

Road to Hackathon IWZV0200-3003

Confidential

LEARNING DIARY

Learning about the event from a friend from class only excited me that we should make a group of people then we participate. As I am a foreign student here, when I notice someone asking for group member, I instantly joined with my purpose to get to know about some people.

My personal background and previous knowledge

I am a graduate in Leather Engineering and now I am learning all there is to know about computers and programming.

My own challenge / project work

I did some business case study competitions before, but I thought it would be some problem-solving tasks or something related to programming, which I am not good enough and hoping to learn by seeing what my fellow groupmates do. This was my sole purpose to see how a hack is held with programming.

First round of Hackathon: November 1, 2022

We gathered in the auditorium and enjoyed some introductory presentation of NOKIA. It was a little glimpse of the company, but a lot of information and background of NOKIA was there. Then we were given the 3 problems to choose one and come up with our idea that leads to some solutions.

We then brainstormed for about an hour to choose which problems we should choose based on the maximum idea that we can input to our solution.

We came up with a smart bracelet (called Bracecare) that we can sell to old people. The bracelet gives them reminders and tracks their location and stuff. Funnily enough there was another team that had the same bracelet idea. But personally, I think our product had the features and more convenience.

We were confident and with our presentation and the best presenter we felt that we are winning and eventually we won.

Hackathon Finale: November 18, 2022

We three friends drove to Helsinki on the morning of the D-day. We reached in time had the buffet lunch and collected our ids. Pretty interesting things that I noticed those antique technologies (telephone, antenna etc) on the ground floor of the NOKIA head quarter.

At Metro Arena we passed through an expo area containing many stands and gaming computers since the Elisa Esports 2022 event was also held in the same place at the same time. There was a big stage, plenty of audience, two 5-man teams competing for \$200k, an announcer and a huge screen. It was like a televised football match but with a video game instead.

Our Nokia corner was at the end of the hallway. We had maybe 10x10 meter area crammed full of tables and chairs. We enjoyed the esports expo for almost 1 hour

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before the Hackathon officially began. This time we had 20 hours to work with. The workplace was very noisy, and we are having difficulties even talking to ourselves let alone doing brainstorming.

We were also handed some source code that we could have developed a demo app from. But our presentation was limited to mere 5 minutes, and we didn't want to risk spending time writing code because we couldn't be sure we would have anything ready after only 20h. The topics were much better than before, and they were all sensible. We had great difficulty choosing which topic to address. We argued for many hours with no solution in sight. The esports competition on stage was very loud and distracted us with machine gun sounds. Our Nokia corner was very loud because of so many people talking. We couldn't focus inside so we went outside the Metro Arena to take short walks in the silent, windy, and freezing darkness. Nokia provided us with chicken lunch, coke, energy drinks, candy, coffee, tea and gifts. We got a cup, a thermos bottle, a notebook, and some little things. Exhausted of brainstorming I decided to slack off a little and just enjoy the expo. I watched the esports for a bit, got some T-shirts and keychains from the various stands and played games.

Having a full hectic 20-hour marathon we end up with our presentation. Finally, the presentation started. The judges took remarks of our presentations and after the presentation hour they took a while to decide the winner. Suddenly it started snowing and we went out to have a snow fight.

The result came out and we were not the winner. After a while we left the arena.

Final comments

- We failed in the final round.
- We won the first round.
- We had teamwork.
- Work distribution and collaboration.
- Relying on one another.
- Great night with the Nokia officials.

These are some positive points that I took back from the event.