Boeing Hackathon FAQ

Bristol University's Computer Science Society

March 2021

Disclaimer:

CSS Bristol does not provide hardware for this event, and does not claim responsibility for accidents that may occur to participants while using their own hardware. Please exercise caution while participating in this event, especially if your team chooses to utilise hardware in your product.

Health and Safety:

Please follow these health and safety measures during the event:

- Wires, trip hazards, bags and other bulky items must be kept out of the way.

- Any larger power tools, manual saws or power saws and knives (irrespective of size) must be used with caution.

- You must not use any soldering/cutting equipment while under the influence of alcohol, recreational drugs, heavy medication, or other such substances (i.e. if it would affect your ability to drive).

- Don't use unsafe voltages/currents above 60V DC.

- If you choose to make something with hardware, please keep a first aid kit near you at all times and make sure you wear the appropriate equipment (goggles, gloves, etc.).

- Avoid using electronics near bodies of water (we understand that this may seem a bit restrictive given the theme, but it's for your safety)

Contents

1 Participation

1.1 I'm not a CS student, why should I participate?

The Boeing Hackathon has always been open to all engineering students in our university! We have seen plenty of amazing projects in the past few years that have not been focused on writing software (or any software at all), and our judges have always been delighted to see engineering skills put to practical use.

1.2 I am a first year student, can and should I participate?

All students in the engineering faculty are more than welcome to participate!
We think that hackathons are an amazing way to accelerate you knowledge of a subject, as you will be put in the position of building a project which can have real impact, and it is also the perfect opportunity to put into practice what have you studied so far! No matter the outcome of the event, you will most likely learn something new, have a cool project to add to your CV and enjoy networking with your fellow engineering students!

1.3 I am a postgraduate student, can I participate?

Yes, postgraduate students are welcomed to this event! We cannot wait to see amazing and more advanced projects, and we hope that this event will also facilitate networking to your potential future employer, or provide you with a more impressive CV!

1.4 I have never participated in a hackathon before, or I am not confident in my skills. Is it still worth giving it a shot?

Yes, definitely! We all have to start somewhere, and joining a hackathon will make you a better engineer than the one you were before you started. We have plenty of students with hackathon experience and many more for whom this is their first hackathon. This is also a yearly event, so you will have many chances to impress us with your projects!

2 Teams

2.1 How many team members do we need?

You can do it solo or in a team[1]! Teams cannot be larger than 6 members.

2.2 Can students from other faculties/universities join my team?

Yes! Anyone who is a student from the University of Bristol is welcome to attend the event.

2.3 I don't have a team / My team and I are looking for more members, what can I/we do?

Don't worry! There are many more students in your shoes who would love to participate but don't have a team or enough members yet. Our committee members will pair you up and will contact you thorough email. Make sure that you fill out a form that specifies this need and email us immediately if you no longer need this service.

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[1]Teams can only have a maximum of 34% committee members in order to be eligible for a prize

3 Preparation

3.1 What should I prepare before the hackathon starts?

Make sure that you read our rules, found a team and, if you have time, come up with a prototype idea. See if you have the materials needed for it but do not stress too much about it - You will have plenty of time during the event!

3.2 Where can I get the materials needed for my project? Will you cover the costs?

Sadly, we cannot provide you with the materials or cover the cost of them. We hope that this will not discourage you from participating.

3.3 What are the recommended resources to look at before the event?

It really depends on the project you have in mind. It can be useful to read around technologies/ frameworks you will be using before hand but remember you cannot make anything outside of the 24 hours for your project.
You should DuckDuckGo around the theme **Life under water** to get inspiration for projects you could work on.
There's absolutely no need to spend hours upon hours reading and researching before the competition - part of the fun is learning new technology in a short period of time and *hacking* things together!

3.4 I don't know how to start the project, or where to get an original idea for one.

It's alright, every team is like this at the beginning of a hackathon - many teams even change their project mid-way after discovering a more interesting question to solve, so be open to everything! We do not expect you to make something revolutionary, but we expect you to give your best and have fun in doing so. Original ideas are not required, you can improve upon an existing solution to a problem, and the best way to come up with something like that is to have a brainstorming session with your fellow teammates!

3.5 Where can I find the list of rules?

Rules will be published on the CSS website before the start of the event: `https://cssbristol.co.uk/events/2021-03-20_boeing_hackathon/`

4 When / Where

4.1 Where can I connect with other people participating?

A link to the Team will be put up on the website and Facebook event!
Facebook event: https://fb.me/e/cDaHB72nn

4.2 Who is in charge of organizing this event?

Hello there! We are Bristol University's Computer Science Society (CSS for short), and we are collaborating with Boeing and various faculty members in bringing you an amazing hackathon, despite the global circumstances! We hope that you will enjoy this event as much as we are enjoying organizing it!

CSS website: cssbristol.co.uk/
Boeing website: boeing.com/

4.3   When will the hackathon start? How long will it be?

The hackathon will start on the 20th of March 2021, at 12pm UK local time. The hackathon will be 24 hours, lasting through the night!

4.4   Where will the hackathon be held?

The hackathon will be held on Teams. Participants will be emailed the link to the group.

4.5   How should I structure my day for the hackathon?

First of all, make sure that you do not neglect eating and resting! Second of all: snacks - they are an amazing resource to give you a small bump in energy necessary to fix that small issue, so make sure that you stock up on those!
Try and make sure that you do not have anything else planned on that day. Hackathons are most fun when you can keep the momentum and energy going!
If you plan to pull an all-nighter, make sure that you strategically set times for power naps, coffee breaks or any break for that matter.

4.6   Can I leave the hackathon midway for necessary errands (ie. grocery shopping, taking the dog on a walk etc)

Yes, you can, especially if it is an emergency. If it's something less urgent though, make sure to let your teammates know.

5   Judging

5.1   What are the themes/categories?

This year's theme is **Life Under Water**
You can choose to enter your project into one of the following categories:

1. Exploration

2. Environment

3. Communication

5.2   Who will be the judges?

The judges committee will consist of faculty members and alumni students.

5.3   How will the judging be done? What makes a winning project?

You will have 5 minutes to present your project after the 24 hours build time. Your project will need to fit the theme and one of the three categories. The Judges will then mark your project on the following criteria:

1. Quality

2. Completeness

3. Innovation

5.4   Can a project win multiple categories?

Nope, projects can only win in one category - you choose which category you're entering into.

5.5   What type of prizes will be given to the winners?

1st prize - £500 (shared among the winning team)
Runner-up - £200 (shared among the team)
+ a few more goodies given throughout the event (stay tuned!)
+ a free t-shirt for every participant

5.6   How can I contact you guys for further questions?

Feel free to post a question on the CSS Facebook group:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSSBristol
If you have a more complicated issue or question, some of our committee members can be contacted
directly:

Yek Zhun Chen (Technical Events) - events@cssbristol.co.uk
Matthew Crees (Secretary) - secretary@cssbristol.co.uk
Viet-Anh Tran (First year Representative) - fresher@cssbristol.co.uk