2017 CUNA Excellence in Technology Award
Alliant Credit Union: Hackathon

So what is a HACKATON? Well it's not a group of individuals attempting to hack into a company's environment but rather a team of highly motivated business and technology employees eager to invest some personal time and fun to drive innovative ideas and solutions that can solve real world business problems.

Alliant's digital first strategy was taken one step further during the recent Alliant Hackathon, pioneered by Al Pitcher, VP Technology. The initial thought behind the event was to encourage and embrace innovation, but it exceeded organizers' expectations.

The event took place over the June 23rd, 2017 weekend where over 30 Alliant employees from the Technology, Operations, Lending and Digital Strategy departments formed ten teams whose goal was to come up with ideas for process improvements and applications for both internal and external members.

Hackathons have become a popular event that embraces innovation, attracts and retains talent and produces cost-effective solutions. They can serve as a means to resolve an existing issue or create a prospective value-add, innovative product. They have proven to be an effective way to empower developers to come up with innovative solutions outside of the approved projects and maintenance, as well as creating new channels and mobile applications, reducing the cost of developing new apps by as much as 90 percent.

Outcome and leadership statements:

Alliant's first Hackathon exceeded its expectations. It proved that we have some creative employees who love putting ideas forward. The event produced a number of innovative ideas that will be reviewed during the 2018 project planning cycle.

"Senior leaders were impressed by the enthusiasm, energy and creativity of the participants, and by the quality of their solutions and presentations," said Dave Mooney, President & CEO. "We've created some interesting opportunities, and we're hoping that we can capture and apply some broader learning about collaboration, agility and creative problem-solving throughout the organization."

Hackathon Structure

Planning and organizing for this event began in April 2017 by first getting executive sponsorship to hold this event. Then we proceeded to build the hackathon governance framework, event organizers, funding, seeding ideas, and build a communication SharePoint Hackathon site.

The objectives of our hackathon included:

- Encourage, embrace, and innovate.
- Improve User/Customer Experience - Alliant's Staff Are Also Customers And Likely Have Many Ideas For Process Improvements For Applications And Or Processes For Both The Internal Customer And External Members
- Attract And Retain Talent - An Effective Way To Engage Employees In Innovation and To Provide A Channel To Work On Something Beyond Our Day To Day Contributions.
- Reduce Costs - - Hackathons Can Be A Highly Cost Effective Means Of Developing New Channel And Mobile Applications. Gartner States That It Can Reduce The Cost To Develop New Apps By As Much As 90%.
- Create An Annual Or Bi-Annual Event That Inspires On-Going Innovation Within The Organization.
- The Hackathon Will Be Conducted In June Ahead of the Annual Planning Cycle to Seed New Innovative Ideas That Can Potentially Turn Into An Enterprise Project.
- And It Will Be Fun, With Great Prizes

EVENT TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBLITIES			
Role	**Responsibility**	**Main Areas of Focus**	**Team member/s**
Photographer	Ensure stage area set up is completed correctly speak stools, video camera, MC chair, PA, mics Coordinate with venue hosts on anything relating to staging, structures, lighting, sound, power, etc Coordinate with and assist the MC (know the schedule and listen for prompts by the MC) Assign tasks to runners (run after speaker requests, communicate to tech desk.) Assist Videographer where required. Assist speakers movement on and off the stage. Host the speakers at the beginning and end of the night	Ensure that the flow and transition run smoothly. Encourage people to participate in the social activities or lightning talks. Ensure AV/Audio is working correctly. Be the main contact with the venue hosts. Ensure presenters and VIPs are hosted professionally and that they are comfortable and enjoying themselves.	The Administrators
Catering	Set up catering areas - food, drinks Keep the "lounge' and other designated eating spots is clean and tidy	Ensure set up and break down is completed in timely manner. Ensure vendors are ready for service at the required time. Ensure the catering on the day is served to guests efficiently.	Continental Breakfast Friday Lunch Friday, Lunch Saturday, Lunch Sunday Reception offsite
Management	Looking after our speakers/ presenters/VIPs at the hackathon- welcoming them, making them feel comfortable. Ensure presenters are set up and ready to host their sessions on time. Ensure winners present to the Sr. Team	To ensure our VIPs enjoy their experience at our hackathon event. Ensure our presenters are organised and prepared.	The Administrators
Cleaning Crew	Make sure that the office is clean and ready for business on Monday June 26th		Facilities
Social Media Contributors	Manage event social media accoumt Ensure engagement and communication is open with our followers.	To promote our event and interact with participants and onlookers	The Administrators
Technical Readiness	Ensure that teams and their members are able to access the internet in a secure manner	Ensure that teams and their members are able to create POC's using tools that are not allowed on Alliant's current networks	IT
Judges	the award criteria. They may be entrepreneurs, CTOs, Engineers, Government employees, CEOs etc.	thoughtful decisions on the best projects being presented against the	VP's Buisness & IT
Prizes			The Administrators

Welcome to Alliant's1st Innovation Hackathon!

Hackathon FAQ's

What is a Hackathon?	A hackathon is an event, usually hosted by an organization, where programmers and product owners get together for a short period of time to collaborate on a project. The participants work rapidly to achieve their task, as the events generally only last 24 hours or take place over a weekend. Hackathons are often competition-style events where a project must be completed in a short time frame, where participants build prototypes of software applications like web or mobile apps that could potentially add value to their organization
Hackathon Dates?	June 23-25
Location?	Touhy

Summary Links

Hackathon Links

Registration Form (Closed)

List of Current Hackathon Ideas

View Enrolled Teams/Participants

Special PTO Bonus Authorization form

This event was strictly on a volunteer basis and quickly became the buzz inside Alliant. Teams formed rapidly with team captains, team names and over 20 ideas formed. All teams had three days to design, develop and present their hackathon idea to the judges. The outcome was outstanding.

▷ **Team Name : Executives** (7)

▷ **Team Name : Fluffy Unicorns** (6)

▷ **Team Name : Give Them A Chance** (4)

▷ **Team Name : GiveItAShot** (1)

▷ **Team Name : Judges** (4)

▷ **Team Name : One is the loneliest number** (2)

▷ **Team Name : Team Zero** (1)

▷ **Team Name : The Administrators** (5)

▷ **Team Name : The Block-Chains** (1)

▷ **Team Name : The Daredevils** (2)

▷ **Team Name : The Hack Pack** (2)

▷ **Team Name : The Moneyball Machine Learning Nerds** (2)

▷ **Team Name : The Phantasmagorical Contingent** (2)

▷ **Team Name : The Simplifiers** (3)

▷ **Team Name : Turning the PowerOn Power On** (4)

▷ **Team Name : Why isn't it Virtualized** (3)

	Friday 23 June 2017 DAY 1 - HACK DAY		Saturday 24 June 2017 DAY 2 - HACK DAY		Sunday 25 June 2017 DAY 3 - HACK DAY	
	Hacking		Hacking		Hacking	
8:30 AM						
9:00 AM	Welcome / Overview of weekend	Continental Breakfast	Day 2 hack commences	Continental Breakfast	Day 3 hack continues	Continental Breakfast
10:00 AM	Day 1 hack commences					
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM		Problem solving standup		Problem solving standup		Problem solving standup
12:30 PM		Lunch		Lunch		Lunch
1:00 PM						
1:30 PM						
2:00 PM						
2:30 PM						
3:00 PM						
3:30 PM						Visitors arrive
4:00 PM					Hacking concludes	Assemble Teams & Assign Presentation Order
4:30 PM						Presentations - Judging
5:00 PM	Day 1 concludes		Day 2 concludes			Presentations - Judging
5:30 PM	Reset the space		Reset the space			Awards
6:00 PM	Doors close		Doors close			Reception

Outcome – Mission Accomplished

After all teams presented their solutions to the judges, **winning team was The Phantasmagorical Contingent** for their workflow/process improvement category solution called "Digital Express" which is an online app for making Dev, QA and Ops lives easier by consolidating and automating frequently performed tasks such as Symitar account lookups that matching specific criteria, the creation of test data, log file access/analysis and matching symitar, OLB and Mobile across Application Tiers.

Additionally, four other Hackathon prototype ideas are being implemented at Alliant Credit Union such that will:
1. Automate the small project intake process and subsequent prioritization and management
2. Statistical data analytics for Marketing data using the "R" application
3. Automated virtualized server provisioning in on prem cloud (precursor to hybrid cloud provisioning)
4. Rapid Online responsive development using Angular

Other outcomes included:

- Prototype Apple watch account balance app
- Facebook chatbot with secure account balance lookup
- Information Security Awareness Video's
- Intern development application/program

Using the Hackathon as a recruiting technology resource recruiting tool:

glassdoor   Jobs   Company Reviews   Salaries   Interviews   Know Your Worth   Sign In

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Overview | 56 Reviews | 27 Jobs | 99 Salaries | 10 Interviews | 28 Benefits | 56 Photos | Follow | + Add Photos

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Alliant Credit Union
2mo

It's on like Hackathon! Alliant's inaugural Innovation Hackathon kicked off today. For the next three days, Alliant employees will collaborate on cross-functional teams to create innovative products or efficiencies that may benefit th⋯ …see more

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