

# Running Engaging Workshops for Beginners

A workshop to level up your workshops

Hackcon EU 2017

**What do you think when you  
walk into a workshop room?**

# First Thoughts

- Who is this?
- Am I qualified for this? Is this valuable for me?
- What do I do if I have questions?
- What are they going to talk about?
- I wonder what's for dinner...

**Make the environment  
welcoming**

**Hi, I'm Arielle.**

**This workshop is for future workshop facilitators, organisers, or attendees.**

**This is an interactive  
workshop.**

**If you see a coloured slide,  
follow the instructions.**



# Raise your right hand

# **I will answer questions at the end**

But please raise your hand if you have a burning question!

# **What makes a hackathon workshop different?**

# Workshops at Hackathons

- 30-60 minutes
- Motivation to “complete” a project
- 24-48 hour timeline
- Abundance of mentorship
- Learning and experimenting mindset

# Hackathon Tips

- Attendees should walk away with something that works
- Make yourself available after the workshop
- Provide inspiration for projects
- Give some possible “Next steps”

# Teaching Guidelines

- Present with all learning types in mind (visual, auditory, learn by doing)
- Have real-time mentorship available
- Offer pauses

# Workshops for Beginners

# Roadbumps for Beginners

- “This is way over my head”
- Development environment setup
- Small technical errors
- Uninspiring content



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# Scoping Your Workshop

**“Front End Web Development”**

“iOS”

**“Make a static personal website with Github Pages”**  
**“Learn about audio analysis with the Spotify API”**  
**“Read realtime data from Twitter in Python”**

# Minimum Viable Workshop Topic

- Limited prior knowledge
- Attendees can walk away with something that works
- Room for further exploration

<https://pokeapi.co/>

**Try getting data for  
another Pokemon!**



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(Using TextEdit) “Why isn’t my code coloured like yours?”

**“How do I open Terminal?”**

“It says npm: command not found”

**“How do I do that on Windows?”**

**Keep it environment-  
agnostic**

# Example environments

- Glitch (front end or Node)
- Cloud9 (full ubuntu environment)
- Codepen
- JSFiddle
- Github (if your audience already has accounts & knows Git)

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**Provide a working  
foundation**

```

1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <title>OMG IT WORKS</title>
5     <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css"/>
6   </head>
7   <body>
8     <h1 id="maintitle">Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit. Veniam recusandae ipsam optio voluptatem aliquam doloribus!</h1>
9     <p class="super-epic">Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit. Eligendi cupiditate dicta, adipisci. <b>Recusandae perferendis
    expedita obcaecati, officia architecto non ex ullam delectus, possimus aperiam atque rem dolorem. Dolor vero cumque sapiente consequuntur
    rerum beatae dolore ab ipsam sunt fuga, ratione sit laudantium magni velit, labore!</p>
10    <div
11      <h4 style="color: #800080;font-size:70px">Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit. Eligendi cupiditate dicta, adipisci
    perferendis eaque quis, expedita obcaecati, officia architecto non ex ullam delectus, possimus aperiam atque rem dolorem. Dolor vero cumque
    consequuntur quos voluptas amet rerum beatae dolore ab ipsam sunt fuga, ratione sit laudantium magni velit, labore!</h4>
12      <p class="super-epic"><a href="http://developer.spotify.com">Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet</a>, consectetur adipisicing elit. Eligendi cupiditate
    adipisci. Recusandae perferendis eaque quis, expedita obcaecati, officia architecto non ex ullam delectus, possimus aperiam atque rem dolorem.
    <span style="color: #FFFF00">Dolor vero cumque sapiente consequuntur quos voluptas amet rerum beatae dolore ab ipsam sunt fuga, ratione sit laudantium
    labore!</span></p>
13    </div>
14    <a href="http://ariari.io"></a>
15    <ol>
16      <li>First thing</li>
17      <li>oh wait this too</li>
18      <!--<li>next thing</li>
19      <li>last thing</li>-->
20    </ol>
21  </body>
22 </html>

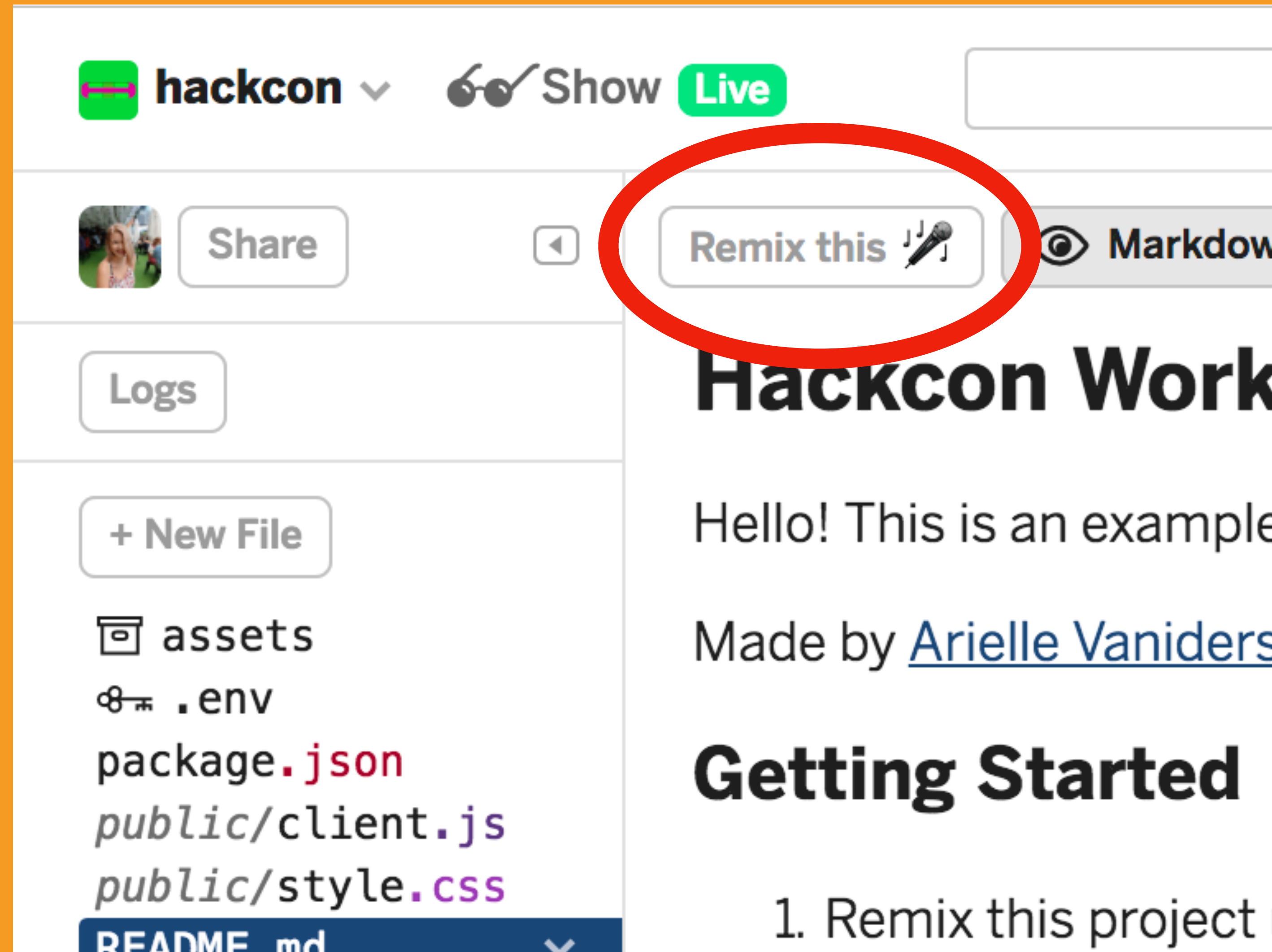
```

# Good Templates

- Offer inspiration (ie. a README with things to try)
- Documented (comments, links to resources, highlights important parts)
- Hackable (change something small and see different results)
- Open (accessible during and after event, open-source)

<https://hackcon.glitch.me>

# “Remix” the project



# Follow the instructions in the README!

Raise your hand if you have questions or get stuck.



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- **Uninspiring content**

# Make it interactive



**Focus on exploring what you  
can do**



**Nick Quinlan** @YayNickQ · 6 Apr 2014

LOON FACT: Loons have red eyes! [#tweetaloon](#) [goo.gl/LVqwHZ](http://goo.gl/LVqwHZ) | Try it: [goo.gl/cG8wUX](http://goo.gl/cG8wUX) via @arielle\_van



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**Jerry Xie** @thejerryxie · 6 Apr 2014

LOON FACT: Loons are clumsy and awkward on land! [#tweetaloon](#) [goo.gl/3nYgLB](http://goo.gl/3nYgLB) | Try it: [goo.gl/cG8wUX](http://goo.gl/cG8wUX) via @arielle\_van



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**Zafarali Ahmed** @zafarali · 6 Apr 2014

Look at what @arielle\_van made! LOON FACT: Loons mate in long-term pairs! [#tweetaloon](#) [goo.gl/fti8yQ](http://goo.gl/fti8yQ) Try it: [goo.gl/cG8wUX](http://goo.gl/cG8wUX)



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# Your Workshop Template Pack

[https://github.com/arirawr/  
hackcon-workshop](https://github.com/arirawr/hackcon-workshop)

# Questions?

# @imariari