

How to run a Hackday

Richard Warburton

Topics

- Why you should run a hackday
- What's involved in running one
- Examples of Successful hackdays
- Tips for being successful

Why run a hackday?

- Simple way to get developers enthused
- Good followup to talks/discussion
- Developers are usually pretty hands-on

What's Involved?

- Pick a target
- Find a space
- Get some help
- Do it!



LJC Examples

- OpenJDK
- Lambdas (JSR 335)
- Date and Time (JSR 310)
- Websockets/Json (JSR 353/356)
- Lots of other JUGs participating as well!

Tip 1: Establish a goal

- Educate/Inform
- Send feedback to Spec Lead
- Find Bugs
- Fix Bugs
- Talk to Spec Lead / EG
about goals



Tip 2: Venue + Time

- Advertise - use existing JUG Channels
- Weekend
 - More time
 - Suitable when people need to explore
- Weekday
 - Less Commitment
 - Requires focus

Tip 3: Communicate

- Opening talk for attendees
 - Explain
 - Set Expectations
- Get assistants to give help during the day
- Talk to professionals
 - Follow OpenJDK guidelines for submitting patches
 - Contact the JSR's Expert Group
 - JSRs have open discussion mailing list



Tip 4: Expect a range of experiences

- Not everyone is a strong developer
- Some people just there to learn
- Use assistants to support people
- Don't assume prior knowledge
- The wide range makes for more representative feedback

Tip 5: Consider Exercises

- Can help focus a hackday
- Recommended for < 3 hours
- Failing unit tests that are made to pass
- Not always the right choice



Summary

- Get developers involved
- Make sure people learn
- Communicate findings back
- Have fun!

Thanks for listening!

- Wikis:
 - <http://adoptajsr.org/>
 - <http://adoptopenjdk.java.net>

- Social Media:

- #adoptajsr / #adoptopenjdk on freenode
- @adoptajsr / @adoptopenjdk on twitter
- Also on facebook

- Me:

- @richardwarburto
- insightfullogic.com

