

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN HACKATHON DEVELOPMENT

Learning API Integration and Dynamic Web Functionality
with Sanity

My Hackathon Experience: Challenges, Learnings, and Suggestions for Improvement

Participating in a hackathon was an exhilarating experience that offered a multitude of learning opportunities and challenges. Here, I'll share my journey, the insights I gained, and a few suggestions for improvement.

Challenges Faced

1. **API Migration to Sanity:** One of the significant challenges I encountered was migrating APIs to Sanity. This required a deep understanding of both the existing API structure and how Sanity operates. The process involved ensuring that data was seamlessly integrated and accessible.
2. **Component Utilization:** Understanding how to effectively utilize components in our project was another hurdle. Components are essential for creating reusable and

efficient code, but mastering their implementation required time and practice.

3. **Error Resolution:** Throughout the project, numerous errors emerged. The search functionality, in particular, was a persistent issue. However, the satisfaction of resolving these errors was immense and contributed significantly to my learning experience.
4. **Dynamic Page Creation:** Building dynamic pages added another layer of complexity. Ensuring that the website was fully functional and data-driven involved meticulous attention to detail.

Learnings

1. **Data Fetching from Sanity:** Learning how to fetch data from Sanity and organize it into categories was an invaluable skill. This knowledge is crucial for building robust and dynamic web applications.
2. **Problem-Solving and Persistence:** Facing challenges head-on taught me the importance of perseverance. Each problem was an opportunity to learn and grow, reinforcing the idea that persistence is key in overcoming obstacles.
3. **End-to-End Functionality:** Seeing the project come to life, from placing orders to sending data to Sanity, was incredibly rewarding. This experience helped me understand the importance of seeing a project through from inception to completion.

Suggestions for Improvement

1. **Time Management:** Allocating time effectively was a challenge. Future hackathons could benefit from better

time management strategies, such as breaking the project into smaller, manageable tasks with clear deadlines.

2. **Collaboration Tools:** Utilizing collaboration tools more efficiently can enhance team dynamics. Platforms like Slack or Trello can improve communication and task tracking.
3. **Pre-Hackathon Preparation:** More preparation before the hackathon, such as workshops or tutorials on key technologies, could help participants hit the ground running and reduce the learning curve during the event.
4. **Feedback and Reflection:** Incorporating a structured feedback and reflection session post-hackathon could provide insights into areas of improvement and celebrate achievements.

Overall, the hackathon was a fantastic learning experience. It challenged me, taught me new skills, and, most importantly, reinforced my love for problem-solving and innovation.