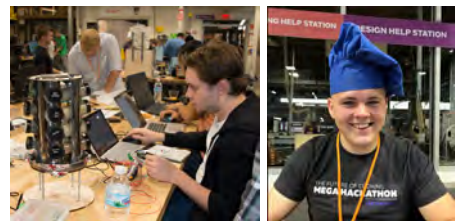*Hackathons 101*

What's a hackathon?

A hackathon is an event where people engage in rapid and collaborative engineering over a relative short period of time such as 24 or 48 hours - Wikipedia

The goal of a hackathon is to create functioning software or hardware at the end of the event – Dictionary.com

FirstBuild & Hackathons

- A 30hr non-stop event where innovative ideas become real products

- FirstBuild is a natural fit for enthusiasts, inventors and makers trying to release their inner creator

- We bring community and diversity of ideas together to enable innovation beyond belief

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Theme and Planning

Theme and Planning

Your event purpose and goal guides which type of hackathon to hold…

- Internal – Business focused within company or group

- External – Business focused with creatives, customers, etc.

- Community – Open to create solutions to benefit others

FirstBuild Examples

➢ Appliance Park Hackathon

➢ Hack the Home

➢ Wi-Fi Charging Stations Hackathon, City of Louisville

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Theme and Planning

- "Hack the Home" Mega Hackathon

- Engage broad audience through social media, FirstBuild community and university campuses

- Attendees from several universities, cities, & careers

Sponsors & Prizes

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Sponsors & Prizes

- Transparency is key, especially with awards, judging, and use rights

- Sponsor engagement can help event event success

- Multiple sponsored micro-challenges enable diversity of projects

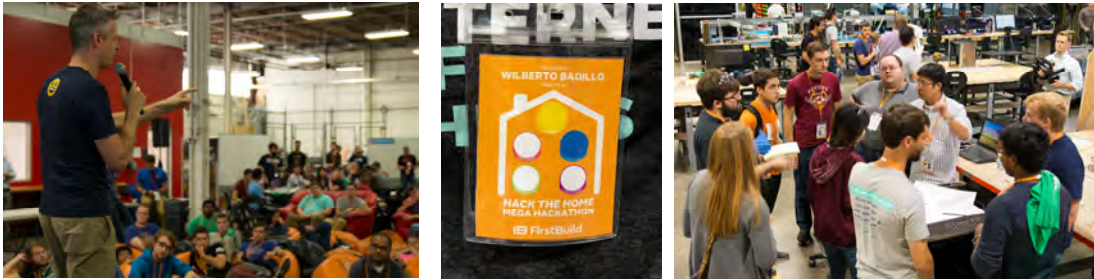- Sponsor kits, hardware, and technical support onsite during the event add value

Over $10,000 in cash and hardware prizes
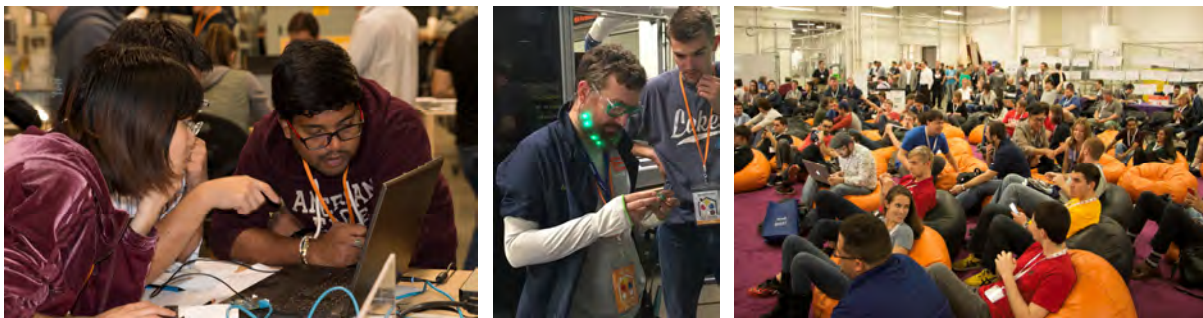

The Day of Hacking!

Team Formation

- You are never too old for stickers!!

- Encourage diverse groups (students, professionals, Industrial Designers, Artists and Engineers)

- Let the ideas flow, the sky is the limit

- Allow grouping to occur naturally…but help those needing a team

- Open pitch sessions help complete groups missing specific talent

Kick-off, Logistics & Ideation

- Safety is #1

- Logistics, staff schedules and above all lunch times!

- Design support schedule and Modelshop schedule drive timelines

- Overnight energy drinks, coffee and entertainment….

Hacking & Building

How can you support creativity…

- Tools that match capability

- Assistance with building and coding

- Simple is often better

FirstBuild Examples

➢ FirstBuild's microfactory enables fast fabrication of parts and concepts

➢ We work together to build your ideas into a reality!

➢ Mentoring & support by engineering staff

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5 keys to success

- **Early planning and sponsor collaboration**

- **Diversity in ideas and experience make for great projects**

- **Let the maker make! Fully staff mentoring and guidance to competing teams**

- **Provide them with tools and supplies for success and full support of our micro-factory**

- **And above all have fun… and unlimited supply of energy drinks!!**

Lawrence.Portaro@geappliances.com