WESTPAC INNOVATION AND CODING COMPETITION

Hackathon Information

Dates:

Competition Day 1: Thursday 4 July 2024 10am-3pm
Online: Teams Link
In-person computer labs: G23_2.20, G23_2.22, G23_2.27

Competition Day 2: Friday 5 July 2024 10am-3pm
Online: Teams Link
In-person computer labs: G23_2.20, G23_2.22, G23_2.27

Awards Day: Tuesday 9 July 2024 9.30am-1.30pm
In-person: Westpac Gold Coast Engineering Hub

Note: The same Teams link is used for both days to avoid confusion.
Gold Coast Map: click here.

Overview:

We are challenging participants to tackle a technical problem or develop innovative software solutions that address the evolving needs of the bank. In this open-world challenge, nothing is off limits, and we encourage you to think broadly about how tech can evolve how you and our customers interact with a bank. How can Emerging Technologies shape banking features? What role does AI play in simplifying banking? How can AR and VR change interactions with bank customers? Whether it's enhancing the customer-facing experience or developing novel new solutions, we encourage you to think outside of the box and explore new frontiers.
Potential emerging technologies to explore.

- Augmented Reality (AR) & Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Reality (MR) Banking features
- Artificial Intelligence Banking features
- Quantum Computing
- Robotic and Automation

The Hackathon Competition Days is for you and your team to identify/innovate/improve one of more banking aspects for customers by developing a functional prototype or application. Your solution should be user-friendly, secure, and demonstrate the potential to disrupt traditional banking services.

Hackathon In-person:

The Griffith University computer labs in G23 all have computers in the labs for you to use. You are welcome to bring your own laptop to work off for the Hackathon if you wish! Engineers from Westpac will be there to mentor and guide you throughout the day. Feel free to ask any questions and check if you are on the right track! We highly encourage you to attend the hackathon in person rather than virtually as there will be close networking with teammates and with Westpac mentors, there will also be some surprise giveaways for you throughout the two days.

Resources:

Westpac Design Resource
GitHub Student Developer Pack
Free for developers
AWS Educate Pack
Free UI Kits

Prizes:

First Place:	$2,500 for best idea and solution
Second Place:	$1,000 for creativity and innovation
People's Choice:	Prize pack

Submissions:

How does my Team submit?
At the end of the hackathon, we ask that you submit your solution via email to:
GoldCoastEngineeringHub@westpac.com.au

Submission Requirements

The following is required as part of your submission:

- Your university name
- Your team name
- Team member's names
- A summary of your idea, explaining:
    o What they are you trying to achieve with this idea
    o Why your team believes this is a good idea
- A link to a YouTube video of the team presenting the solution, including a demonstration of the software built (10 mins max)
- Any other links to supporting items to help with your solution. If you have working software, provide a link to where it is hosted.

Hackathon Conclusion:

The Hackathon finishes at 3.00pm on Friday, 5th July 2024.

Submissions need to be received no later than 4.00pm on 5th July. Ensure you save enough time during the Hackathon to film your submission video.

Next Steps:

The Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, 9th July in-person at the Gold Coast Engineering Hub.

Address: 3168 Surfers Paradise Blvd, Surfers Paradise QLD 4217

The Westpac team will shortlist the best teams to present at the Awards Ceremony. If you are shortlisted, you will be advised by 2.00pm on Monday, 8th July. Shortlisted teams will be given 5 minutes to present their prototype/application to the judges. There are three prizes to win!

Note all participants shortlisted or not are welcome to attend the awards!

Hackathon Awards Ceremony (In-person)

Date: Tuesday, 9th July 9.30am – 1.30pm

Venue (In-person): Gold Coast Engineering Hub.
Address: 3168 Surfers Paradise Blvd, Surfers Paradise Qld 4217

Lunch: Provided after team presentations on the day.

Awards Ceremony Program	
Time	**Activity**
9.30am – 10.00am	Light refreshments
10.00am – 10.10am	Welcome
10.10am – 10.15am	Introduction of judging panel
10.15am – 12.15pm	Team presentations
12.20pm – 12.30pm	All attendees vote on the 'People's Choice Award'
12.30pm – 1.00pm	Pizza lunch
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Winners announced/certificates presented
1.30pm	**Event close**

Hackathon FAQs

What is a hackathon?
A hackathon is an event where people engage in rapid and collaborative engineering over a short period of time, to come up with innovative solutions to problems. A hackathon is a chance for engineers to show their technological creativity and how they may solve a problem without any constraints.

What is the problem we are trying to tackle?
There is no specific problem we are asking you to provide a solution for. This hackathon is an open-world challenge, around the theme of 'Bank of the future'. With technology in mind, how do you see the future of banking? Is it an extension of functionality within a mobile app? Is it an innovative way of verifying a customer's identification? You are free to explore as simple or as complex a solution as you wish. Nothing is off-limits.

What are the expectations for output?
Ideally, we would like a working version of your solution. It doesn't have to be perfect, but the output we can see, which aligns with your idea will help in the judging process.

At the conclusion of the event, teams will need to submit:

- A summary of their idea, explaining:
  - What they are trying to achieve with this idea.
  - Why the team believes this is a good idea.
- A video of the team presenting the solution, including a demonstration of the software built. (10 mins max)
- Any other information you feel will help with judging your submission, e.g. URLs to any publicly hosted solutions, App store locations

How important is a working solution?
This is a Hackathon, and we understand students are at differing levels of technical experience - so we don't expect a perfectly developed solution. The idea and scale of innovation are key judging criteria for this competition. We won't look too deep into your solution from a technical point of view. So, if you need to hard code some things to get your solution working, that won't be judged negatively.

My coding level isn't that high, can I still compete?
We encourage all students, at any level of coding experience, to take part in the event. Building a solution is an important part of the event, however, you won't be judged on the quality of your code. It's a hackathon, we want to encourage participants to 'hack' their way to a solution, over building an elegant solution with limited functionality/impact.

What if I need help with validating some ideas?
Good news, we will have a team of mentors available over the weekend whose job it will be to help you with any questions you have. Our mentors will be a engineers and IT professionals from Westpac employees, who will be happy to guide you on anything you want to test with them. Unsure of how a certain section of banking operates, our mentors will be able to help answer those questions which could unblock your idea.

Where do I host my solution?
The short answer is, anywhere you would like. With the complexities of corporate security, we can't necessarily view your solutions from outside the Westpac network. Therefore, it's key you include the working solution as part of your submission video.

Our finalists will be invited to present their solutions at the awards ceremony. So, make sure you can still access your solution at the event, which will take place at Westpac Gold Coast Engineering Hub

I can't make it to the awards session, will I still be included in any awards?
Unfortunately, we will not be able to host the awards day event online so if you are shortlisted you will need to attend the awards day.