields. A hackathon leaves a student body invigorated and eager to spend their free time working together on projects, and 61% end up continuing their projects after a hackathon.



Teamwork

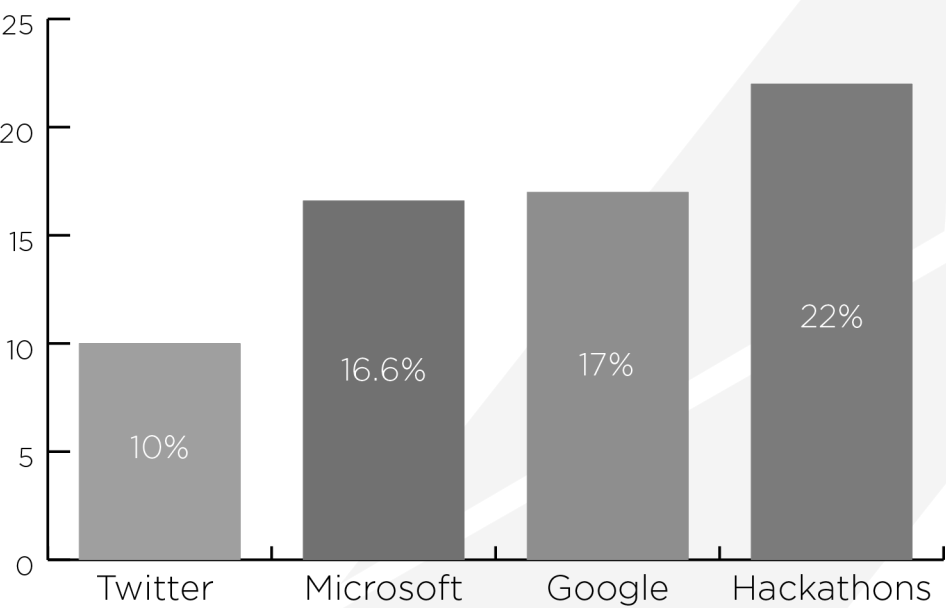
In order to get the most out of a hackathon, teams are highly recommended. Yet some students do not have the opportunity to form a team prior to the event. In order to assist this, it is common for hackers to communicate beforehand, over the event's social media profiles or in other ways, to find others who are also interested in finding teammates.

There are always students who form teams naturally during the beginning of the event as well. For those who have not yet formed a team by the start of the hackathon, a meet-and-greet can be performed by event organizers. In these meet-and-greets, hackers can brainstorm together with the intent of walking away in teams.

A good team is any group where they get along and work well together. If there are enough experienced members, it is best to get a team with complementary skill sets.

Statistics

Girls who take higher level STEM courses in high school are three times more likely than girls who do not to major in a scientific or engineering field in college. For this reason, it is important to expose them to STEM (in the form of hackathons) at an early age.



Hackathons also promote diversity and actually are able to attract more females than most major tech companies.



Funding

Your hackathon will likely cost some money - but don't worry too much about this, we got you. Before you can begin asking for money, draft a budget. First learn more about what hackathons are and do some research and set targets). Get in touch with someone in the community by sending a thought-out email. Have an explanatory phone call where you explain why they should fund your hackathon. Lastly, make a proposal. Also watch out for other sources, like any money available to your school for general academic purposes. Also, remember that depending on the scale, a hackathon can be run for less than a hundred dollars.

Venue

A venue is integral to any hackathon. It can be your gymnasium or in your classroom. On-campus venues are best because they're usually free. Otherwise, research venues in your area that have held events of similar size. If you know someone who put on one of the events, ask for an introduction to the decision maker. Make sure to keep in mind that the venues must be conducive to hosting a hackathon. There must be enough capacity to host everyone, strong wifi, power outlets for devices, tables/chairs, food, relaxation or



sleeping places if you're putting on a longer overnight hackathon. Remember that if the hackathon has fewer than around 30 attendees, a classroom can be the perfect spot to host a hackathon.

Staffing

Hackathons often are best with mentors and staffers. Staffers can be found by contacting students at the local university and even reaching out to student's parents.

Mentors are also essential. Examples could be teachers or parents with relevant experience. Other sources include local community members as well as Hacker Fund. Hacker Fund is a non-profit that will provide mentors that have gone through background checks free of charge.

Provisions

You will need a lot of general event items like food, a first aid kit, etc. Try reaching out to local businesses because a lot are willing to provide free food for events like hackathons.

You might also want to give out prizes, as well as any relevant materials for hackers to use such as phones, smart watches, and other such gadgets. Contacting Major League Hacking is a great way to get gadgets and if you're on a budget you might need to think outside of the box a little - well but still in Hack-In-A-Box though!

Other

Make sure you promote your event either through fliers, announcements, or even a website. Another idea is to schedule workshops and mini lessons during the hackathon as a good break and ways for students to learn about new topics. Create a schedule that you can give out to attendees.



Drakontas Consulting provides high capacity networks and Internet access for events of all sizes. We've teamed up with IgniteSTEM to make a special IgniteSTEM Large Network Kit available to all IgniteSTEM conference attendees that includes the enterprise-grade hardware and cabling necessary for high quality Internet access for events of up to 150 attendees.

What's in the box?

Rent an IgniteSTEM Large Network Kit for 2 weeks, including:

- Firewalls (1)
- Multi-WAN support, designed for connections up to 700Mbps
- Gigabit Managed Switches (1)
- VLAN support and Power Over Ethernet
- Wireless Access Points (2)
- Central management, feature rich performance
- 16-Port Desktop Ethernet Switches (5) Enable wired access for pairs of tables
- Ethernet Cables (20+)
- Connect your infrastructure and attendees
- USB-Ethernet Adapters (5)
- Enable attendees to connect all their devices
- IgniteSTEM-ready standard equipment configuration
- Roundtrip shipping to/from any US location
- 45-minute pre-event consulting session

\$1000 IgniteSTEM Rate -- Save 40%

Standard rate for these items and services is \$1700

More Options

The sky's the limit (additional fees may apply):

- On-site or phone support
- During setup, cleanup, and the event
- Event-specific design and configuration Options for unique venues
- Expedited shipping
- Faster delivery for short notice events
- High speed servers
- Make high-demand resources available locally
- Advising and negotiation
- Get the most from your venue, ISP, and more
- Additional Internet capacity
- Add bandwidth through our nationwide ISPs

Let's do it!

Email ignitestem@drakontasconsulting.com for more information or to reserve an IgniteSTEM Network Kit for your event



TOOLKIT

Introduction to the Toolkit

The Ocean Action Toolkit is a collection of facts, stats and links designed for sharing, to build understanding of the biggest issues facing the planet today. Using the toolkit, students and educators can campaign around key ocean issues and may set up 'Ocean Action' groups at their schools, colleges or universities to raise awareness of the importance of the ocean and the threats that it faces. By providing material, branding, support and campaign direction to these student groups globally we hope to harness the voice and power of young people to advocate more effectively for the oceans. To find out more enter your email at www.oceanaction.co

About Ocean Action

Ocean Action is a global youth project devoted to protecting the world's most valuable natural resource. Responsible for producing more than half of

the planet's oxygen and accounting for 97% of all habitable space on earth, the oceans absorb roughly a quarter of all excess heat and carbon that humanity produces. Ocean Action has a simple mission: to improve ocean governance and support those who fight to represent the oceans.

For more information, contact:

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DEVPOST

Using Devpost at your hackathon helps, both organize the event and most importantly showcase the projects that your hackers create - raising their profile and building their portfolio of projects. The platform is completely free and has been used at over 1300 hackathons.

Get your school started here:

post.devpost.com/hackathons

hackinabox.io

