

Dear Organizers of the Congressional App Challenge,

The project Sight Sense was recently declared a winner of the Congressional App Challenge in California's 16th District by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. While the project is clearly incredibly impressive and technologically advanced, we have some concerns about its eligibility that we would like to bring to your attention.

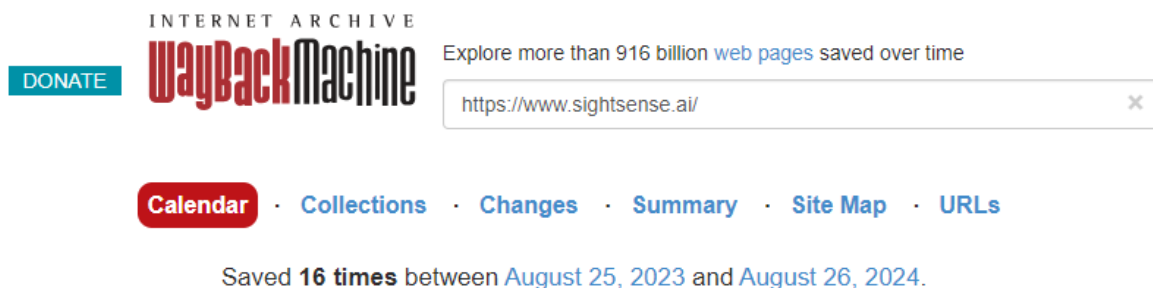
As citizens of Los Altos and participants in the last Los Altos Hacks hackathon, we immediately recognized this project, as it recently won a Los Altos Hacks hackathon. However, members of the hackathon immediately raised concerns surrounding when the project was created and its originality, citing concerns of intellectual property theft stemming from the creator's histories of plagiarism. A full report was conducted by the Los Altos Hacks Team and is attached to this email.

According to the Congressional App Challenge Handbook, projects have to be created AFTER November 1st, 2023. There are multiple instances documenting that this app was already in the works before that, having been in the works since at least April of 2023.

Source:

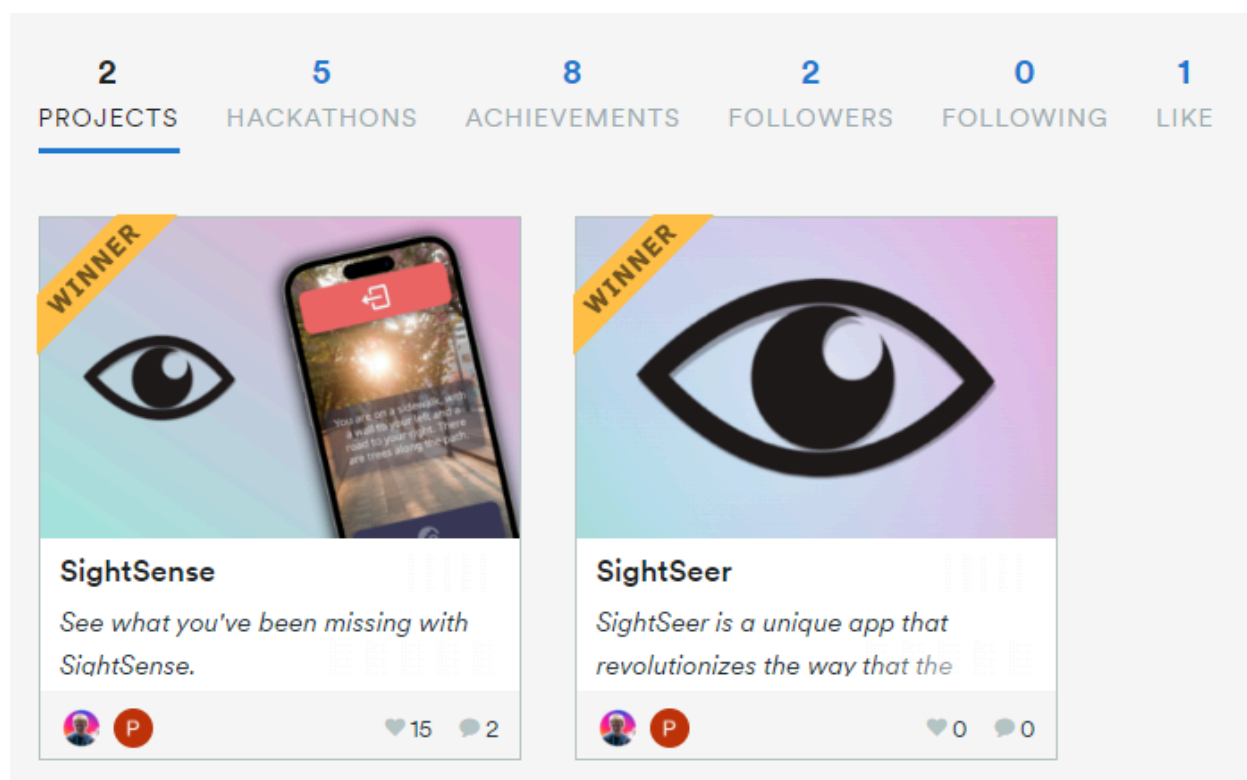
<https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024-CAC-Rules.pdf>

Sight Sense has an official website [sightsense.ai](https://www.sightsense.ai) which has snapshots on the Wayback machine dating back to August 25th, 2023 (before the app challenge's November 1st deadline).



Source: https://web.archive.org/web/20230915000000*/https://www.sightsense.ai/

Sight Sense has been submitted to at least 5 previous hackathons as seen by the Devpost accounts of Peter Zhao and Owen Gregson.



SUBMITTED TO



MoonHacks By Moon Corp



Spring Hacks by
Code4TheFuture



Tri Valley Summer Long
Hackathon



Los Altos Hacks 8
WINNER 1st Place

Source: <https://devpost.com/pzhao26>

Source: <https://devpost.com/owengregson08>

A similar project, titled "sight seer" was submitted to Los Altos Hacks VII which took place on April 8th and 9th of 2023, way before the 2024 Congressional App Challenge even started. This project clearly resembled today's iteration of the application and once again shows a violation of the November 1st rule.

SUBMITTED TO



Los Altos Hacks VII

WINNER 4th-7th Prize

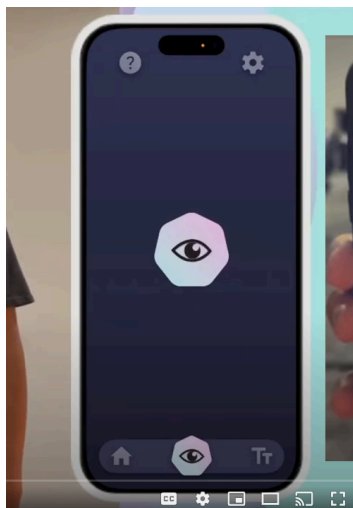
[View schedule](#)

Apr 8 – 9, 2023

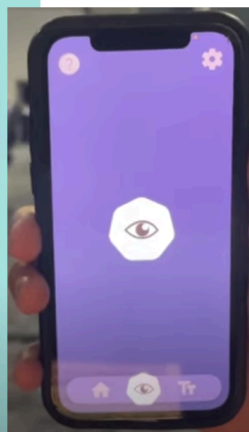
Source: <https://devpost.com/software/sightseer-0rdf75>

Source: <https://losaltoshacks7.devpost.com/>

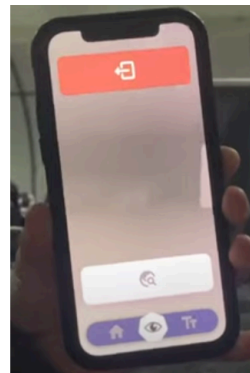
It is clear that these are the same projects, as they submitted demo videos to both which show a nearly identical product with many software similarities.



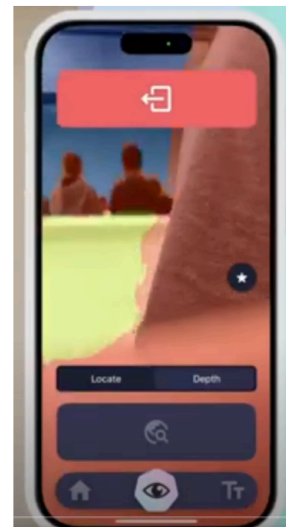
Congressional App



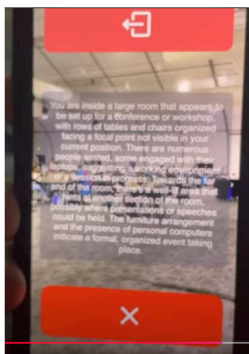
Los Altos Hacks



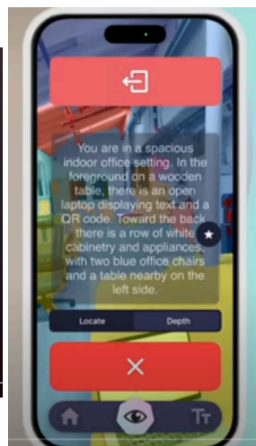
Los Altos Hacks



Congressional App



Los Altos Hacks



Congressional App

Demo video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWtPj8ejJe0>

Congressional App Challenge submission: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MquAjl1qeD0>

In conclusion, we are major fans of the Congressional App Challenge and enjoy participating and creating something original each and every year. However, when a team clearly violates the rules, the same way they have done in previous hackathons, it hurts the legitimacy of the competition and discourages new and existing developers from participating. We hope you will consider disqualifying their submission, as they have violated a major rule in the Congressional App Challenge and have a history of less than ethical behavior (see the Los Altos Hacks report below). We hope that you will consider choosing a different winner, holding this team responsible for their transgressions, discouraging similar behavior in the future, and preserving the integrity of the beloved Congressional App Challenge.

Link to Los Altos Hacks report:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J123R2DCITWk6qqm3847yIpOPrgy462z/view?usp=sharing>