



Tips for forming a winning hackathon team

Hackathons are more fun and more successful with a great team! At hackathons, teams of developers, designers, and product managers work together to build prototypes and solve real-world problems within a specific time frame. The team that works the most effectively and builds the best solution takes home the prize. Getting the right people on in your team give a competitive advantage over others. Here are the top tips to help you form a team:

Find people who you gel with. Group dynamics are critical for any team. More so for a hackathon where you're often exhausted due to a lack of sleep and getting your code to compile. Perhaps you have a group of friends or colleagues or past collaborators but if not, you need to make time to find and get to know your team before you start hacking. Use any resources you can - Search for potential teammates on the [ParcelHack Slack](#) and make sure you use all the resources the hackathon organisers have to offer.

Intro to slack: <https://get.slack.help/hc/en-us/sections/3600000110083-Intro-to-Slack>

Work on your pitch – Want to lead a team of talented people? If so you need to create a good pitch to share with potential teammates. You need to sell your profile as well. What do you bring to your team? Some suggestion would be: update your Github profile, showcase your past projects, highlight your skills and domain knowledge, explain your idea and the problem that you plan to solve. Be proactive in pitching your idea but also listen to feedback. Once you've got your team together, continue to develop with your teammates, and get ready to pitch your ideas to the judges.

Make sure your team is well-rounded – Seek a diverse team - A strong hackathon team typically has members with complimentary skill sets — a few coders, someone who's in charge of design, a project manager, etc. . Each member brings a unique strength to the table. A team that's all data scientists will likely fail if they don't worry about design, just as a team with all industry or business experts might not be able to actually produce a working prototype. If you have time to form your team before the hackathon, consider getting together beforehand to talk about the roles each of you will play on your team. If you can't meet face to face, go electronic and chose something like a slack group. The more prepared you are to hit the ground running after the project is announced, the better off you'll be. Don't worry if your skills overlap with your teammates, be dynamic and flexible and push your comfort zones to keep moving all aspects of your project forwards.

There's nothing wrong with showing up alone... BUT - Some of the most successful hackathon participants at hack never actually meet before the hackathon. There could be a variety of factors that contribute to this, but sometime it's more fun to hack with complete strangers. It's a great way to meet new people and contacts in the industry. That being said, if you plan on doing this, your need to invest time to 'sell' yourself to potential teammates. Even if you arrive at the hackathon alone, with a strong pitch, you might still have a good chance of forming a great hackathon team. If you're looking to join a team you can share you pitch, your skills, and interests to help find a team or teammates in the [ParcelHack Slack](#) in the #findateammate channel. Our event on Feb

Attend any information sessions - Some hackathons will host information sessions or forums for potential participants to answer any questions they have about competing or a matchmaking session where individuals can pitch themselves and find potential teammates.



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Make use of absolutely all the resources the organisers offer. If you have any questions, email the organisers (parcelhack@citysprint.co.uk) or visit [Slack](#).

Be aware of different working styles - Different people work differently and have different approaches to solving the same problem. Successful teams assign tasks and roles to team members based on their core strengths. They give everyone a fair chance to work on specific tasks which they are good at and encourage mutual learning and problem-solving. Getting the chemistry right is the key to a successful team. If you have the time to prepare, do a mock run with your team to plan tasks and organize yourselves better as a team. Tools like Slack, Skype, Trello and todo lists can help you manage tasks and enforce deadlines for your project.