

HACKATHONS:

A Guide for Parents

WHERE ARE THE TOP
INNOVATORS
DESIGNERS
ENTREPRENEURS
DEVELOPERS
INFLUENCERS
OF TOMORROW?

THEY ARE AT

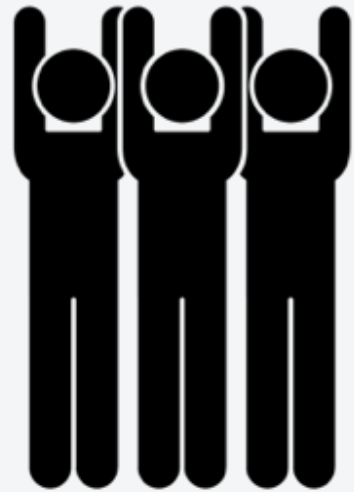
HACKATHONS!

WHAT IS A HACKATHON?

HACKATHON = INVENTION + MARATHON

The word hackathon is a portmanteau of the words hack and marathon, where hack is used in the sense of playful, exploratory programming, not its alternate meaning as a reference to computer crime.

— *Wikipedia*



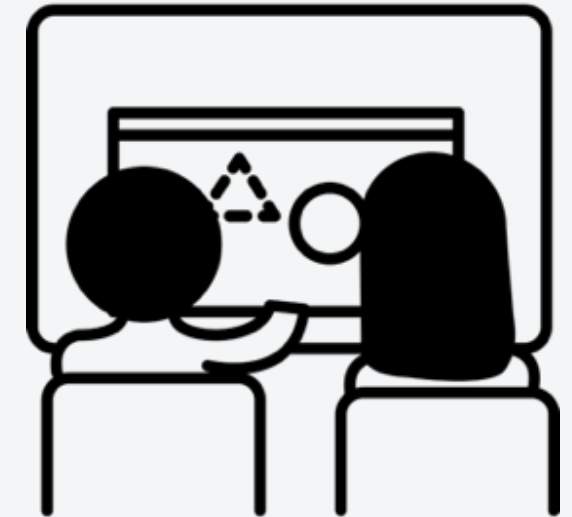
FRIDAY

Students arrive by bus, train, and plane. They pitch ideas and form teams organically and get straight to work on bringing their ideas to life.



SATURDAY

They spend the next 24-36 hours intensely focused on building and designing their hack projects. There are breaks for meals and fun mini-events.



SUNDAY

Students demo projects science-fair style. The top hacks demo on stage in front of the audience and a panel of judges to determine a winner.

SCIENCE-FAIR STYLE EXPOS



EXPERT MENTORS



**WHAT DOES A
HACKATHON LOOK LIKE?**











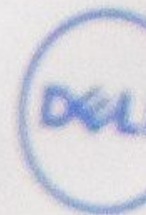




MLH
MAJOR LEAGUE HACKING



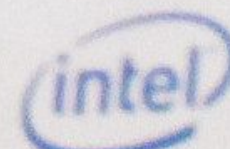
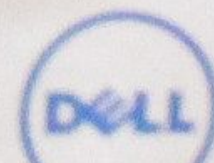
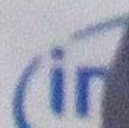
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✓	
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Name
Desc
meeting times
Location
Contact John Doe

ADD
Directory
Sign out
Canice 1

Code:

1. Create project input system

- Name
- description
- location
- contact
- contact

Topics to

Next

time

can

2. Display in UITableView

3. 30%

4. 30%

Bydian

1) Detail view

2) Favorite

Michael

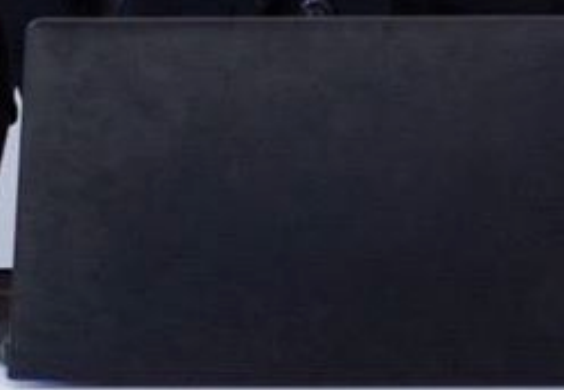
1) Login X

2) Logout



erets

Perform



**WHO CAN ATTEND
HACKATHONS?**



ANY AND ALL STUDENTS!

Major League Hacking (MLH) Hackathons are open to all students, from experienced students who have been programming for years to students who have never written a line of code in their life. Students of all disciplines are welcome to attend. Many hackathons are open to both college students as well as high school students.

**WHY ARE HACKATHONS
IMPORTANT FOR _____?**

WHY ARE HACKATHONS IMPORTANT FOR ORGANIZERS?

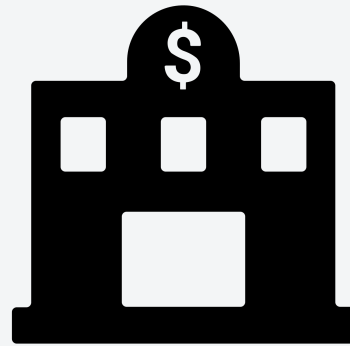


SKILLS ORGANIZERS LEARN

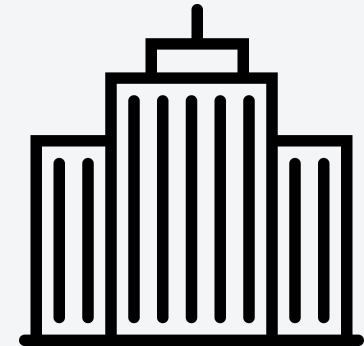
Student organizers gain experience planning a large scale event and collaborating with many stakeholders.



**MANAGING AND
PARTICIPATING
ON A TEAM**



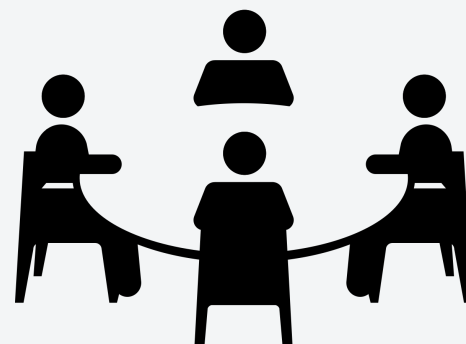
**MANAGING
FINANCES**



**INTERACTING WITH
CORPORATIONS ON A
PROFESSIONAL LEVEL**



FUNDRAISING





**EVENT PLANNING
AND LOGISTICS**



MARKETING

WHY ARE HACKATHONS IMPORTANT FOR HACKERS?

MLH
MAJOR LEAGUE HACKING

POWERED BY  

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

Students have a chance to work on **real** projects, using real technologies, that solve **real** problems. Hackathons help prepare students for their entrance into the workforce by introducing them the skills necessary for developers. In addition, the environment at hackathons is very similar to the work environment at many technology startups.

Three young men are smiling and standing together in a large, dimly lit hall with yellow and blue seats in the background. They are all wearing blue t-shirts with a yellow 'M' logo that has a network diagram. The man on the left is wearing glasses and khaki shorts. The man in the middle is wearing plaid shorts. The man on the right is wearing glasses and dark pants. They are holding a transparent robot chassis with various electronic components inside. The text 'NEW FRIENDS' is overlaid in large white letters.

NEW FRIENDS

When a room is filled with like-minded and highly motivated students working together to solve a problem for a weekend, it is inevitable for friendships to be formed. Students meet other students from around the world and many work together on projects after the hackathon.

A photograph of a hackathon event. In the foreground, a student with a large black backpack is seen from behind, looking towards a booth. A female student in a white jacket is smiling and talking to a male professional mentor with a beard, wearing an orange polo shirt. They are standing in front of a large digital display showing a flight simulator interface. On a table in front of them are orange and white baseball caps and some orange pens. The background shows other people and the interior of a convention hall.

INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

Students are given a chance to interact with representatives from the world's top brands. Sponsors send representatives and professional mentors to hackathons.

A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL WEEKEND

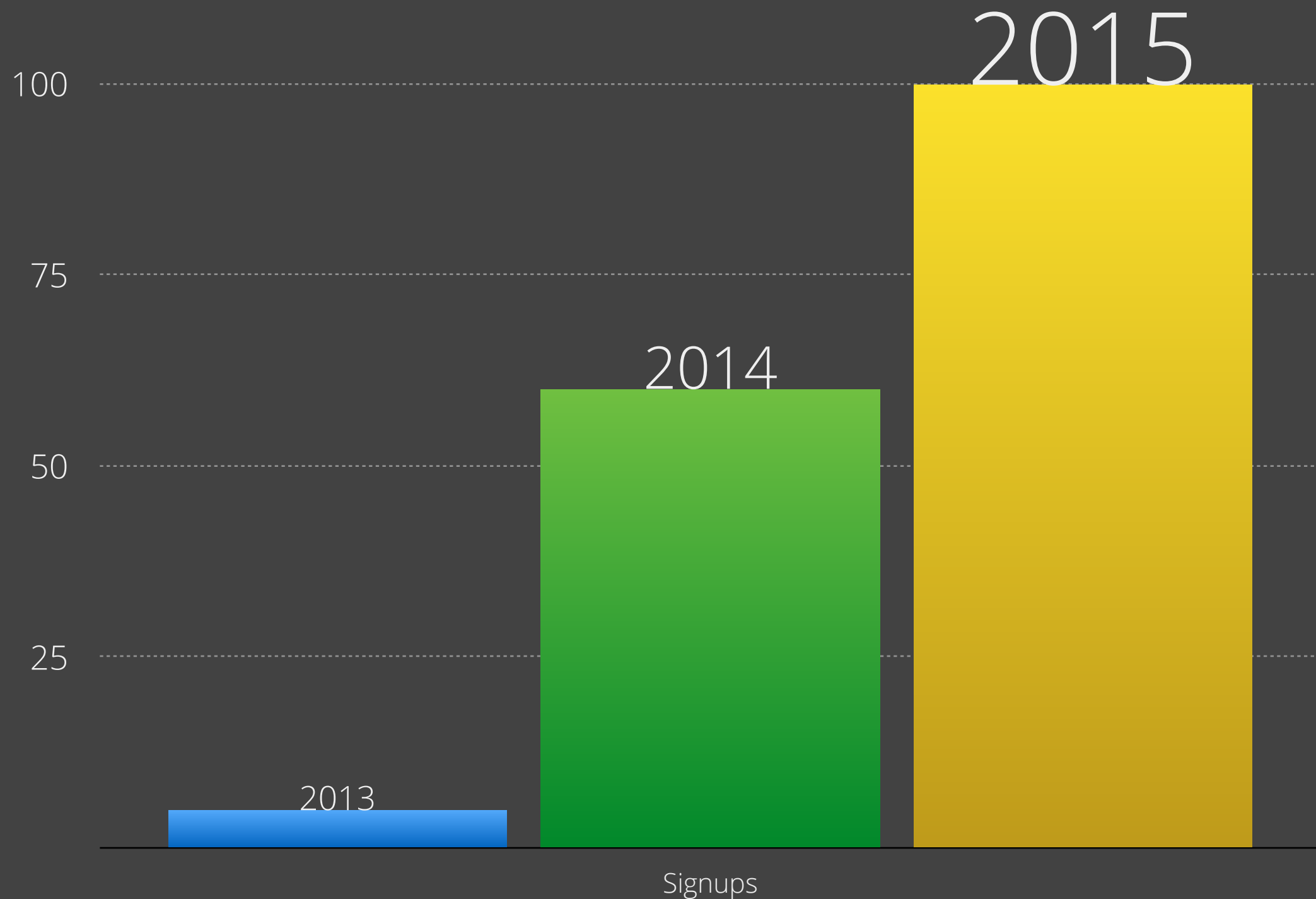
Students get to learn to program, eat for free, receive professional mentorship, and students are given the tools they need to build their dreams. It is also a great time for students to explore new fields and find what they are truly passionate about. All while having fun!

A photograph of two young men sitting at a desk with two laptops. The man on the left has blonde hair and glasses, wearing a brown sweater. The man on the right has brown hair and is wearing a dark blue hoodie over a red shirt. Both are smiling and giving thumbs up. The background shows a room with glass partitions and a door. The word 'MOTIVATION' is overlaid in large white letters.

MOTIVATION

What happens after the hackathon is just as important as the event itself. A hackathon leaves a student body invigorated and eager to spend their free time working together on projects. Not only do students attend more hackathons and win more prizes at them, students are more motivated to sacrifice their free time to learn more about computer science and work on projects with their peers.

BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES STUDENTS WHO SIGNED UP FOR RUTGERS UNIVERSITY'S HACKATHON



Since running our hackathon, interest in Computer Science has grown tremendously here at our school. We offered new coding classes over the summer and have added new Computer Science courses to meet the additional demand from our students. I believe hackathons are a great way to promote student interest in Computer Science.

— Mr. Russell Davis (Principal at the Bergen County Academies)

PREPARATION FOR CAREERS

At hackathons, students learn skills directly needed for technical careers. Students have a chance to learn both technical and soft skills through the process of working on a team to build innovative new solutions to problems, often using new technologies.

A woman with long dark hair and glasses is speaking into a microphone at a wooden podium. The podium has a red sign that reads "IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY". In the background, there are several white boxes, some with blue and green designs, and a green bag. The image is dimly lit, with the speaker and the podium sign being the primary light sources.

ADMISSIONS

Hackathons are important from an admissions perspective. If allowed to participate, high school students attend many collegiate hackathons. Attending hackathons helps students get into their favorite colleges by providing the experience, awards, and knowledge necessary. In addition, high schools that host hackathons stand out as exemplary institutions that more middle school students will want to attend.



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Going to MHacks while in high school was a huge factor in me deciding to go to Michigan for the next four years. Seeing the energy and entrepreneurial spirit first-hand was more than any college tour could possibly demonstrate.

— Michael Mattheakis (Class of 2018)



University of Maryland, College
Park
355 Pts



University of Illinois, Urbana-
Champaign
381 Pts



University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
322 Pts

MLH FALL 2014 SEASON RANKING

**SOME PROJECTS GO ON
TO DO GREAT THINGS...**



WORKFLOW

Workflow went from an app built at the University of Michigan's hackathon, by a team of all high school students, to one of the top apps in the iOS app store. It has been covered by the Wall Street Journal and The Verge.



COSMOS BROWSER

Cosmos Browser, an app allowing individuals in third-world countries to connect to the internet through text messages, was also built in 36 hours at the University of Michigan's hackathon by a mixture of high school and college students.

Cosmos has been extensively covered by news sites like FastCompany, Engadget, and The Smithsonian Magazine, and it has received funding as part of the 2015 batch in Techstars Startup Accelerator.



GROUPME

GroupMe, a group messaging app, was created at a hackathon and purchased a year later by Microsoft for \$85 million.

WHY ARE HACKATHONS IMPORTANT FOR THE INDUSTRY?

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

There are not nearly enough trained computer scientists to fulfill the need for programmers. According to Code.org, there will be 1,000,000 more computing jobs than computer science students by 2020. Computer science can be intimidating, and hackathons have done a great job of encouraging people to learn to code and enter the field.



DIVERSITY

Many hackathons work hard to encourage students of all demographics to attend. Without regard to a student's race or gender, hackathons are inclusive and remain open for any student to attend. One of the most powerful aspects of hackathons is their community, which is an important aspect with regard to helping under-represented groups feel welcome.

HOW POPULAR ARE HACKATHONS?

EXTREMELY

and still growing

THE SCHOOLS

Hackathons are hosted at the best technology schools in the world.

Here is just a small sampling of our host schools:



NYU

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
— AT AUSTIN —



Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Penn
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY



PARSONS
THE NEW
SCHOOL
FOR
DESIGN



STONY
BROOK
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

University of
Waterloo

and many more...



HACKATHONS IN **10** COUNTRIES

50,000

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

10,000+

IDEAS BROUGHT TO LIFE

THE SPONSORS

The world's top brands participate as sponsors at our hackathons.

Many sponsors send mentors and recruiters.



WHO RUNS THESE HACKATHONS?

A background image showing several students in a workshop or classroom setting. They are gathered around a table, working on a project that involves a large number of red cables. One student in the foreground is wearing a grey jacket with 'Supreme' written on it and is focused on his work. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at the project and others looking away. The overall atmosphere is one of collaborative learning and hands-on activity.

STUDENTS

Most MLH Events are run by student groups on campus. Students are tuned in to the needs of their peers and have the motivation to spend the time needed to plan an incredible event. However, students are not alone in their hackathon planning endeavors. MLH will help high school organizers by answering questions they may have, providing valuable advice, and connecting organizers to companies and vendors that they may need to work with.



FACULTY

Organizers also work closely with school administrators and faculty members to ensure the success of their hackathon. Frequent communication between the student-organizers and a school's administration is critical.



MAJOR LEAGUE HACKING

Run almost completely by individuals with prior experience organizing hackathons and attending hackathons as developer evangelists for sponsoring companies, MLH ensures that student organizers are given expert help to guarantee the success of their event. By facilitating a link between the technology industry and collegiate education, MLH is able to help students reach companies and individuals that would not normally be corporate partners of on-campus events.

WHAT IS MAJOR LEAGUE HACKING?



MAJOR LEAGUE HACKING



THE OFFICIAL STUDENT HACKATHON LEAGUE

POWERED BY



**HOW CAN ORGANIZERS
ENSURE THAT HACKATHONS
ARE SAFE FOR ATTENDEES?**

SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

MLH takes safety at hackathons extremely seriously, and all MLH representatives at a hackathon are specially trained to deal with any problem that may arise. These representatives work with and aid student organizers and volunteers throughout the hackathon. In addition, many professional developers, who specialize in mentoring at hackathons, are present.

A group of students are gathered around a registration desk at a hackathon. In the foreground, a young man in a green t-shirt is looking down at a document. Behind him, another student in a blue t-shirt and a dark cap is also looking at the desk. To the right, a young woman in a blue t-shirt is looking towards the camera. The desk is covered with various items, including a water bottle, a black device with a red crosshair, and some papers. In the background, there are other students and a sign that says "MLH".

REGISTRATION

While intricacies of the registration process vary per hackathon, all hackathons bar unregistered individuals from entering the venue. Hackathons also log when students enter the event and verify that students are who they claim to be by checking their identification.

CODE OF CONDUCT

MLH requires all sanctioned events to have students to agree to the Code of Conduct. This document illustrates the process for reporting violations and unsafe, harmful, or inappropriate behavior and fixing these problems as they arise. MLH has a no-tolerance policy for harassment and abuse, and representatives work around the clock to ensure the environment at each and every hackathon is safe.

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF CS EDUCATION



MLH


HACK THE
PLANET

MLH
MAJOR LEAGUE HACKING





HACK THE
PLANET

<http://mlh.io/info>

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THANK YOU

Please contact hi@mlh.io if you have any unanswered questions