



cmd-f 2020

Phase 3: Git Ready to
Hack





Hackathons 101

cmd-f Phase Three



Hi, Anita here



→ Co-pres @ nwPlus

→ 5th year CS @ UBC

→ First hackathons ever:
LHD 2016 + nwHacks 2017



Agenda

1. What and why?
2. Hackathon rundown
3. Building your hack
4. Making the most of your 24 hours

What and why?



What is a Hackathon?



hack·a·thon

/'hakə,THän/

noun

INFORMAL

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INFORMAL

What does a Hackathon mean to you?

- + A place for people to come together to code something, i.e. an app, a website, etc.
- + Meet mentors and sponsors
- + Drink lots of energy drinks
- + Get involved with the tech community

What is a Hackathon?

As quoted from [Major League Hacking](#):



“A hackathon is best described as an ‘invention marathon’. Anyone who has an interest in technology attends a hackathon to **learn, build & share** their creations over the course of a weekend in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. You don’t have to be a programmer and you certainly don’t have to be majoring in Computer Science.”

Why go to a hackathon?

- + Meet and learn from other hackers
- + Meet industry mentors
- + Grab free swag and free food
- + Learn new skills
- + Build your portfolio
- + Win prizes



Rundown of the big weekend



Rundown of a Hackathon

Before Hacking Begins:

- + Check in
- + Grab all the swag!
- + Meet with sponsors
- + Watch the opening ceremony



Rundown of a Hackathon

During Hacking:

- + You have 12-36 hours to build a project from scratch together with your team (check hackathon for rules)
- + Snacks and food!
- + More swag + sponsors
- + Attend workshops
- + Participate in mini activities



Rundown of a Hackathon

After hacking:

- + Demo your project to judges and other participants
- + Watch the closing ceremony and see all of the winning hacks



Building your hack

Let's get down to business 💪



Building your hack

1. Team formation
2. Ideation
3. Building the hack
4. Demo time!

1. Team Formation

Things to consider:

- + Ideas + interests
- + Skill sets (Diversity is key!)
- + Goals (Be on the same page)



1. Team Formation

- + Team formation session (tonight at 7:30PM!)
- + #team-formation channel on the cmd-f Slack
- + Still can't find a team?
 - Don't worry, there will be a team formation at the beginning of cmd-f!

2. Ideation

- + A successful hack solves a problem
- + Does it meet your goals?
- + Can you build this in 24 hours?
- + Look at the judging criteria



Hacks + Criteria

Common hacks:

- + Android applications
- + Web applications
- + Alexa skills
- + hardware hacks
- + chat bots
- + Hacks using APIs (Spotify, computer vision)

→ Check [Devpost](#) to see previous hacks!



3. Building the hack

- + Splitting up the work
- + Using your resources
 - + Use our starter kit, #ask-mentors channel, and GOOGLE!!
- + Focus on reaching Minimum Viable Product (MVP) first
 - + Its OK if you only finish with a prototype!

But what if I can't code?

There's so much you can do!

- + Researcher
- + Tester
- + Demoer
- + Learner
- + Snack deliverer 

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The Golden Quest [Demo play-through]

148 views • Mar 19, 2017

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I've been all of these before!



4. Demo time!

- + Practice your pitch well in advance!
- + Focus on the problem you are solving + judging criteria
- + Remember you only have ~3-4 minutes to showcase yourself
- + Don't be discouraged if you don't make it this far!



Making the most out of your weekend



There's more than just hacking!



There's more than just hacking!

- + Visit a sponsor booth - many are hiring and giving out swag
- + Meet industry mentors
- + Attend a workshop
- + Participate in a mini-event or Slack contests
- + Chat with other hackers
- + Eat, sleep, and take care of yourself 

**Remember:
A hackathon isn't just
for winning prizes**



Define what YOU want
to get out of the
weekend



Questions?



Thanks for coming to Hackathons 101!

