## GHTC 2015 Hackathon Challenge Statement

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| Challenge Title: |  |
| Proposer Name: |  |
| Organization: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Phone (optional): |  |
| Website: |  |
|  |  |

**Instructions:**

Challenge briefs are the key to producing robust solutions with hackathons. They do this by limiting, not expanding, the parameters of solutions to challenges. It’s easy for participants to overextend themselves on solutions that try to address too many components of a problem at once. By creating challenge briefs that break the problem up into parsable, bite-sized chunks that can be tackled in the time span of an event, participants are able to create more viable results when they focus on one component or feature.

Hackathon challenges aren’t necessarily just software development challenges. Hackathons can also allow the opportunity to work on challenges around software, hardware, and open data. Be sure to explain in your brief what sorts of resources you would like to see in response to your challenge.

**Background**  
Provide your participants with contextualizing information on the problem, the requesting organization, etc. This will help lay the groundwork for them to determine what solutions might be valuable in this use case, and how those solutions might need to be tweaked for the benefit of the end user.

(Background text here)

**Challenge Statement**

This is the heart of your brief. The challenge statement boils down the problem(s) that are being presented to participants. Be sure to state the need and explain why solving this issue is necessary. Indicate how a solution to this challenge would impact the stakeholders, and provide any needed caveats for special cases of use.

(Challenge text here)

**Scenarios (optional)**

This is an optional component for your challenge brief that is dependent upon any special cases of use that the solution will be addressing. For the example provided below, the end user of this tool may be outside of the organizational structure that created it. This information helps participants craft solutions that provide flexibility for implementation of the tool.

**Components**

This is where you break up the challenge into parsable chunks for teams to choose from. Stress to your teams that this is not a checklist of items to complete, but a starting place for ideas. Only one portion of the possible solutions should be addressed by individual teams, NOT the entire list.

(Components text here)

**Resources**

Give your participants shiny new toys to play with. Platforms, APIs, datasets (with PII, [personally identifiable information](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personally_identifiable_information), SCRUBBED), media, use case studies, etc, should be made available to teams. Don’t overdo it, though, as too much information may bog the teams down and prevent out of the box problem-solving.

(Resources text here)