The Search for Search Contest

Do you have an idea to build something really cool with search? Would you like to get some visibility on a high traffic platform, like the Azure Blog? If the answer is yes, then we’ve got something exciting for you. Azure Search is *searching* for awesome projects, big and small, that showcase its power. From now until the end of the year, we’ll be collecting submissions. In January, we’ll pick our favorite project and feature it on the Azure Blog with an interview from the author as well as a technical deep dive.

We’re intentionally leaving this open ended. You can build anything from search UI that thinks outside the box, to a console app that uses machine learning to augment search results. There’s a full set of official rules at the end of this post, but here are the general requirements:

* New or existing project powered by Azure Search
* Anything from personal projects to production scale code
* Project must be open sourced on GitHub under the MIT license so that the community can benefit from your work
* Bonus points for:
  + Integrating with other cloud services (Azure, AWS, etc)
  + Creativity

Once you have your project ready to go email your submission by midnight UTC December 31st 2015 to [TheSearchForSearch@microsoft.com](mailto:TheSearchForSearch@microsoft.com) with the following:

* “Contest Submission” in the subject
* Link to a live demo and/or video of your project
* Short write up about your project and what makes it stand apart
* Link to GitHub repo with build instructions

Projects will be judged by the following criteria:

* Use of Azure Search
  + Is search the focal point?
  + Is your application of search creative?
  + Do you take advantage of advanced features such as scoring profiles, language analyzers, indexers, or suggesters?
* Technical innovation:
  + Points for technical rigor
  + Use of other cloud services to take something complex and make it beautifully simple

We’re excited to see what you come up with! We’ll contact the winner in January to prepare the featured post that will go out later that month. For those of you who are new to Azure Search, here is some [documentation](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/services/search/) to help you get started. Don’t forget that Azure Search has a free tier that supports up to 10K documents so there’s no need to spend money to enter. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me [@\_Evan\_Boyle](https://twitter.com/_evan_boyle) with #SearchForSearch

MICROSOFT AZURE SEARCH – THE SEARCH FOR SEARCH CONTEST

OFFICIAL RULES

PLEASE NOTE: It is your sole responsibility to review and understand your employer’s policies regarding your eligibility to participate in trade promotions. If you are participating in violation of your employer’s policies, you may be disqualified from entering or receiving prizes. Microsoft disclaims any and all liability or responsibility for disputes arising between an employee and their employer related to this matter, and prizes will only be awarded in compliance with the employer’s policies.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE: This Contest is hosted in the United States, and entry information is collected on computers in the United States. This Contest will be governed by the laws of the State of Washington, and you consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts of the State of Washington for any disputes arising out of this Contest. If you do not agree with this provision and these Official Rules, please do not enter this Contest.

COMMON TERMS USED IN THESE RULES: These are the official rules that govern how the Microsoft Azure Search – The Search for Search Contest promotion will operate (the “Contest”). In these rules, “we,” “our,” and “us” refer to Microsoft Corporation, the sponsor of this Contest. “You” refers to an eligible Contest entrant.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION: This is a skill-based Contest. The object is to recognize the best user-created program which can be uses the Azure Search product as a central and core functionality. User submitted programs will be judged based on the criteria listed below to determine Contest winners.

WHAT ARE THE START AND END DATES? This Contest starts at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time (PT) on October 12th, 2015, and ends at 11:59 p.m. PT on December 31st, 2015 (“Entry Period”).

CAN I ENTER?

You are eligible to enter this Contest if you meet the following requirements at time entry:

* You are a professional, student, or enthusiast in the field of software research, sales or development and you are 18 years of age or older; and o If you are 18 of age or older, but are considered a minor in your place of residence, you must have permission from a parent or legal guardian; and
* You are NOT an employee of Microsoft Corporation or an employee of a Microsoft subsidiary; and

* You are NOT involved in any part of the administration and execution of this Contest; and

* You are NOT an immediate family (parent, sibling, spouse, child) or household member of a Microsoft employee, an employee of a Microsoft subsidiary, or a person involved in any part of the administration and execution of this Contest.

This Contest is void outside the geographic area described above and wherever else prohibited by law.

HOW TO ENTER:

To enter, create an original program (eg. website, console application) that meets the eligibility criteria listed below and that uses Azure Search as a core and central functionality. Then email your eligible entry outlined below to [TheSearchForSearch@microsoft.com](mailto:TheSearchForSearch@microsoft.com) for consideration. The program and the registration data you provide will together be referred to as your “Entry.” Entries must be received within the Entry Period to be eligible for judging.

Limit 1 unique Entry per person. We are not responsible for Entries that we do not receive for any reason, or for Entries that we receive but are not decipherable for any reason.

We will automatically disqualify:

* Any incomplete or illegible Entry; and
* Any entries that we receive from you that are in excess of the entry limit described above.

WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ELIGIBLE ENTRY?

To be eligible for judging a program must meet the following content / technical criteria:

* The program must be made available in a public repo on GitHub (http://www.github.com)
* The program must be opened sourced by the author using the MIT license (available at http://opensource.org/licenses/MIT) prior to submission
* The program must use Azure Search as a central and core functionality of the program
* The program must be your original work as described in **Section 3,** **Originality of Work**, in the Microsoft Contribution License Agreement, available at https://cla.microsoft.com/
* The Visual cannot have been selected as a winner in any other contest
* If selected as a winner, you must agree sign the Microsoft Contribution License Agreement, available at https://cla.microsoft.com/
* You must be able to grant the licenses, agree to the terms of and accurately make the representations and warranties set forth in the Microsoft Contribution License Agreement
* You must submit your Entry to [TheSearchForSearch@microsoft.com](mailto:TheSearchForSearch@microsoft.com) with the following:
  + “Contest Submission” in the subject
  + Link to a live demo and/or video of your project
  + Short write up about your project and what makes it stand apart
  + Link to GitHub repo with build instructions
* The program may not infringe on any third party intellectual property

Entries may NOT contain, as determined by us, in our sole and absolute discretion, any content that:

* is sexually explicit, unnecessarily violent or derogatory of any ethnic, racial, gender, religious, professional or age group; profane or pornographic;
* promotes alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, firearms/weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing) or a particular political agenda;
* is obscene or offensive;
* defames, misrepresents or contains disparaging remarks about other people or companies;
* violates the intellectual property rights of any third party
* communicates messages or images inconsistent with the positive images and/or good will to which we wish to associate; and/or violates any law;

We reserve the right to reject any Entry, in our sole and absolute discretion, that we determine does not meet the above criteria.

HOW WILL MY ENTRY BE POTENTIALLY USED?

By submitting your Entry, you:

* are granting us an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide right and license to: (i) use, review, assess, test and otherwise analyze your Entry and all its content in connection with this Contest and Microsoft products; and (ii) feature your Visual in Microsoft products; and (iii) feature your Visual and all content in connection with the marketing, sale, or promotion of this Contest or Microsoft products (including but not limited to internal and external sales meetings, conference presentations, tradeshows, and screen shots of the Contest Entry in press releases) in all media (now known or later developed)

* agree to sign any necessary documentation that may be required for us and our designees to make use of the rights you granted above, including, without limitation, the Microsoft Contribution License Agreement;

* understand and acknowledge that the Sponsor(s) may develop or commission or have developed or commissioned materials similar or identical to your Entry and you waive any claims you may have resulting from any similarities to your Entry;

* understand that we cannot control the incoming information you will disclose to our representatives in the course of entering, or what our representatives will remember about your Entry. You also understand that we will not restrict work assignments of representatives who have had access to your Entry. By entering this Contest, you agree that use of your Entry in the development or deployment of our products or services and Microsoft’s development of similar products or services does not create liability for us under this agreement or copyright or trade secret law;

* understand that you will not receive any compensation or credit for use of your Entry, other than what is described in these Official Rules

Please note that following the end of this Contest your Entry may be posted on a website selected by us for viewing by visitors to that website. We are not responsible for any unauthorized use of your Entry by visitors to this website. While we reserve these rights, we are not obligated to use your Entry for any purpose, even if it has been selected as a winning Entry.

If you do not want to grant us these rights to your Entry, please do not enter this Contest.

WINNER DETERMINATION

On or around the close of the Entry Period, a panel of judges from the Microsoft Azure Search team review all eligible Entries received and select one potential (pending confirmation of eligibility) Grand Prize winner based on the following judging criteria:

* 50.00% - Use of Azure Search
* 50.00% - Technical innovation

The decisions of the judges are final and binding. If we do not receive a sufficient number of entries meeting the entry requirements, we may, at our discretion, select fewer winners than described above.

In the event of a tie between any eligible Entries for Contest Prizes, an additional judge will break the tie based on the judging criteria described above. The decisions of the judges are final and binding. If we do not receive a sufficient number of entries meeting the entry requirements, we may, at our discretion, select fewer winners than the number of Contest Prizes described below.

PRIZES

Grand prize winner will be awarded a feature in the Azure Blog (<https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/>). This feature will include a technical deep dive into your submission as well as an interview with you and your team if applicable.

If you are a potential winner, we will notify you by sending a message to the e-mail address, the phone number, or mailing address (if any) provided at time of entry within seven (7) days following completion of judging. If the notification that we send is returned as undeliverable, or you are otherwise unreachable for any reason, we may award to a runner-up.

If there is a dispute as to who is the potential winner, we will consider the potential winner to be the authorized account holder of the e-mail address used to enter the Contest.

If you are confirmed as a winner of this Contest:

* You may not exchange your prize for any other merchandise or services. If for any reason an advertised prize is unavailable, we reserve the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value; and

* You may not designate someone else as the winner. If you are unable or unwilling to accept your prize, we may award it to a runner up; and

* If you are otherwise eligible for this Contest, but are considered a minor in your place of residence, we may award the prize to your parent/legal guardian on your behalf; and

WHAT OTHER CONDITIONS AM I AGREEING TO BY ENTERING?

By entering this Contest you agree:

* To abide by these Official Rules; and

* To release and hold harmless Microsoft and its respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees and agents from any and all liability or any injury, loss or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with this Contest, or any prize won; and

* That Microsoft’s decisions will be final and binding on all matters related to this Contest; and

* That, by accepting a prize, Microsoft may use of your proper name and state of residence online and in print, or in any other media, in connection with this Contest, without payment or compensation to you, except where prohibited by law.

WHAT LAWS GOVERN THE WAY THIS CONTEST IS EXECUTED AND ADMINISTRATED?

This Contest will be governed by the laws of the State of Washington, and you consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts of the State of Washington for any disputes arising out of this Contest.

WHAT IF SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS AND THE CONTEST CAN’T RUN AS PLANNED?

If someone cheats, or a virus, bug, catastrophic event, or any other unforeseen or unexpected event that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled, (also referred to as force majeure) affects the fairness and / or integrity of this Contest, we reserve the right to cancel, change or suspend this Contest. This right is reserved whether the event is due to human or technical error. If a solution cannot be found to restore the integrity of the Contest, we reserve the right to select winners from among all eligible entries received before we had to cancel, change or suspend the Contest.

If you attempt to compromise the integrity or the legitimate operation of this Contest by hacking or by cheating or committing fraud in ANY way, we may seek damages from you to the fullest extent permitted by law. Further, we may ban you from participating in any of our future Contest, so please play fairly.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHO WON?

We will post the winner in the featured blog post at <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/> by the end of January.

WHO IS SPONSORING THIS CONTEST?

Microsoft Corporation

One Microsoft Way

Redmond, WA 98052