How to run a Hackday

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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 follow up 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://adoptajsr.org/)
  - [http://adoptopenjdk.java.net](http://adoptopenjdk.java.net)

- **Social Media:**
  - #adoptajsr / #adoptopenjdk on freenode
  - @adoptajsr / @adoptopenjdk on twitter
  - Also on facebook

- **Me:**
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