Hackathon Guidance Notes

When participating in a hackathon, it's important to approach the project with a strategic and collaborative mindset. Here are some general guidelines for hackathon participants:

Important

- GitHub Copilot, Copilot Chat and GCP environment/API's are made vaiable for the hackathon purpose only. Do not submit other ONS information, regardless of its nature to the services etc.
- Off-network devices to be mandated for hackathon participation.

General Guidance

- **Understand the Project Needs:** Each hackathon challenge will have specific guidelines and project requirements. It's crucial to understand these needs and align your project with the hackathon's goals and themes.

- **Attend Project briefing sessions:** Take advantage of any briefing sessions offered before/during the hackathon. These sessions can provide valuable information that can help you throughout the Hackathon.

- **Start Early and Iterate:** Avoid waiting until the end to merge code. Start collaborating and integrating code early in the process. This allows for continuous feedback and iteration, leading to a more refined and polished final product.

- **Use of GitHub Copilot/GitHub Chat:** Fully explore the features of GitHub Copilot and GitHub Copilot Chat during the Hackaton.

    o **Legacy Code to Modern technology conversion:** The main goal is to leverage the capabilities of GitHub Copilot/Chat to facilitate this code conversion (We like to understand how GitHub Copilot/Chat can help conversion process.

    o **Development of Internal Chatbot:** The goal is to develop an internal chatbot that converses with people using natural language (English in this case) and answers questions about the data we make available to the chatbot. It is important that use fully explore the use of GitHub Copilot/Copilot Chat to speed up the development.

- **Project Introductions and Collaboration:** At the beginning of the event, participate in project introductions where participants explain what they are working on. This provides an opportunity for others to join projects and collaborate effectively. Maximising collaboration and teamwork is essential for a successful hackathon project.

- **Access to Mentors:** Additionally, don't hesitate to ask for help from mentors, teammates, and other participants. Collaboration and seeking assistance can be instrumental in overcoming challenges. We will use Teams channel for this purpose.

- **Target Audience and Problem Statement:** Understand the target audience and the problem statement. Tailor your project to address specific challenges and ensure that it aligns with the needs of the intended users or beneficiaries.