

David Perdomo, Best Solution winner

1. (Start of the hack)

a. If you look back to the start of the hack when you first learned about it, what made you want to participate?

When the teacher talked us about the Ironhacks, I realized that this contest was a perfect opportunity to learn, and practice some knowledge learned in class, also the chance to exposed me to a possible mobility program with the Purdue University or partners of the contest. The monetary prizes were an extra motivation to develop the best app.

2. (Training period)

a. Once the program had started, how did you make yourself familiar with the technologies during the training phases (HTML, CSS, javascript, D3.js)?

i. How and how much did you use the material provided via www.ironhacks.com? Which materials were particularly helpful (e.g. videos, etc.)?

Before the Ironhacks I was acquainted with HTML and CSS, so I just had to review a few of this information. Instead for Javascript and D3 I had to read all the material, especially the jQuery tutorial of w3school.

ii. What other sources and material did you use, and how did they help you in the preparation?

Mainly, I use the sources recommend for our teacher in the tutorials sessions, the official page of bootstrap and the Mozilla developer network. I also had to research from other sources, I visited Stack overflow and w3school pages.

iii. Did you interact with your tech experts during the tech sessions? If so, what did you learn there? What didn't you learn there what you were hoping for?

During the sessions, I learned made the example project with the teacher's guide, for me that is a good way to learn what we need to know for the contest, because we learned practicing, and sometimes appeared doubts, that could happen in the contest.

3. (First submission): Describe the process and how you worked on you first app before the first submission deadline. (probe: barriers he encountered)

a. Tell me how you tried to understand the tasks?

Firstly, I listed the requirements, and I thought how was the best way to organize and join the data, to present it to the user easily and intuitively. So, I made a wireframe of the app, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and improving the idea of the app.

b. Tell me about your hacking process during the 3 days from start of the hacking phase until you submitted.

I tried to identify all the open data sets provided and I search other data sets related with the task, in that way I could know the boundaries of the app and how make the outline of the web page. In my app, I made 4 modules in the main page: the welcome message, in which I put the safest and cheapest buttons, and one button the show all the houses; The user criteria filters; the map and the option list of the user.

i. When and where did you work?

I really dedicate much time on the first submission, I worked at home, and in my breaks in the university, I went to the computer room of the library to keep reading the requirements and the data sets specifications.

ii. How many iterations did you make locally before pushing your first submission into the Git repo?

I just made one session of coding, in the first phase I focused in read documentation of the APIs that I thought were the best to solve the task, understand the task and look deeply the data sets. In the first submission, I made the outline of the system organizing and leaving the space of the implementation. I could put in work the google maps API, and I made the first tests of some data sets.

iii. From whom did you seek help and how often? (friends, professors, online sources like...?)

In the first phase, the only source of information was the internet, I search in teaching pages as w3school or Mozilla developer network, in online forums as Stackoverflow, and official websites as bootstrap and NYC open data.

c. Was there anything holding you back from building the functions and features that you wanted to implement? (If yes, probe)

On the first phase I could made most that I planned, but from this first submission I have a particularly problem with one extern dataset, to solve the problem of find the price of the houses I found the Zillow API, but there was a problem with CORS, and I didn't understand that, so, I had to spend much time to learn about this, although this information was interesting, it wasn't useful for the app.

d. How did you make use of any material from the training during this process? (e.g. the tutorials, the videos, etc.)

Before the contest, I worked on the example project and I tried to improve using the material of the tutorials. During the contest I use different sources of information.

e. How did you engage on the discussion on www.ironhacks.com?

I tried to help in one common problem, the access of the Zillow data, with all the information that I read, I had a temporally solution that I shared with the participants.

f. What was your reaction after you received the first feedback from the judges about your app via email and via the forum?

The results were the expected, because I knew that the contest was just beginning and for me, that first phase a learning stage, in which the main goal was learn useful information, visualize and planned the project.

i. (hacker is from Bogota 1)

1. How did you explore the information that was available on the forum (the links to other apps)? How many apps did you look at? Did you first look at the code and then at the running applications?

For the first phase I tried to look all the apps, because I want to compare my app with the others, I didn't read all codes, I saw first the app work and I selected the most interesting to see the code.

2. If you looked at the code what did you look for? If you look at the app what did you look for?

In the code, I looked for the method using by organize the different functionalities of the app. In the app running, I looked for a novelty

3. How did you use the information in your further app development activities?

With the feedback, I knew the form of evaluation and I put attention to the dimensions of the contest.

4. Following submissions:

i. In the following submissions, what did you do differently compared to the first round?

In the following submissions, I focused more in coding, in the first phase I made planning process

ii. In which phase did you think you improved the most?

I think, in the third phase I could run most of the data sets, but the phase with more impact was the last one, because I change one of the most important functionality using a new data set provided, and the problem of houses prices was solved in a different way.

iii. How did you prioritize your activities?

In the first phase I made a kind of calendar, in which I program task for each following phase, although this wasn't accomplished fully because we were on finals in the university, the calendar was an important tool for me, because I organized the short time that I had.

iv. When did you change direction of your activities?

As I mentioned above, in the last phase I had a change in the prices dataset. With the last dataset published in the forum, I found a good alternative to the problem that I had in the contest.

5. Reflection:

a. What would you have done differently if you could start over again?

I think that I managed the time correctly, but I spend so much time in a particularly issue, and It would've been better if I would've looked for other sources and other alternatives.

b. Compare the IronHacks to other hacks on campus, and/or traditional hacks.

I didn't know much about the hacks and this kind of contest, for me was a new awesome experience, in which I could learn to much, gain experience and enjoy.

6. Future activities:

a. What are you planning to do next with the app, if anything?

I think that this task is very useful and has a lot of potential, In fact, after the contest I've been working in the app, correcting and modifying some functionalities.

b. If you had a lot of time, what would you do next?

I really would like to develop a more robust and professional app, with the possibility to publish, and serves to community.

7. Clearinghouse: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

I just must express my gratitude with Purdue university and everyone who made possible this Ironhacks, I learned to much and I am proud to be a winner in this important contest.