

UNCOMMON HACKS 2018

EVENT RECAP



Uncommon Hacks 2018 is over, and it was the most successful year yet! On February 10-11, we welcomed over 250 hackers from 49 schools around the country to the Polsky Exchange and invited them to be uncommon. Our hackers were more than up to the task, and built an astounding variety of projects that blew away our judges.



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Students formed teams of 1-4 people, and over the course of the weekend independently built 53 projects, combining hardware and software in unexpected ways.

Our hackers had many opportunities to take a break from their projects if they needed a distraction. On Saturday evening, **Run for Cover** surprised the attendees with a surprise A Capella flash mob—they even composed an original song just for Uncommon Hacks! Later that night we hosted a wildly successful **Connect-Four tournament**. In the midnight hours, the perennial favorite **Soylent Pong** made a comeback which, as usual, was a blast for everyone involved.



Altogether, seven different prizes were awarded to some of the best teams when the hackathon was over. Here are some of the highlights: **ListenHear**, winner of the JP Morgan Chase Best Hack for Social Good, built an Android and Web app that converts audio cues like sirens, knocking or barking into visual notifications for people who are hard of hearing or deaf. The winner of the coveted Most Uncommon prize was the team behind **Crows vs. Celery**, who created a mobile multiplayer game with stunning visuals and a very clever premise. **DoYouKnowDataWey**, winner of the Most Innovative award, made a fun and useful program to visualize trends in large datasets in a very user-friendly way. **Meme-Mixer** combined hardware and software know-how to take home the Most Technically Impressive award.



The UChicago News Office highlighted our event in an article at news.uchicago.edu/article/2018/03/05/student-run-hackathons-use-uncommon-approaches-educate-and-inspire. You can also find a video recap of the event at vimeo.com/256267556.

Thanks to all of our partners who made Uncommon Hacks 2018 possible, including our sponsors JPMorgan Chase, HBK Engineering, tastytrade, CME Group, Morningstar, Belvedere Trading and diamond.io.

We also owe a debt of thanks to the Polsky Exchange and the University of Chicago Department of Computer Science for their organizational support!

