

# First online hackathon platform

Collaboration tool tailored for remote hackathons

# Introduction

- What are we
  - A collaboration tool focusing on making remote conversation and decision-making easy and natural
- Why are we
  - We believe that existing tools are sometimes limiting natural flow of conversation, hard to follow and difficult to organize
- Our goal is better online collaboration experience through:
  - Natural organization
  - Effortless overview of what is happening in the collaboration
  - Efficient decision-making
  - Streamlined integration for new team members joining mid-conversation

# Inline with the goals of “The Port 2019” Hackathon

- Hackathons require some of the participants to travel to the set
  - Environmental impact of participants travelling is not negligible, everything counts!
- There are 5,636 hackathons organized per year (~200k participants)\*
  - Assuming 20% of participants travel, there are ~40'000 two-way travels
  - This translates to 3'760 tonnes of CO2 emissions (avg. 47kg per person per flight)
  - If 20% of these hackathons would be organized online, it would translate to 752`000 kg less CO2 per year
- Potential of passionate people spread all over the world is underused
  - More affordable for participants and organizers to collaborate remotely
- Main goal is to make completely online hackathons possible

\* according to statistics from Hackathon.com for 2018, 37% more than 2016

## Problems identified with current collaboration tools:

- Workspaces quickly become verbose and difficult to follow
- Workspace organization needs pre-planning and set-up dedicated for specific conversations
- Sometimes leads to private conversations if the channel is not suitable for that topic

## How we address these aspects:

- **Ad-hoc channel creation**
  - Helps with natural flow of conversation
  - Makes organization of conversation a breeze
  - Helps to keep conversation public as there is no need to continue discussion with private messages
- **Summaries**
  - Helps to distill the value from the conversation
  - Reduces verbosity as conversations get grouped under a simple summary
- **Voting**
  - Make sure majority agrees on the decision or a summary
- **Automatic summaries**
  - Reduces the overhead of moderation

# The future of the platform

- The previously mentioned main features have been the main focus of our work so far, and are currently implemented in the platform!
- Planned features/under development:
  - Multiple levels of nested channels
  - User profiles
  - Replies
  - Reactions on messages (likes etc.)
  - Private messages (under consideration)
  - Possibility to post pictures or other attachments
  - Search tool (to find older messages or content)
  - Workspace -browser (to have a great overview of the whole workspace easily)
  - Mentions (#user, #topic)
  - Tidying up the UX
  - Name

# Access to the platform

[onlinehackathon.netlify.com](https://onlinehackathon.netlify.com)

- You are among the first users of the platform!
  - When you join the conversation for the first time, the platform will request you to name yourself
  - Please use the same name if you access the platform from another device later on!
- Any feedback or suggestions are important and welcome
  - Feedback channel for each group can be found from the workspaces
  - You can also contact us through email: [online-hackathon@cern.ch](mailto:online-hackathon@cern.ch)
- Instructions on usage of the platform can be found from backup slides if you missed the presentation

Backup/Platform user instructions

# Choose a name!

## First online hackathon platform

A Collaboration tool that is tailored for remote hackatons.

Start now

- Please use the same name if you connect from a new device as your unread messages are linked to the name (for now)



More reach to potential



Join from anywhere



Better for everyone

Enter your name

Axel

OK





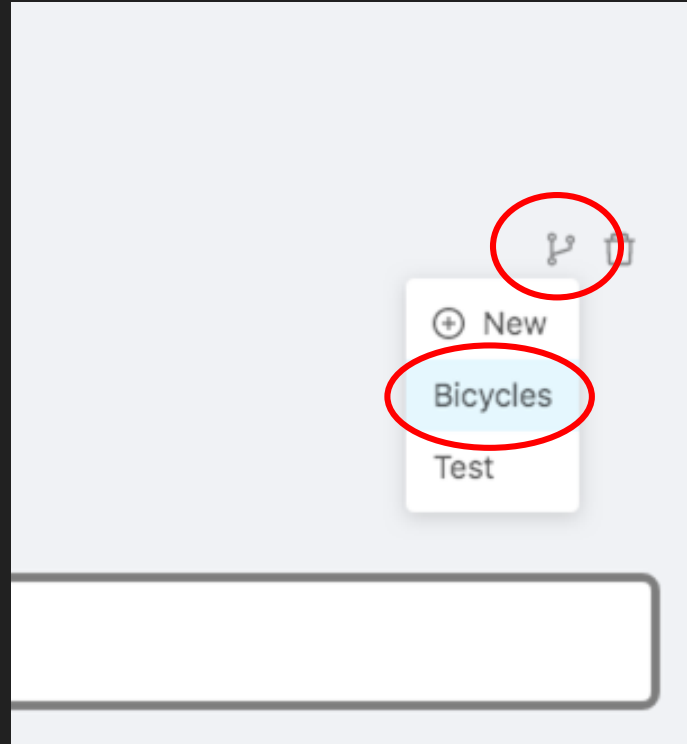
# Channel creation

The screenshot shows a chat interface with a dark blue sidebar on the left containing a home icon and the text 'main' and 'Test'. The main chat area displays a message history with five messages from users Axel and Karl. At the bottom of the chat is a large empty text input field. A 'New Channel' dialog box is overlaid on the chat, with a text input field containing the word 'Bicycles' and 'Cancel' and 'OK' buttons. A red arrow points from the 'New' button in the chat interface to the 'New Channel' dialog box. A text box with a black border contains the following text:

- Anyone can create a new channel by pressing the arrow icon next to a message, and selecting "New"

# Moving messages

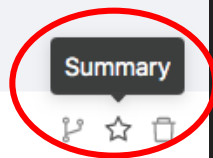
- Through the same button it is also possible to move messages to existing channels



# Creating a summary

- A** Axel 20 minutes ago  
I would like to talk about bicycles
- K** Karl 14 minutes ago  
Hi Axel, I am Karl, and I love bicycles
- A** Axel 14 minutes ago  
Great! I will create us a channel where we can talk about them in more detail!
- K** Karl 3 minutes ago  
Oh, this is great, what do you like most about bicycles?
- A** Axel a few seconds ago  
I really like how I am able to skip all traffic after work to get home faster!

- By clicking the star-button anyone can propose to promote a message as a summary!



# Voting

A Axel 16 minutes ago  
Great! I will create us a channel where we can talk about them in more detail!

K Karl 5 minutes ago  
Oh, this is great, what do you like most about bicycles?

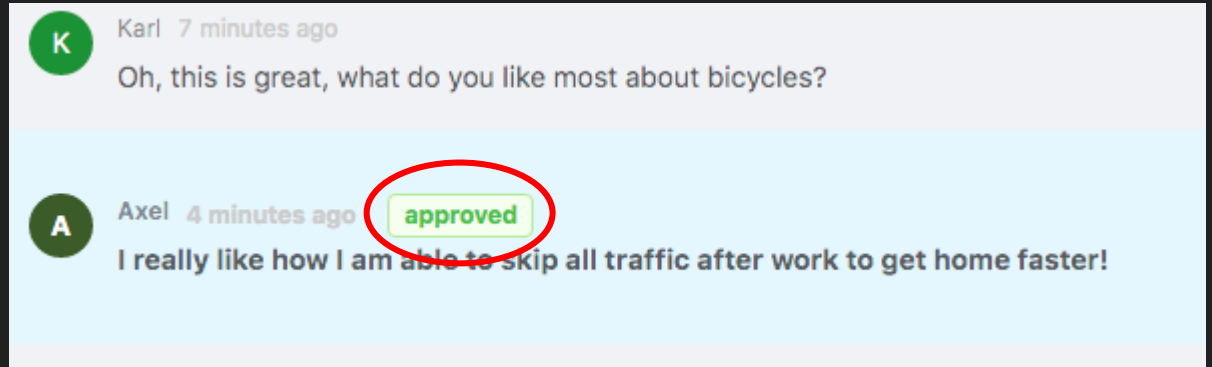
A Axel 2 minutes ago pending  
I really like how I am able to skip all traffic after work to get home faster!



- After a summary is proposed, it enters the voting stage
- Voting remains open for members of the channel to vote “Thumbs-up” or “Thumbs-down”

# Summary

- After a soft majority of channel members have voted “Yes” the summary becomes “Approved”
- Summaries also get published to the Main!
- If the summary is not approved, it gets tagged as “Rejected”



# Carbon footprint calculations

- mean distance per flight (globally): 1300 km [ref](#)
- average carbon footprint: 36.6 g per passenger km (Boeing 737-400) [ref](#)
- average carbon footprint per flight per person: 47 kg ( $1300 * 36.6\text{g}$ )