

MSP Event Overview and Introduction

Introduction

Microsoft has created a challenge on the aigaming.com platform to make it easier for MSPs to host events that introduce participants to [Microsoft Cognitive Services](#) such as [Computer Vision](#). The aigaming.com platform has an event service that handles

- Event registration
- Code development, with template code and examples
- Playing against housebots or other users
- Entering code into a Tournament as the culmination of the event

This greatly simplifies your requirements to host the event as an MSP as you do not have to talk for hours to present technical subject matter and you do not have to spend the time to design an activity for an event. Additionally, the event is based around playing a game, making the event light-hearted and fun as people learn by example about Microsoft's services.

The event works for beginner programmers with a little bit of Python knowledge and perhaps knowledge of processing JSON with Python. It also works for more advanced programmers who can work on the strategy of the game to try to reach the highest score possible (the average score in the game is 20, but for more capable programmers, the maximum achievable score is over 500,000).

Your responsibilities

To prepare for the event you will need to

1. Organise a room that the event can be held in
2. Advertise the event to get people to sign up and take part.
3. Make an introduction at the start of the event
4. Schedule a tournament or two for people to compete in during the event

We have a page of videos and instructions that will help you understand the event and how it operates and how people write code to take part in the event and play a successful game. You should go through all of the resources on this page to help you prepare your introduction to the event:

<https://help.aigaming.com/game-help/microsoft-match-game-events-info>

Preparing for the event

Reviewing the help pages

Go through everything on the MSP Event Help page at:

<https://help.aigaming.com/game-help/microsoft-match-game-events-info>

Really, go through everything. This will take less than an hour at most and will give you the best introduction possible to the aigaming.com site and what people need to do during this event.

The Test Event

In order for you to become familiar with the aigaming.com platform and how the events operate, we will create a Test Event for you. You can use it to become familiar with the main event activities. There are only 4 things you need to be familiar with:

1. How user's register for the event
2. How you create tournaments
3. How users submit code to tournaments
4. How you can display the tournament when it runs

You and any people that are going to help you host the event, should make sure you use the test event as much as necessary to prepare for the live event.

- How users register for the event
- How you create tournaments
 - Creating tournaments from the Games => View tournaments screen
 - From the aigaming account that is set as the Event Manager, you will see a Create Tournament button on the
 - Seeing the tournament in the list of Upcoming Tournaments on the Games => View Tournaments screen
 - Clicking on the number of players listed in the tournament to review who has and who has not submitted code to the tournament

- Seeing the tournament move from the Upcoming Tab to the Running Tab when the tournament begins
- How users submit code to the tournament
 - from the Editor page Run button drop-down
- Watching the brackets view of the running tournament by clicking on the row under the running tournaments tab
- How you can display the tournament when it runs
 - While the tournament is running, watching some games in the tournament as they play live. This is what you should do in the event when the tournament runs so people at the event get some commentary as the tournaments play out and it build excitement as people progress through the rounds.

In the test event, you can make as many tournaments as you like (within reason) to be familiar with how to create them and how they operate.

Creating Azure Accounts and Cognitive Services API keys

Each person that attends your event will need to sign up for a free Microsoft Azure account using their academic email address to verify that they are eligible for the student trial account.

You must spend some time familiarising yourself with how your event participants will sign up for Microsoft Azure accounts and create an API key for Microsoft Cognitive Services. We have instructions and handouts that can be printed to help people with this in the shared assets at:

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AsoZxg2rM8jVtlq7chApHd9dGkuh?e=QwR9nT>

The Live Event

During the live event, which usually runs for 4 hours, you should give an introduction to the event making sure the event participants understand

- What The Match Game is
- That they will write Python code to play the game
- How to write code in the aigaming.com Online Code Editor explaining how
 - `calculate_move()` is called every time the game manager wants you to make a move in the game
 - A `gamestate` object is passed to `calculate_move()` that describes everything about the current state of the game
 - `calculate_move()` returns the move that you want to make next in the game, which for The Match Game will be the numbers of the next two cards you want to turn over.

During the event

- You and your assistants should help the participants become comfortable editing their code and playing games, answering any questions they have.
- Run a trial tournament half way through the event and make sure everyone knows how to submit their code to the tournament, ready for the final tournament at the end of the event.
- Run a final tournament about 15 or 20 minutes before the end of the event.

F.A.Q.

1. **Tournament not displaying in Upcoming Tournament list**

I have created a tournament but I do not see that tournament in the Upcoming Tab on the Games => View Tournaments page

If you have set the Registration Date for the tournament in the future, then the tournament will not display until the Registration Date has passed. Either set the Registration Date to be the same time that you create the tournament, or wait until the Registration Date has passed to see the tournament listing.

2. **My test tournament did not show up in the Running or Completed tab**

You created a test tournament in your test event but it did not run properly.

You need to have at least 4 people enter code into a tournament for it to run. If there are less than four people, we cannot create a tournament for people to play against each other and so the tournament is cancelled.

See information from previous events

Some previous event MSPs have posted articles and information from their events online

LinkedIn

- Virginia Tech
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/artificial-intelligent-gaming-yash-jain/?trackingid=y%2B%2F9iNfop7dUYV34bjR%2Bhw%3D%3D>
- Dharmsinh Desai University - DDU
 - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ddustudent_msftstudentpartner-msp-aigaming-activity-6579013402000220160-Ed-8
 - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ddustudent_msftstudentpartner-microsoft-aigaming-activity-6577066625294528513-5DVB
- BITS Pilani, Dubai
 - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/prashanth-konda_microsoft-msp-aigaming-activity-6518196367628865536-cpVn

Twitter

- <https://twitter.com/search?q=%23AIGamingDDU>

Blog Posts

- <https://blog.glugmvit.com/ai-gaming/>