what is a hackathon?
**hack·a·thon (\'hak-ə-, thän\') n.**

1. an event in which a large number of people meet to engage in collaborative programming to solve new and interesting problems, sometimes with Beer. See HACK.
"to hack"
hack (ˈhak\) v. -

1. to modify a computer program or electronic device or write (a program) in a skillful or clever way
2. to write computer programs for enjoyment
3. to make something work in a short period of time by usually taking shortcuts (a quick prototype)
types of "hacks"
software:
  • automating the generation of an email ("hey, will you peer us?")
  • building a tool for safely rolling config changes
  • integrating an open-source project with your infrastructure

hardware:
  • Raspberry Pi's, Arduino's, LEDs, ...

documentation:
"hacking" vs "the day job"
day job:
• email, tickets, customers...
• change requests, peer reviews, being on-call!
• writing code... maybe, if there's time?

hackathon:
• a mental escape from the day to day
• a place for "getting things done" (and blocked off on your calendar)
Sunday's hackathon
Sunday's hackathon

~50 in attendance:

- network & systems engineers
- academics & students
- managers & ...
- from big name companies and "never heard of them" too.
- with lots of coding background and none
Sunday's hackathon

projects:

- am I dead? (rt blackhole detection)
- picon (dynamic console servers)
- takeoff ("preflight" testing for network devices)
- two by two (desktop messaging client)
- nicinfo (command-line RDAP client)
- netdb (a source of truth for your network)
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groups:

• self-organized
• a recruiting model -- "pitch your hack"
• "musical chairs"
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working together:

• divide and conquer
• pair programming (shared VPS host)
• parallel competition (the better mouse trap wins)
pair programming?
Pair Programming:

an agile software development technique in which two programmers work together at one workstation.

One, the driver, writes code while the other, the observer or navigator,[1] reviews each line of code as it is typed in.

The two programmers switch roles frequently.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pair_programming
Sunday's hackathon
showing off their work!

- ended the day via a prototype forum
- leader or full group shared their work
- a nice mini round of recognition for a hard day's work
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ingredients for success:

- informality is the key
- but, it must be organized!
the only rule of a hackathon....

is that *you must hack!*

and have fun!