

Hackathon – All Engineers Retreat, 2024

This Engineer's week, the lab will be hosting a hackathon event open to all engineers in the lab.

What's a Hackathon?

A Hackathon is day-long event where engineers are free to work on a mini-project of their choosing. The mini-project need not be directly related to their normal duties. It is encouraged that the subject of the project be something that the engineer does not normally have time to work on but thinks would be useful for the lab, though connection to the lab is not required. Although hackathons are historically related to programming, these projects can be on anything and do not need to be related to programming at all.

When is the Hackathon?

The event will be held from **9am to 4pm on Feb. 21nd, 2024** with a lunch break between 12pm and 1pm. A kickoff will be held in **WH1W from 8:30am to 9am** to brief everyone before teams disperse to their desired work locations and work on their projects. Pizza will be provided during the lunch break for participants; details TBD. On Thursday **Feb. 22th, 2024 from 2pm to 3pm at WH1W**, all Hackathon teams will reconvene and give short 5-min presentations on their mini-project progress for a panel of senior engineers, who will provide comments and feedback.

How do Hackathon teams work?

Participants must form their own teams before the event. Team formation is voluntary; engineers may work alone if they wish.

How should I prepare for the event?

Before the event day, participants should know what their teams will look like and what they would like to work on. All major supplies for the project must be provided by the participants. Note that it is not required that participants physically build something; design and concept formation projects are also encouraged.

Are we allowed to use lab resources for our projects?

In general, do not make M&S purchases with lab funds for this event. However, use of standard equipment that is already at hand (work computers, hand tools, DC power supplies, 3D printers, etc) is allowed. As a rule of thumb, if using a lab resource requires charging a specific task code, then it is not appropriate for this event.

Do I need to sign up?

Signup is required so that the organization team can determine the participant roster. Though there is no hard signup deadline, earlier is better in the interest of things like pizza logistics.

Participants should sign up individually; team formation information is not required for signup. When signing up, participants should provide name, division, department, job title, engineering type (e.g. EE, ME, etc.), and preferred pizza topping. The signup sheet is kept on a google doc

spreadsheet provided here:

[2024 Engineer's Week Hackathon Signup Roster - Google Sheets](#)

I have more questions. Who should I contact?

Any and all questions/concerns should be directed to Chris James, the event organizer. His email is jamesc@fnal.gov.

Happy hacking!