



## FAQ

### Q: What is the hack.summit()?

hack.summit() is a virtual event where you can learn from the world's most renowned programming language creators, open-source contributors, and thought leaders. Last year's hack.summit() had 64,000 developers register. hack.summit() is:

- the **largest virtual conference ever created**,
- the **largest programming conference ever created** (64,000 registered attendees in 2014), and
- the **largest hackathon in the world** (30,000+ registered hackers)

### Q: When does hack.summit() take place?

The hack.summit() conference broadcasts live online February 22nd-25th, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. PST.

The hack.summit() virtual hackathon takes place the weekend prior, February 20th-21st, 2016.

### Q: Where will hack.summit() take place?

hack.summit() will be broadcast 100 % virtually over Crowdcast.io. You can tune in on the computer from the comfort of your home or office.

### Q: How much does the event cost?

You can earn a ticket via pay-what-you-want donation to the coding nonprofit of your choice.

For those unable to donate, we can give you a free ticket if you spread the word on Twitter to help us find more donors. We want to ensure that everyone has access to this special event, even if you aren't able to pay.

### Q: What are the goals of hack.summit()?

hack.summit()'s goals are to educate developers worldwide on software development best-practices, empower developers to "hack for good" as part of our virtual hackathon, and to raise money for a coalition of coding nonprofits.

### Q: What topics will be discussed?

Dozens of speakers will discuss their experiences in the field, sharing insights and anecdotes to educate and inspire coders of all levels. No specific knowledge of any given technology or coding language is required, but a general understanding of programming is very helpful, as some of the talks will be technical.

### **Q: Who are the speakers?**

Speakers range from programming language creators, major open source code creators, and developers who have made significant advances in the field, including:

- David Heinemeier Hansson (creator of Ruby on Rails)
- Thomas Kurian (EVP at Oracle. Oversees all 3000+ of Oracle software products)
- Rebecca Parsons (CTO of Thoughtworks)
- Kent Beck (Created Extreme Programming, created TDD, co-created Agile, authored 9 books)
- Bob Martin (created the Software Craftsmanship Movement)
- Tom Chi (co-created Google Glass)
- Yehuda Katz (Ember.js, JQuery, Rails Core committer. Created HandleBars)
- Jocelyn Goldfein (recent Engineer Director, Facebook)
- Qi Lu (Executive Vice President at Microsoft. Oversees R&D for Office, SharePoint, Exchange, Yammer, Lync, Skype, Bing, Bing Apps, MSN, and more)
- Ed Roman (founder of [TheServerSide.com](http://TheServerSide.com), Java book author)
- Aaron Skonnard (CEO of Pluralsight)
- Brian Fox (created the GNU Bash Shell, Emacs maintainer)
- Chris Richardson (Java Champion, created the original Cloud Foundry)
- Orion Henry (founder of Heroku)
- Hampton Catlin (Created SaSS, HAML, m.wikipedia.org, and book author)
- Jon Skeet (#1 answerer on StackOverflow)
- Dries Buyataert (created the Drupal programming language)
- Janet Weiner (Engineering at Facebook, big data expert)
- Floyd Marinescu (CEO, InfoQ)
- Nathan Marz (creator of Apache Storm)
- Rod Vagg (Node.js Technical Chair and Core Committer)
- Sarah Allen (Co-creator of After Effects, Flash video, recent Presidential Innovation Fellow)

### **Q: Who are hack.summit()'s nonprofit partners?**

Partners include a coalition of a dozen nonprofits that directly benefit programming education, including:

Code.org  
Code for America  
Girls Who Code  
CoderDojo  
Black Girls Code  
Women Who Code  
Code2040  
Bridge Foundry  
Codechix

Rails Girls Summer of Code  
Code Club / Raspberry Pi Foundation

**Q: Why is `hack.summit()` a virtual event?**

Physical events are expensive and require travel; their logistics impede efficiency and attendee access. With the advent of new technologies such as Crowdcast, we believe that it's now possible to deliver a successful virtual event without all this hassle. We see ourselves as stewards of the virtual event space, and hope that if we are successful, more events like this will occur in the future.

**Q: Can I ask the speakers questions during `hack.summit()`?**

Yes! You can ask questions during the event, which will then be broadcast over Twitter to our speakers. The audience can also upvote/downvote submissions to ensure that the the speakers are asked the most popular questions.

**Q: Will `hack.summit()` be recorded and posted online after the event ends?**

Yes! Videos of the speakers' sessions will be posted online following the event. We will share the link via social media and the `hack.summit()` site.

**Q: I'd like to meet the speakers! How do I do that?**

Attendees can jump into video-chat with speakers after their talk via a provided link. During this time, participants have the opportunity to engage in a private conversation with the speakers on a space-available basis.

**Q: What other perks does `hack.summit()` provide to participants?**

- You can find your dream job at `hack.summit()`. We are connecting independent engineers with prospective employers.
- Attendees get a grab-bag of free credits and trials from our API and technology sponsors.
- At the virtual hackathon, there is a \$150,000 prize pool given out to competitors.

**Q: How can I learn more about the `hack.summit()` virtual hackathon?**

Check out <http://www.hacksummit.org/Hackathon>. Also see our virtual hackathon FAQ linked at the bottom of that page.

**Q: I'd like to be a partner for `hack.summit()`. How do I get involved?**

*Media Partners:* If you have access to an audience (as a meetup organizer, developer community leader, media outlet, etc.) then we'd love to partner with you. Qualified partners will be provided with free passes so their community can bypass the registration process, and will be given exposure on the `hacksummit()` site.

*Companies:* We also can offer companies the following benefits:

- **Recruit** talented engineers from over 157 countries

- **Exposure** for your API, brand and product(s) through making them available at the virtual hackathon, as well as free trials offered to attendees.
- **Unlimited free tickets** that we can give your users & employees
- **Help hit your company's diversity initiatives** through supporting leading coding non-profits.
- **Align** with some of the top speakers and thought leaders in the programming industry

Please contact [harrison-kratz@pluralsight.com](mailto:harrison-kratz@pluralsight.com) if you or your organization is interested in partnering with hack.summit().

**Q: I'm a member of the press. Who can I speak to about this event?**

Please contact Ed Roman at [edward.w.roman@gmail.com](mailto:edward.w.roman@gmail.com).

**Q: Who is organizing hack.summit()?**

hack.summit() is being organized and sponsored by Pluralsight, the online leader in technology education.

The virtual hackathon is organized and powered by Koding.com.  
The video-conference technology is powered by Crowdcast.io.  
The virtual hackathon hosting infrastructure is provided by IBM.

**Q: Who are the advisors to hack.summit()?**

Tom Chi, co-creator of Google Glass  
Alistair Croll, author of Lean Analytics  
Frank Greco, founder of the NY Java SIG  
Dustin Clingman, chairman emeritus of the IGDA  
Mike Perham, author of Ruby on Rails sidekiq gem  
Matthew Dorey, founder of the Factory  
Damian Madray, founder of Hunie  
Cy Hossain, founder of Crowdcast

**Q: What is the hack.pledge()?**

The hack.pledge() (<http://www.hackpledge.org>) is a movement for developers to give-back 1 hour of their time to help mentor other developers in their time of need. By working together, we can collectively master the craft of software development.