Participant Information Pack

EVENT DETAILS AND WHAT TO
EXPECT FOR SYNCS HACK 2024

#! hack

powered by

#! syncs

WELCOME

SYNCS HACK 2024 OUTLINE

You will have 24 hours to create a working prototype. This can be anything from a website, a software application, to a game, a system or hardware solutions. We strongly recommend you to do some brainstorming now before the hackathon starts so you come in with ideas.

We also encourage you to join our **SYNCS HACK workshop** this Friday where we will introduce the version control system Git (all SYNCS HACK submissions require your git repo link), what is a hackathon and tips on how to win.

WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE

- Checklist (MUST DO)
- Event Details
  - Location, schedule, signing in
- Submission Details
- Judging Details
  - Marking criteria, judging process
- Prizes
- FAQ
- Code of Conduct

CHECKLIST

WHAT TO DO BEFORE HACKING

Join the SYNCS Discord & SYNCSHACK Channel*

Find a team + Register your team

Register on Devpost and join SYNCS HACK 2024

WHAT TO BRING

Laptop + Phone

Chargers + power cables

Cutlery + crockeries (NOT OPTIONAL)

Deodorant

Water bottle / cup

Toiletries **

Blanket / sleeping bag**

Any hardware your team wants to use***

* Please follow the instructions in 'Announcements' for joining SYNCSHACK channel
** Optional, if you plan on staying overnight
*** No soldering at the event

EVENT DETAILS

LOCATION

- **J12 School of Computer Science Building:** For careers fair, industry workshops, hacking, mentoring, and judging
- **PNR Lecture Theatre:** For the opening ceremony

The first floor of the computer science building will be open for the duration of the hackathon. You are encouraged to participate in this event in-person and welcome to stay overnight, or come and go as you please.

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY

9:30 - 10:30	Sign In + Careers Fair
	Group Formation
10:45-11:30	Sponsor Workshops
11:30-12:00	Opening Ceremony (PNR)
12:00	**Hacking Begins!**
12:30-13:30	Lunch (CSB)
14:00-18:00	Mentoring sessions
6:00-7:00	Dinner (CSB)

SCHEDULE: SUNDAY

8:30-9:30	Breakfast (CSB)
12:00	**Hacking Ends!**
12:00-13:00	Lunch (CSB)
12:00-13:30	Preliminary Judging - 3 min video submissions
13:30-15:00	Final Judging - 4 min live pitch + Q&A
15:00-15:30	Judges Final Discussion
16:00-16:20	Award Ceremony

SIGN IN

- Please sign in to the event during the Career Fair, held in the **Winter Garden, J12 Computer Science Building**.
- Please note that our swag is first-come first-serve. Sign in on time to get **SYNCS limited edition merch** and sponsor merch!
- For late sign in after 10:40AM, please come to **Boardroom 124** in the **J12 Computer Science Building**.
- Please note if you **do NOT have a group,** you must arrive at least **30min before** the opening ceremony to be assigned a group later.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

SUBMISSION

SUBMITTING ON DEVPOST:

We will be using DevPost for project submissions. Please register an account on DevPost and join our hackathon on **this page** before you start hacking.

You need to submit your project by 12:00PM AEST on Sunday Aug 25th for it to be considered for judging. We strongly encourage you to create your DevPost submission on the Saturday and edit it throughout the event so that you don't have to rush to submit on the Sunday morning.

WRITING GOOD DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE JUDGES

Note that the judges will have access to your DevPost submission so a clear description of your project helps increase your chances of winning a prize.

THINGS YOU COULD INCLUDE:

- Link to your Git repository (compulsory).
- What problem are you trying to solve?
- Who would use it?
- What is your prototype?
- How does your prototype work?
- How did you implement your prototype?
- Link to your working prototype.

WHAT TO SUBMIT AND JUDGING

3 MIN VIDEO DEMO

The preliminary judging will be based on a **maximum 3 minute video demonstration** of your project. The judging criteria (see next page) is the same as the final judging. Make sure to clearly demonstrate what your prototype can do and how it works.

PRESENTATION

The final judging will be a **live pitch style presentation** to our panel of judges. Only the top 10-12 teams will progress to this round. The duration of this presentation is limited to a **maximum of 4 minutes**. You may choose to use the same video submitted for preliminary judging, or pitch your project live. We encourage you to accompany your pitch with presentation slides, although this is not compulsory. How you pitch your project to the judges is completely up to you.

JUDGING CRITERIA

LEVEL OF INNOVATION

- Is the idea original? Are there existing/similar solutions to your problem in the real world?
- Is your solution unique and creative?

TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY

- Does your solution demonstrate a strong level of personal technical ability?
- Is the solution impressive?
- Were there any technical challenges during your dev that were expertly handled?

PRACTICALITY OF SOLUTION

- Is your solution useful in the real world? What value will the solution bring?
- Who would use your solution?

ELEGANCE OF SOLUTION

- Is the user experience smooth?
- Is the design intuitive?
- Is your program functional and robust?

JUDGING PROCESS

AFTER HACKING CONCLUDES

Preliminary Judging
- Max 3 min video demonstration

Final Judging
- Max 4 min live presentation
- 2-3 min Q&A with the judges

After judges have determined the winners in each of the prize categories (listed on the next page), winning teams will be announced at the award ceremony. **This will be held at J12 LT123 at 4pm on Sunday, Aug 27.**

PRIZES

1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE
$2,000	$1,400	$800

Theses main prizes will be judged using the criteria on the previous page

BEST TECHNICAL FEAT

- Is the feature itself innovative?
- Is the feature implemented well in the app?
- How complex is this new feature?

Holy Stone HS440 Foldable FPV Drone

BEST UI/UX PRIZE

- Is the design user friendly?
- Is the UI aesthetic and eye catching?
- Does the design accomodate for a range of user levels?

Logitech G815 LIGHTSYNC RGB Keyboard

All item prizes are awarded per participant in winning team
Teams are limited to one prize category

BEST PITCH

- Is the pitch flawlessly engaging?
- Is the pitch presented in an exceptionally effective and organised manner?
- Does the pitch clearly convey to the judges what the desired functionality is and what the expected behaviour is?

Soundcore Glow Mini
Portable Speaker

OTHER PRIZES

The People's Choice Prize will be chosen by all the SYNCS HACK 2024 participants, and the Best First Year Team Prize will be chosen by the SYNCS executives team via preliminary judging.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

- Based on SYNCS HACK 2024 participants' votes
- Must have at least a working prototype and demo video

JBL Tune 510 Wireless ON
Ear Headphones Black

BEST FIRST YEAR TEAM

- Over 50% of the team must be first year students
- Judged with the same criteria as main prizes

Logitech G305
LIGHTSPEED Wireless
Gaming Mouse

BEST MEME PRIZE

A Surprise :P

- Join the SYNCS HACK 2024 Discord
- Submit your best content at #💩 | memes
- Emoji uploads and reactions encouraged

All item prizes are awarded per participant in winning team
Teams are limited to one prize category

FAQ

How many team members can my team have?

Teams can have 1-5 team members. We can help you find a team on the day during the careers fair time (10-10.40am) if you don't already have one.

Do I own the rights to anything I develop at the hackathon?

Yes, absolutely! SYNCS does not own anything you develop at our hackathon.

Can I start developing my project before the hackathon?

No, you can't, but you are welcome to bring ideas with you. We will be verifying your project and may disqualify teams that don't comply with this.

Can I use existing frameworks and libraries for my project?

Absolutely! If you are building off existing tools (game engines such as Unity) or using large-scale frameworks (React) they should be mentioned in your project description on your team's Devpost page so we can judge the projects appropriately. If you are building things from scratch, make sure to let the judges know so they can mark with this in mind.

Do I have to stay overnight?

Not at all! You are welcome to go home overnight and come back in the morning. If you do decide to stay overnight, there is a shower in the building.

CODE OF CONDUCT

By participating in SYNCS HACK 2024 you agree to abide by the Hack Code of Conduct. You can view it here.

CONTACTS

SYNCS ORGANISERS

Jeffrey Liang: 0420480205
Nathan Lai: 0466972086
Thomas Dizon: 0424795424
Belinda Hu: 0421872330
Grace Fry: 0413507096

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade (24 hour) – 000
- State Emergency Service (24 hour) – 132 500
- Nurse On Call (24 hour) – 1300 606 024
- Lifeline (24 hour) - 131 114
- New South Wales Poisons Information Centre - 13 11 26
- Sexual Assault Crisis Line (24 hour) - 1800 806 292
- SuicideLine (24 hour) - 1300 651 251