

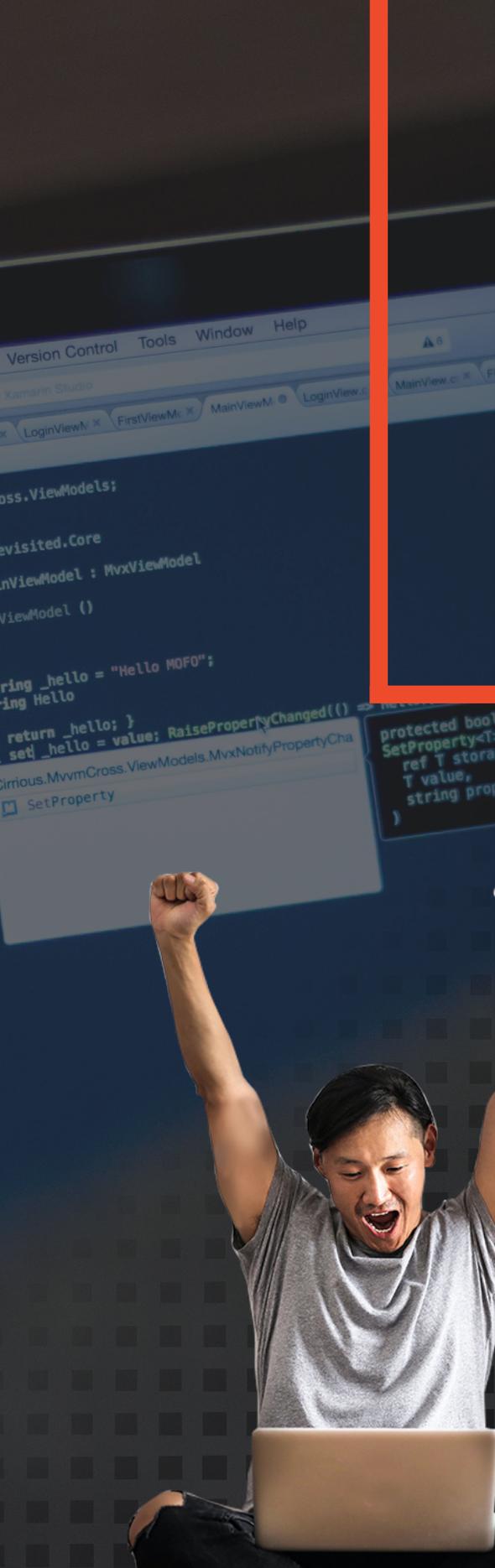


INDIGITOUS®

Executive Report 2020



#HACK | for the Unreached



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Executive

#HACK for the Unreached **Executive Summary**

Most Christians feel powerless to help people know Jesus. Indigitous' mission is to empower engaged believers by resourcing them on their digital missions. Indigitous accomplishes this by equipping them with digital solutions and offline strategies that are curated by its collaborative community.

Cities Participated

141

Locations

Participants

1,088

Hackers

Most Christians feel powerless to help people know Jesus. Indigitous' mission is to empower engaged believers by resourcing them on their digital missions. Indigitous accomplishes this by equipping them with digital solutions and offline strategies that are curated by its collaborative community. This support helps them confidently tell others about Jesus and enables them to go digital and be missional.

One of Indigitous' key strategies is Indigitous #HACK, a global missional hackathon about creating unique solutions to the challenges of reaching the unreached. The 2020 edition of #HACK split the event into two weekends, with the first occurring October 9-11, the final on October 16-18. Over the two weekends, approximately 1,088 technologists, developers, designers, students, and mission workers in 141 cities around the world came together for the fifth year of Indigitous #HACK.



Since Indigitous #HACK debuted in 2016, approximately 4,300 participants from 210 cities have gathered to work on 316 missional projects during five years of the global missional hackathon.

This event succeeded in convening passionate change makers, hackers, and

Missional Projects

91
Projects

This event succeeded in convening passionate change makers, hackers, and mission workers to apply their talents to their faith.

mission workers to apply their talents to their faith. This report attempts to capture the breadth of collaborations, stories, and innovations that emerged from this global missions-focused mass collaboration.

Of the 141 cities that took part in Indigitous #HACK2020, many were first-time locations. The other brought #HACK back to their cities after previously leveraging the event to catalyze communities of digital missionaries. The global pandemic forced most of the locations to meet online rather than in person,

collaborating over tools like Slack, Discord, Devpost, and Zoom. While that presented new challenges, it also opened exciting opportunities. The online experience allowed easier collaboration between locations, such as the cities of Orlando, Phoenix, and Chicago hacking together as one event. It also allowed greater expansion -- In Indonesia alone, 23 cities participated. No longer bound to geography, people were able to join and hack away even if there was no participating city nearby.

Global Participation of #HACK for the Unreached



What is a Hackathon?

The word “hackathon” is formed by combining the words “hack” and “marathon.”

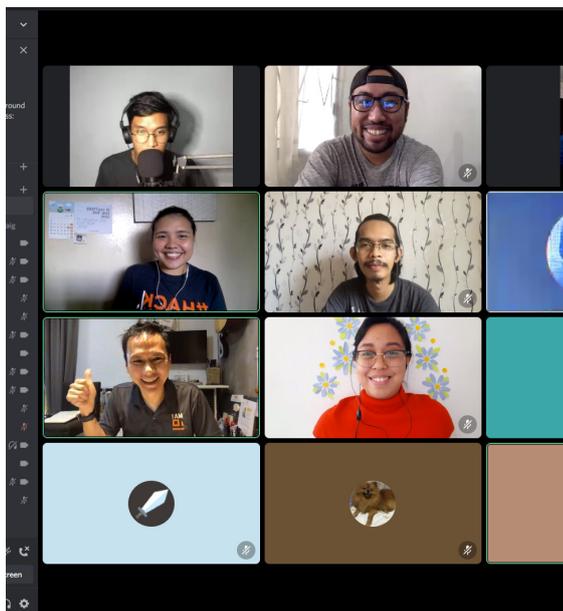
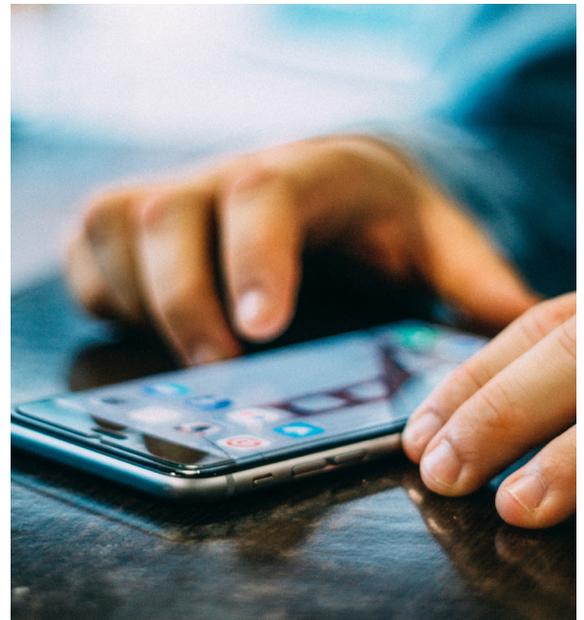
A hackathon is an event in which computer programmers, developers, and technologists join others in the field of software development, like graphic designers, interface designers, and project managers to collaborate intensively on projects. Hackathons typically last between a day and a week in length and are often



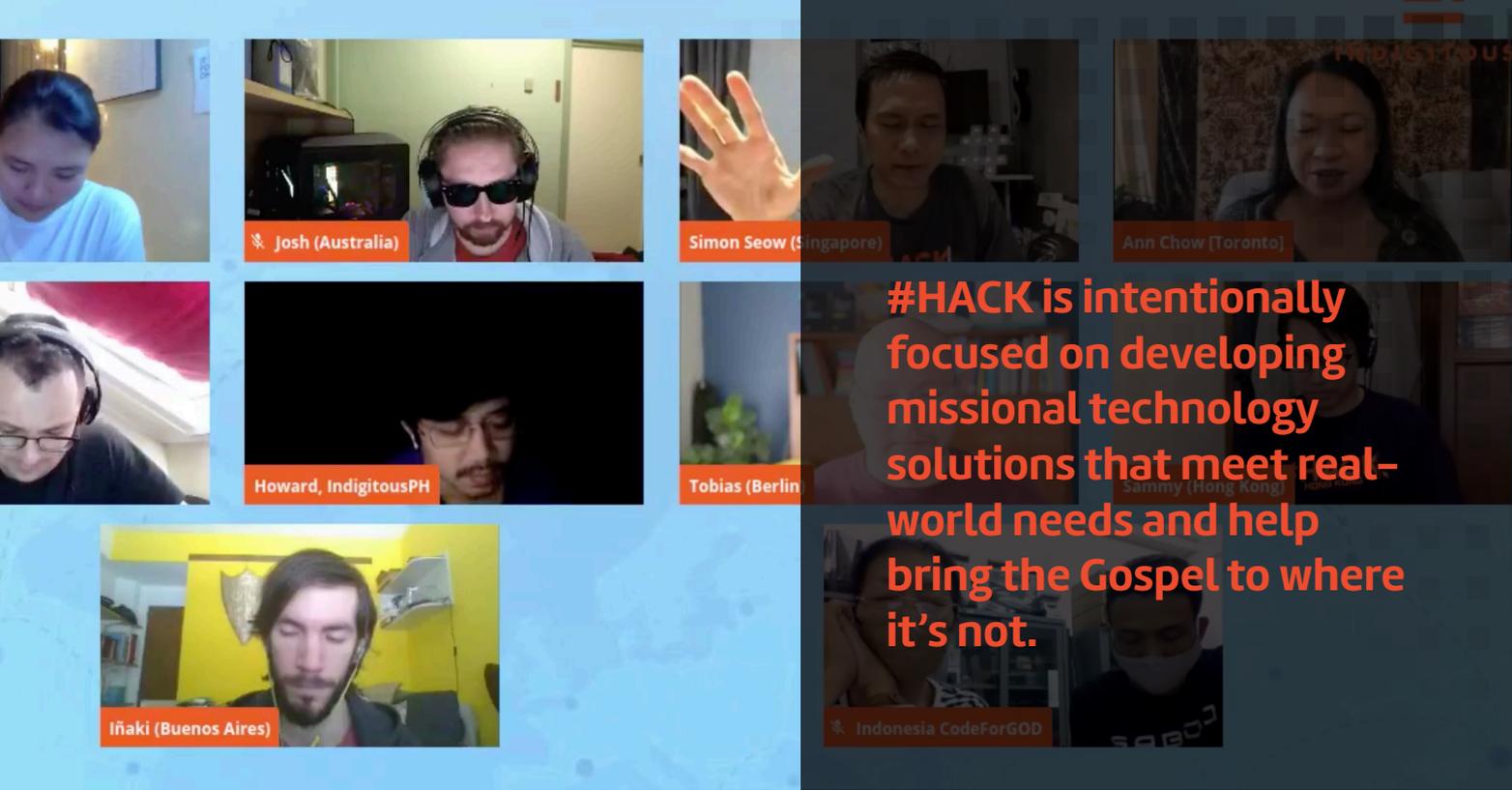
held over a weekend. Some hackathons are intended simply for educational purposes, although in many cases the goal is to create usable solutions. Hackathons tend to have a specific focus, such as furthering a purpose or using a specific programming language, the operating system, an application, an API, the subject, and the demographic group of the programmers. In other cases, there is no restriction on the type of software being created.

thon

The word “hackathon” is formed by combining the words “hack” and “marathon.” Hackathons are not about performing illegal activities around computer networks. Software developers widely see hacking as referring to a quick, playful, creative programming solutions to a problem -- taking the “road less traveled” to reach a destination in a new or different way.



Historically, hackathons have been exceptional opportunities for hands-on, creative problem solving of difficult technological challenges. Global hackathons, or “mass collaborations,” take this opportunity to another dimension by connecting an international community around a common vision to meet needs in their communities.



Indigitous #HACK

What separates Indigitous #HACK from other hackathons is that our participants are focused on mobilizing technologists and creatives to support God's work across the nations, offering communities a chance to learn from and with one another as they address interconnected and related challenges. #HACK is intentionally focused on developing missional technology solutions that meet real-world needs and help bring the Gospel to where it's not.

In short, here's why:

- We live in a globally connected world. Technology enables us all to make a difference right where we are.
- The best way to make a difference is to address a real challenge that others are already working on.
- The unique opportunity we have is to develop new solutions to common challenges using technology.
- This is actually more than just creating solutions to missional challenges using technology; it's a chance to rethink missions.
- The opportunity starts with where people are -- locally, strategically, socially, and in areas in which they are interested.
- To do this well, to start a global movement, requires intentional collaboration -- from all sorts of people, groups, and organizations.

Indigitous #HACK, which began in 2016, convenes people from all backgrounds who want to collectively make a difference, to live a life of purpose, and to use our skills, gifts, and expertise with technology to impact our world. We have a special opportunity to transform institutions and serve communities and families with our unique talents. Those that participate in Indigitous #HACK do so because they want to be a part of a global movement where they can contribute their skills, collaborate with others, and invite their friends to join them.

What makes **#HACK** different?



It is global.

Sometimes innovation doesn't scale because it's too localized. Events like #HACK give you a global network where you can connect with friends and colleagues from all over the world. Participants gain a broader perspective while being able to contribute their unique location's perspective as well.

It is original.

You may have been to a hackathon before, but likely not one like this. What separates Indigitous #HACK from most other hackathons is our laser focus on mobilizing technologists to support God's work across the nations, offering communities a chance to collaborate and learn from one another, building technology that addresses real-world needs. We're hacking for the unreached, working to bring the Gospel to where it's not. Participants experience the energy of more than 1,000 people working towards a common goal together in multiple locations all at once. #HACK is a gathering of creative, innovative, like-minded people from around the world.

Developing new skills.

#HACK is the perfect place to experiment with new technology, collaborate with others, and sharpen your skills, all while working on solutions that will have a lasting impact. At #HACK, participants have a chance to wrestle with the world's biggest problems. Participants work through the challenges together and learn new things along the way. For many, #HACK is their first hackathon. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to join, just curious and willing to learn.

Making a difference.

God gave us certain talents and interests, but many participants have stated that they didn't have an opportunity to use those for something of great significance before #HACK. #HACK is a chance to use digital skills for projects that matter and create tangible products that have missional value to change lives and bring hope to people.

It is collaborative.

Let's face it -- the digital world can be lonely, and sometimes even your friends just don't understand when you start talking code. The people at Indigitous #HACK do. Participants meet other locals and people from around the globe who share their gifts and passions. While our work focuses on all kinds of technology, participants don't have to be a programmer to get involved. #HACK connects developers, designers, technologists, and missions workers from all over the world who share interests and passions. Photographers, writers, project managers, social media gurus, and creative thinkers of all types also join in, making the work better, clearer, and more effective.

A New Kind of Collaboration

Collaboration has always been a big part of Indigitous #HACK, but the global pandemic forced #HACK2020 to take that to a whole new level. Most of the locations met remotely, so participants had to use a number of online tools to work together. That meant meetings over Zoom, project hosting on Devpost and the Indigitous website, real-time chat over Slack and WhatsApp. "We weren't able to hang out over meals and shoot the breeze together, but we used Discord to chat and hang out," says Joshua Montzka, city lead for the Australia events.

While the inability for most locations to meet in person posed many challenges, it also opened more opportunities. Participants, no longer bound by geography, were able to join from anywhere in the world. Location leads were able to increase their reach. "We combined with another city to make it a national event," says Ric Poolman, lead for #HACK Thailand. Many other city leads did the same, expanding their scope to allow more people to participate in the hackathon. Three cities in the United States --- Chicago, Orlando, and Phoenix --- combined for one event that they called #HACK



#HACK2020 is a global collaboration, so people around the world worked for the same mission even when working on different projects.

Chilandix. Indonesia had run #HACK events in a few cities in the past, but this year expanded to 23 cities. God certainly moved through the global event!

#HACK2020 is a global collaboration, so people around the world worked for the same mission even when working on different projects. Throughout the event, participants used Slack and other channels to communicate with people around the world, sharing stories about what they're working on, asking for help, and giving tips. One location even helped another site across the world with its finances. When the design team for #HACK Mozambique shared that they weren't able to raise all of the funds needed for their budget, the volunteers leading #HACK Texas decided to help out, raising money on their behalf.

Two locations, the Philippines and Nigeria, saw the importance of doing evangelical work outside of hacking on missional projects. Inspired by the call to reach the unreached, these locations added Digital Outreach events to the #HACK schedule, where participants learned simple ways to share their faith using social media and video content. For many of them, it was their first time taking part in any outreach.

While Indigitous has always valued collaboration, the pandemic forced us to do a new kind of collaboration, working together as never before to glorify God and reach the unreached through #HACK2020.



Hacking Through a Pandemic

“HACK has always been an event about solving problems to share the Gospel. COVID is one such problem that needs to be overcome,” says Joshua Montzka



Since 2016, every October people have gathered around the world to take part in Indigitous #HACK, our global missional hackathon. The event has become a thing that many Indigitous communities look forward to, but this year it was surrounded by uncertainty.

When the COVID-19 pandemic took hold at the end of 2019, it changed everything, including the way we do work, the way we do missions, and even the way we meet as communities. Over the course of the year, as organizations, communities, and individuals canceled event after event, including our own Digital Missions Summit, many started to ask: Is Indigitous #HACK going to happen this year?

We did our research, looking into online options, interviewing previous #HACK city leads, and more. “After a lot of prayer, we have decided to trust God for #HACK to happen again this year,” Indigitous co-founder Simon Seow said back in April.

At the time, many assumed this would be a small year, that only a fraction of previous city leads would host #HACK again. Instead, it turned out to be the biggest #HACK to date, with 141 cities taking part!

“HACK has always been an event about solving problems to share the Gospel. COVID is one such problem that needs to be overcome,” says Joshua Montzka, who hosted #HACK2020 in three Australian states this year.

Johan Myburgh, who organized several cities in South Africa, agrees. “I think an event like this is more needed now than ever before because so much more is happening online than ever before,” he says.

Of course, trusting God doesn’t mean assuming that He will shield us from the virus. Christians do still get sick, after all. Therefore, changes had to be made to make the local hackathons comply with safety guidelines. Some locations met in person but only in small groups, with proper social distancing protocols required, while most met entirely online.

While making the traditionally in-person gathering online presented a challenge, it also opened up opportunities. “It was much easier to include and establish hubs in other cities that we wanted to include for a long time,” Johan says. For Johan and other city leads, doing #HACK2020 online meant an opportunity for a greater reach, unbound by geography.

Digital

Explore #DigitalMissions

It's about making a difference, showing impact, and advancing God's Kingdom through innovation.

SwitchOff Top Overall Project

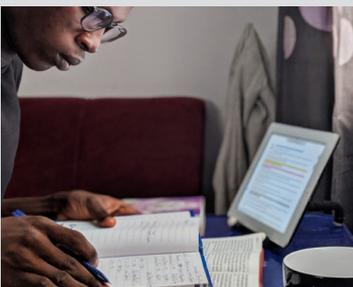


With the SwitchOff plugin, a team in Australia aims to help people discover life beyond the screen. The team took a survey of Australians and found that they spend an average of 4 hours per day on their phones. 72% of them want less screen time, but have trouble putting their devices away. By spending less time on their screens, they can spend more time cultivating their relationship with Jesus. The SwitchOff plugin offers time tracking, offline goal setting, analytics, tips & motivation, and

accountability friends to help people put the devices away and enjoy time away from their screens.

"This is something that's affecting the entire Kingdom of God and the whole world and so to tackle that was huge," says John Dyer, one of the global judges. "The core idea is unique, the technology is ready, and we really hope it makes a difference in helping people realize their passion in what God has made them to do to be sometimes online but also be offline."

Simple Suku Study Bible Maker Most Innovative



There are 700 languages in Indonesia, and the Bible is only available in 100 of them. To help increase biblical literacy and take the Gospel to where it's not, a team in Indonesia developed a program to automate the creation of a customizable study Bible in tribal languages.

"I can see this being used for rapid creation of hundreds of different apps, maybe under a ministry ban-

ner, to reach all of those 700 languages in Indonesia, or maybe just a single ministry that wants to come along and say 'here's a non-technical user who can create a Bible app simply with just a couple clicks,'" John says.

This project also won one of the two People's Choice awards, as voted by the #HACK2020 participants.

Hanap-Buhay Platform

Most Kingdom-Impact



For those who are unemployed, depression and a feeling of being meaningless can set in. A team in the Philippines created the Hanap-Buhay website to help those who are job searching connect with Christian communities to help them grow professionally and spiritually. The platform offers both spiritual and practical help, everything from how to decide on your direction, to mentors and mental health experts, to job interview tips, to a listing of Christian organizations with job vacancies. A spirit of caring is felt throughout the website, which

includes a Gospel presentation and an acknowledgement that true purpose comes from God, not a career.

"This takes two really important problems of joblessness and mental health and really looks at solving both of these at the same time," John says. "We can get really down if we don't have the right job. We love that Hanap-Buhay created a really simple and clear path to work through those issues and to share the hope of Jesus at the same time."

Ro Bible Study Story App

Most Viable



This project targets an unreached people group that has been displaced from their homeland, now living in more than 30 countries. The majority of of this people group has smartphones and are active on social media. Because the language is small, there are no existing Bible app translations for it. To reach this group, a team in Chilandix (that's a combination of Chicago, Orlando, and Phoenix) created an app that allows them to hear the Gospel in their heart language that is easy to

understand. The app will include around 30 Bible stories made for Christians to be able to use to share the Gospel with that people group, but also for those who don't know any Christians to be able to discover and learn from the content on their own.

"They're able to make something that's very customized and very targeted and also takes into account audio and visual learners," John says.

Gemenaye Vent Chatbot

People's Choice



A lot of people who are going through difficult times don't have anyone to talk to, either because they don't have close family or friends, or because they simply don't feel comfortable talking about their issues publicly. A team in Ethiopia created the Gemenaye Vent channel on Telegram and an accompany-

ing chatbot to allow people to share anonymously, connect with mentors, and build relationships as they grow.



Every Christian a Digital Missionary

"#HACK is a great way to get the IT community together and do something to help others and missions. They are very encouraging for us and those we are serving; it is even more important these days to encourage one another."

Rick

#HACK Chiang Mai

"An event like this is more needed now than ever before because so much more is happening online than ever before."

Johan

#HACK South Africa

"We're grateful to be present, to be working for God side by side."

Iñaki

#HACK Buenos Aires

"It was inspiring to use digital to share the Gospel." ~ participant

"The best part was working with others to solve a significant problem that will bless even more people." ~ participant

"The best part was working for the Kingdom of God." ~ participant

"God gave us an amazing opportunity to use our talents for His Kingdom. It's been so good to be with Godly and professional brothers." ~ participant

"Amazing to see the body of Christ come together to work for the Kingdom together." ~ participant

"The best part was the amazing ideas, faith, and hard work it takes to develop something that really impacts." ~ participant

"I joined #HACK2020 to make a change in the world." ~ participant



#HACK Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Bring **#HACK** to your City



#HACK is an event that is intended not just to convene Christian technologists and not just to work on missional projects, but also to help mobilize and empower digital missionaries.

Bring #HACK to your City

Since Indigitous #HACK debuted in 2016, approximately 4,300 participants from 210 cities have gathered to work on 316 missional projects during five years of the missional hackathon. #HACK is an event that is intended not just to convene Christian technologists and not just to work on missional projects, but also to help mobilize and empower digital missionaries.

Indigitous #HACK has served as a catalyst to start new movements of digital missionaries, giving a purpose

and a rallying point for those who have talents in the digital space but don't know how to use them for something that matters.

We ask you to consider, and pray about, whether God is calling you to bring #HACK to your city. To host Indigitous #HACK or to get more information about the event, email hack@indigitous.org