
Fun with Lightning

How to Win Every Bitcoin Hackathon*

Feb 22, 10:30 AM
Alex Lewin @_alexlewin

Talk Goals

1. Encourage you to participate in today's hackathon
2. **Get you more BANG for your buck**
3. Encourage you to participate in more hackathons



Hackathons - “Buildathons”

- A competition to build something with technology
- Typically, **24 - 48 hours to deliver** a project
- Hosted at most technical conferences
- It's an all out **SPRINT** to build



Hackathons - Look & Feel



Shadowy Super



Actual hackathons



!!!!

Actual Hackathons

- Bunch of **smart people**
- Being super **productive**
- **Sprinting** to make something from nothing



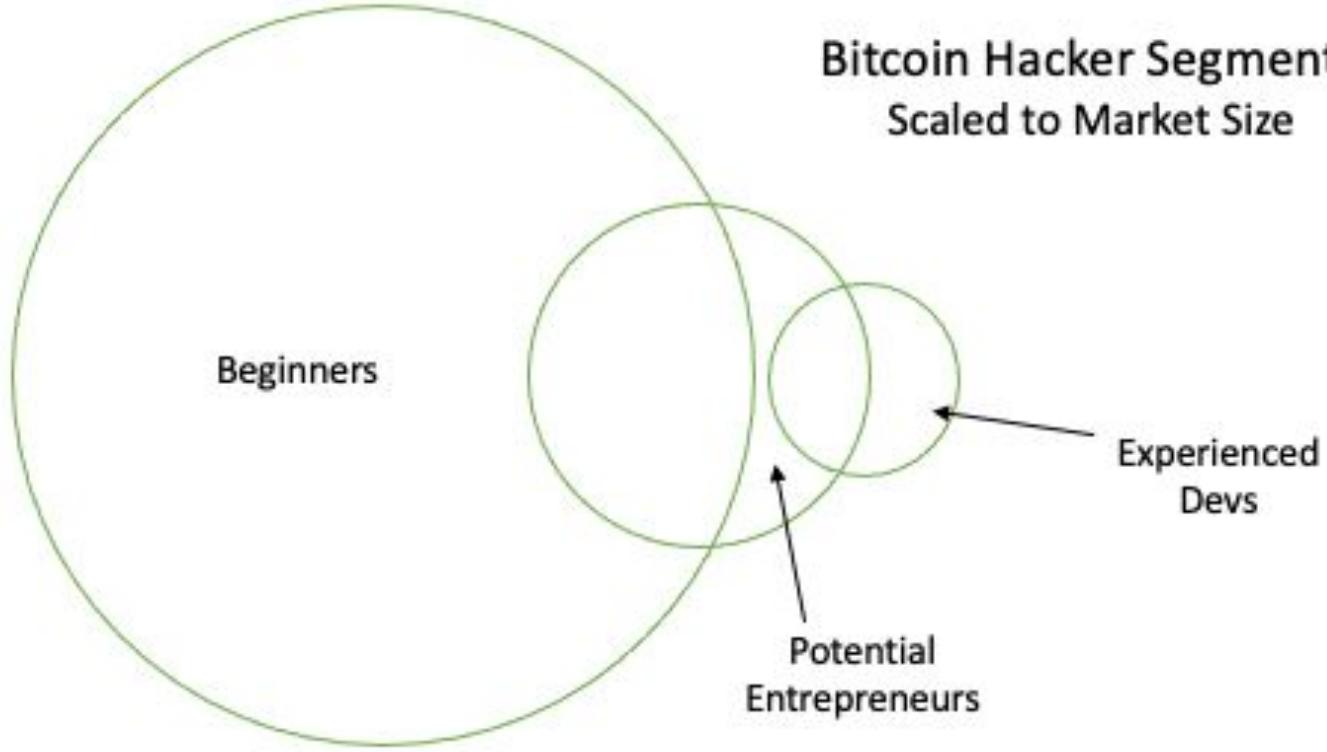
They're awesome...

Hackathons are an opportunity...

- To **learn** something new.
- To ship an **entire project** in a weekend.
- To work on something **fun**.



Bitcoin Hacker Segments Scaled to Market Size



How to Win a Hackathon

Let's do one together!
Ready?



Your First Hackathon (24 hours)

1. Hackathon Begins

½ hr

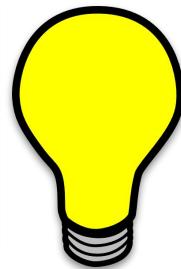
1 hr

2. "Hacking Period" (24 hours)

3. Present to Judges
(5 minutes)



Assemble team



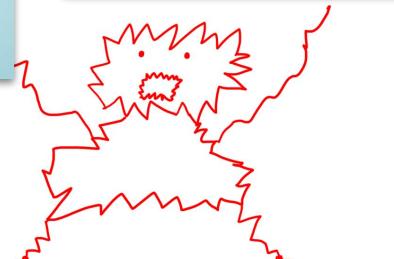
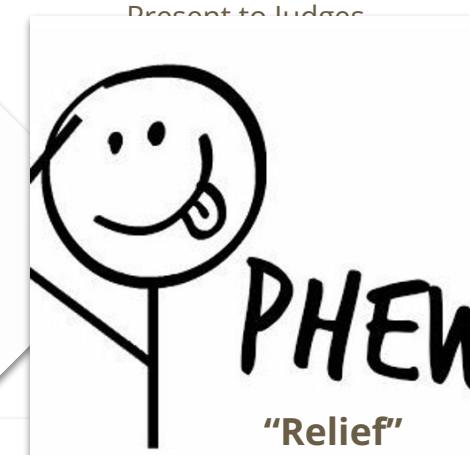
Settle on an idea

What do we wanna build?

Idea - Doggy Livestream w/ Bitcoin

- I wanna build a website
- Livestreams my dog
- On the livestream, it has a **lightning invoice!**
- If anyone pays, **my dog gets fed a treat**
 - **on stream!**





Your First Hackathon (24 hours)

Hackathon Kickoff

1hr

Settle on an idea



Assemble team

What are we being judged on?

"Hacking Period" (24 hours)



HACK HACK HACK
~24 hours

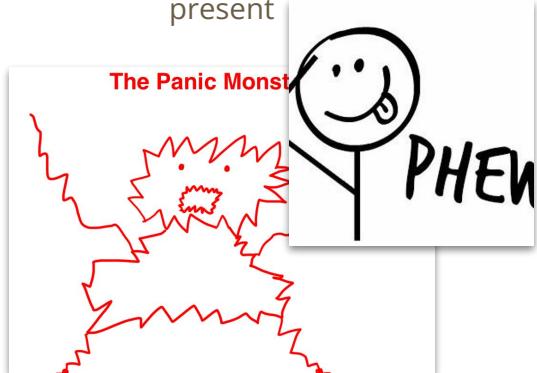


Present to Judges
(5 minutes)

T 10 mins

Oh lord, we
need to
present

The Panic Monst

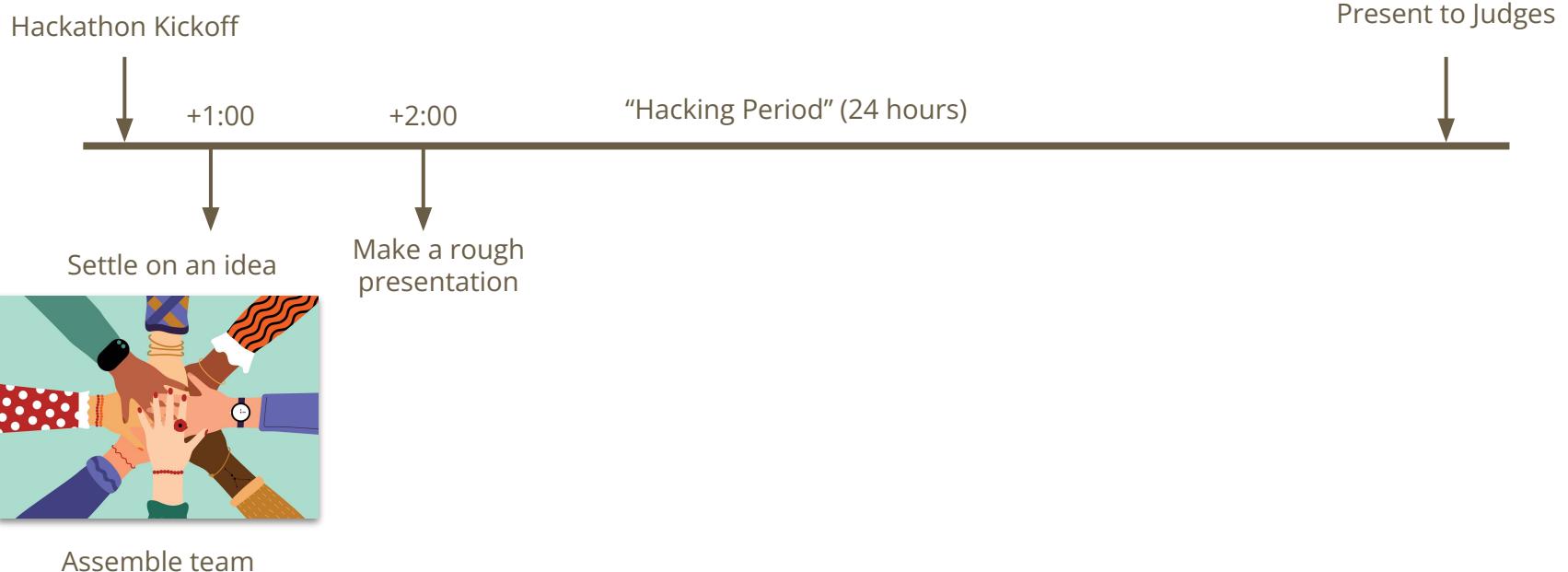


What Went Wrong?

- We didn't spend enough time on our presentation
- We built stuff that didn't get used in the demo
- We got super stressed... and it was supposed to be fun!!!



Timeline - 2nd Try (24 hours)

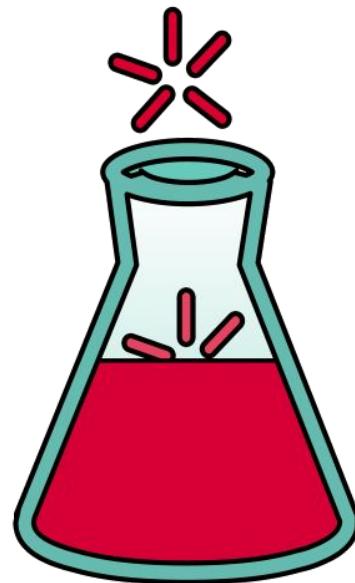


Timeline - 2nd Try (24 hours)

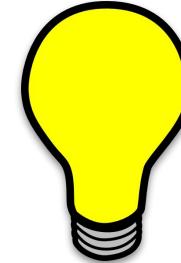


Presentation Formula

1. Background info (25%)
 - a. Uncover **problem**
 - b. Lead to **solution**
2. Project Demo (50%)
 - a. Introduce Project
 - b. Demo Project
3. Review (25%)
 - a. Explain why the project's important
 - b. **Explain why the project is important **for bitcoin**
 - c. Future/Final thoughts



Idea - Doggy Livestream w/ Bitcoin



Simple... let's turn it into a compelling pitch.

Rough Presentation

1. Background info (25%)

- a. Uncover **problem**
- b. Lead to **solution**

2. Project Demo (50%)

- a. Introduce Project
- b. Demo Project

3. Review (25%)

- a. Explain why the project's important
- b. Why it matters for bitcoin
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1. Introduce my dog Bosco

- a. **Loves** treats, but **hates** being alone
- b. "If only I could feed my dog while away..."

2. Explain Project

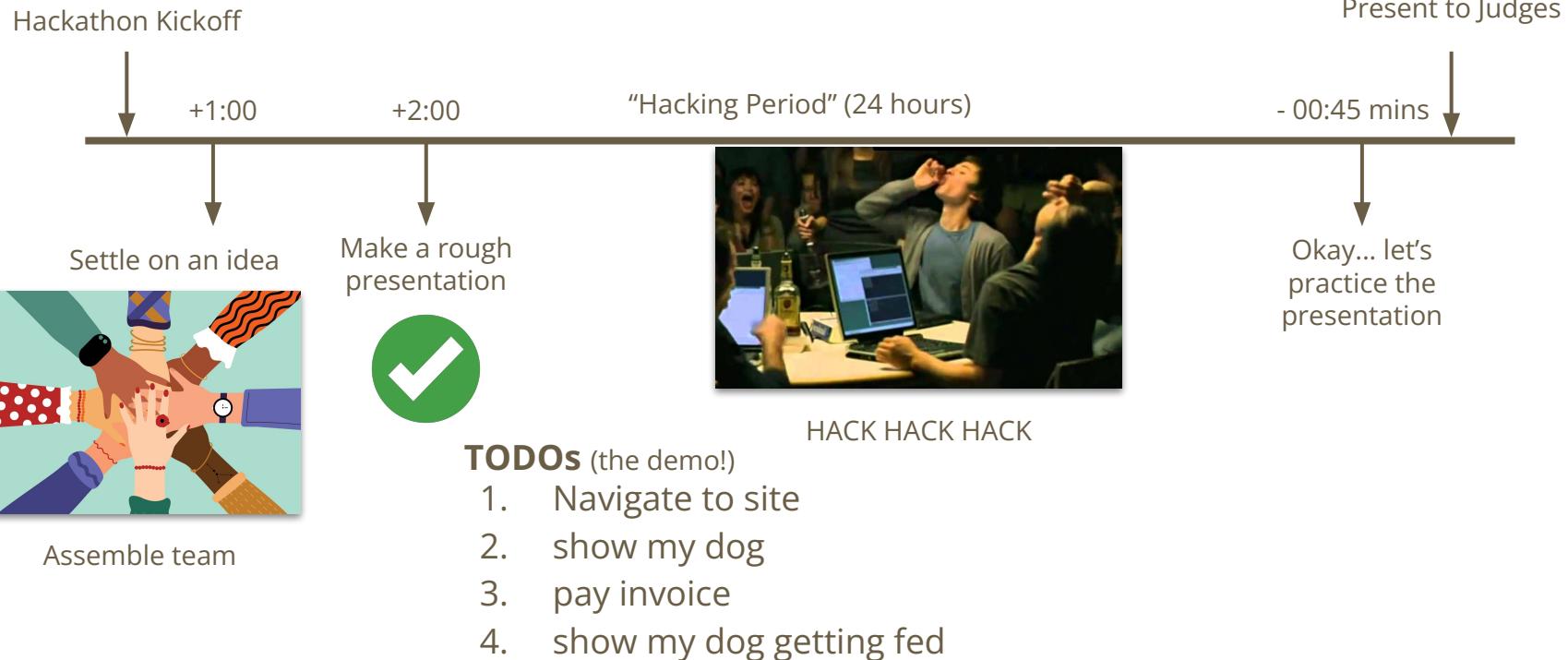
- a. Introduce "Remote Feeder"
- b. **Demo:**

- i. Navigate to site,
- ii. show my dog,
- iii. pay invoice,
- iv. show my dog getting fed

3. Why it matters

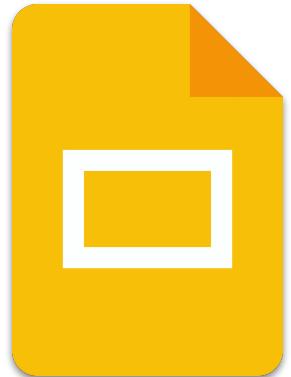
- a. Scale my dog's love to the world!
- b. Encourages dog lovers to **download a bitcoin wallet**

Timeline - 2nd Try (24 hours)



Let's make a presentation!

- Pick a presentation format...
 - Markdown Document
 - Slides
 - Canva



Canva

Rough Presentation

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2. Project Demo (50%)

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- b. Demo Project

3. Review (25%)

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3. Why it matters

- a. Scale my dog's love to the world!
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Remote Feeder

Hackathon Presentation

Background

- This is my pet Bosco, the world's **cutest dog!**
- People **LOVE** giving her treats!
(and she loves them too)
- She **connects with people** when they give her treats!



Background Info

Problem

- Sometimes I need to travel, which makes Bosco sad
- People need to **physically visit** in order to meet her



Introduce problem

Goals

- Interact with my dog while abroad
- Allow others to interact with my dog without coming to my house
- *Use Bosco's cuteness to promote Bitcoin adoption?* 



Introduce solution



Remote Feeder

An Online Portal to Meet my Dog

Remote Feeder

- Web App containing a livestream of Bosco
- Presents user with an invoice
- When paid, Bosco is given a treat



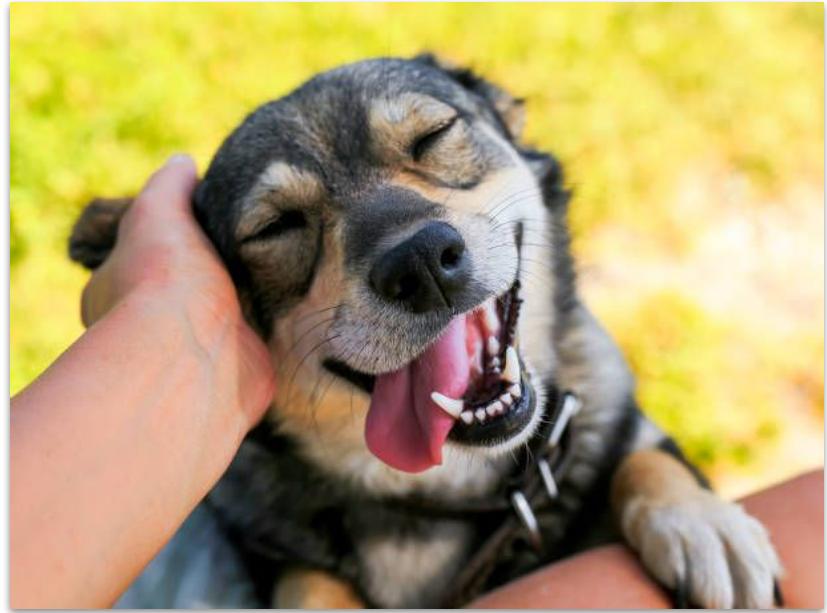
Demo

Pollo feed

<https://pollofeed.com/>

Results

- Connected Bosco to the world
- Give dog lovers a **reason to download a lightning wallet**



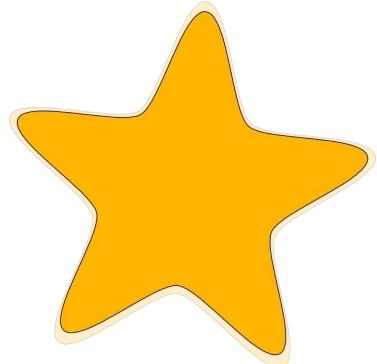
Thanks!

That wasn't so hard, right?



We made an awesome
hackathon project!

We had fun too!



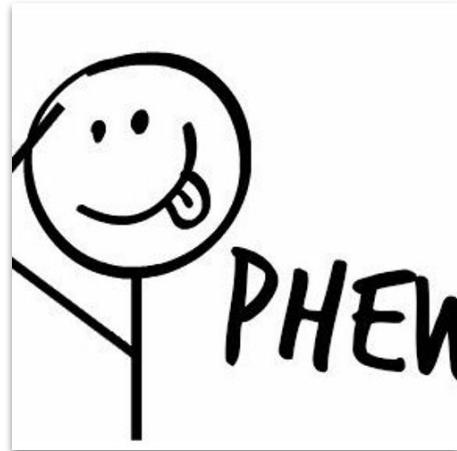
Closing Thoughts

The *Zen* of Hack



1. Don't stress...

- It's just 24 hours
- You're not gonna change the world
- Just do the demo, even if nothing's working
- ANYTHING you present... is impressive



2. Maximize the Fun

- If you have two ideas, pick the one that'll be more fun
- Spend hackathons building what you **want to build**
 - not what you think you *should* build

3. Quantity > Quality

- **Keep showing up**
- Don't stress about each project
- Also applies to organizers... quantity BREEDS quality
 - Shoot for MORE Submissions and the quality will come

4. Whatever you build, demo it.

- Even if you didn't write a *line of code*.
- Whatever you demo... it's impressive
- Just go hard for 24 hours and see what happens

The Cult of Done Manifesto

<https://medium.com/@bre/the-cult-of-done-manifesto-724ca1c2ff13>

1. There are three states of being. Not knowing, action and completion.
2. **Accept that everything is a draft. It helps to get it done.**
3. There is no editing stage.
4. Pretending you know what you're doing is almost the same as knowing what you are doing, so just accept that you know what you're doing even if you don't and do it.
5. Banish procrastination. If you wait more than a week to get an idea done, abandon it.
6. The point of being done is not to finish but to get other things done.
7. Once you're done you can throw it away.
8. Laugh at perfection. It's boring and keeps you from being done. 😂
9. People without dirty hands are wrong. **Doing something makes you right.**
10. **Failure counts as done.** So do mistakes.
11. Destruction is a variant of done.
12. If you have an idea and publish it on the internet, *that counts as a ghost of done.*
13. **Done is the engine of more.**

Happy Hacking :)
@_alexlewin