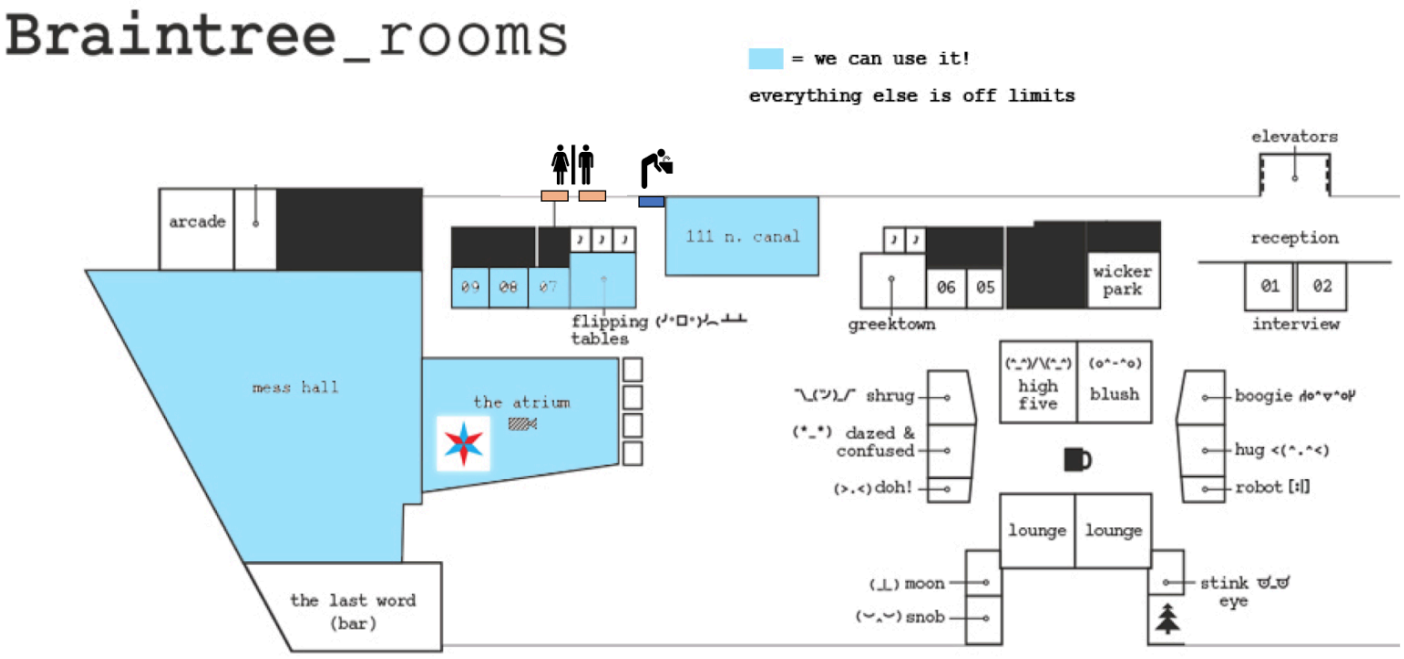
CHI HACKNIGHT

#238: Hacking Housing at the LatinX Techies Hackathon

Date January 24, 2016
Sponsor Microsoft
Website chihacknight.org

Some things to know

- There will be food! You are also welcome to take up to 2 non-alcoholic drinks from the 'everyone' refrigerator (not the food in the fridge, please).
- Twitter and Flickr: share using the **#chihacknight** hashtag. Follow us @chihacknight
- Website: ChiHackNight.org
- Google Group: https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/chihacknight
- Weekly email: http://eepurl.com/z65hn
- Join our Slack channel: http://slackme.chihacknight.org
- Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/chihacknight
- We have Chi Hack Night t-shirts for $15 and stickers for free
- Wifi Password: PayPalGuest / SafePayments
- Make sure the guard has food
- Hack Night Radio: A collaborative playlist that plays before/after Chi Hack Night: https://open.spotify.com/user/christopherbearkat/playlist/5BtZWKmdYppenBsXeu7BJn
- Braintree space: The rooms in Blue, we are welcome to use. Everything else is off limits please! **Please note that we are not supposed to disable or disconnect anything in the Braintree rooms**. If you need help, ask one of the Braintree staff.



Agenda

6:00 pm Eating and socializing
6:15 pm Welcome, house rules, introductions & meet your neighbor
6:30 pm Announcements
6:45 pm Presentation
7:15 pm Highlight breakout groups
7:30 pm Break into groups and hack

Announcements

Share your civic tech news and projects!

Are men talking too much? Let's see? (Andy)
[Andy is out 1/24, back next week. Others are welcome to use the tool and record data!]
Tonight Andy will be using arementalkingtoomuch.com (a Chihacknight product) to get a rough idea of the proportion of time that men are talking during announcements and Q&A. Results will be posted here and in the Chihacknight Slack. Let @andy know in the Slack or in person about misgendering concerns on anyone's behalf (e.g. a message saying '-1 dude' or '+15s non-dude' to adjust the dude count or time) and I'll adjust the stats after the fact. Running results here.

My photos from the Chicago march (Nina)
while possibly not the world's best photography ;-) - are free (under CC0 license) to anyone who wants to use them: https://flic.kr/s/aHskQrWaF6. And if you were able to get shots of any nice ACA or

healthcare/disability/human services-related signs and would be willing to share them for re-use, please let me know! Thanks, Nina Sandlin at gmail.

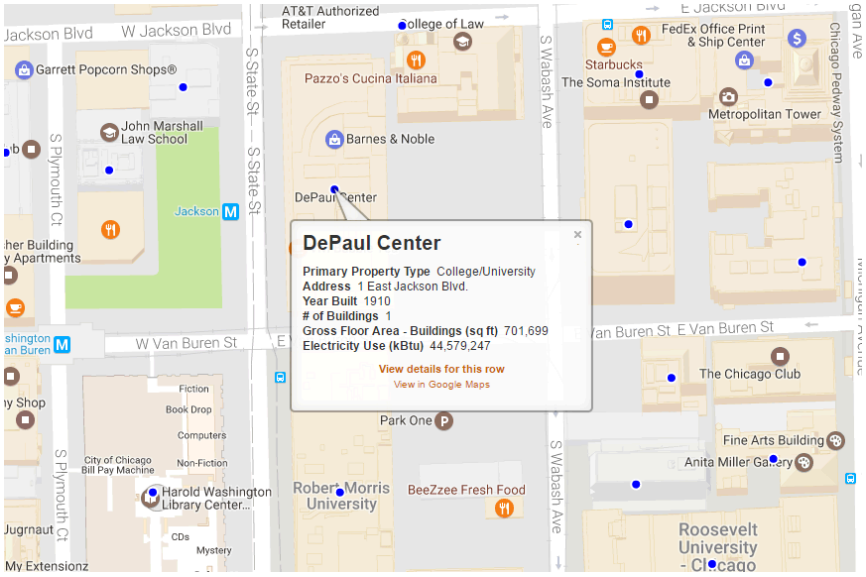
Start your grown-up science fair projects! (Geoff)

The Chicago Grown-up Science Fair is exactly what it sounds like: the science fair you might remember as a kid, but with fewer rules, no pressure and for adults. We have a very big-tent definition of science that includes computer science and data science. If this sounds cool, you can:

- Learn more at https://www.grownupsciencefair.org/
- Start working on a project. It can be an experiment, invention or an explainer poster
- Tell other people who might be interested (you can invite them to this Facebook event if that's your thing: https://www.facebook.com/events/234799443640612/)
- Check out the fair in April
- Ask questions (tonight, find Geoff, any time, info@grownupsciencefair.org)

Third Year of Energy Benchmarking Data on the Open Data Portal

The City of Chicago has launched the newest Energy Benchmarking data as part of the Energy Benchmark ordinance passed in 2013, which includes information on energy consumption, size of buildings, ENERGY STAR® rating and more. For the first time, the data now includes residential buildings over 50,000 square feet. Nearly 2,700 properties are available in the data set, which was released alongside the most recent edition of the Chicago Energy Benchmarking Report for 2016.



We the People petition: Rescind the gag order on taxpayer-funded science. (Don Chartier)
(Christopher will take this one)

I've just started a petition on the White House's ***We the People*** site (surprisingly, it hasn't been taken down). The petition is titled "**Rescind the gag order on taxpayer-funded science"** and is a response to confirmed reports that the Trump Administration has barred staffers at EPA, Department of Agriculture, and Health & Human Services from posting on social media or publishing data.

You can read and sign the petition here:https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/rescind-gag-order-taxpayer-funded-science.
More details in the #Random section of Slack.
https://chihacknight.slack.com/archives/random/p1485301200000711

Code for America Brigade Action Teams

The National Advisory Council at Code for America is asking for volunteers to join the Brigade Action Teams focused on Diversity and Inclusion, Days of Action, Knowledge Sharing, and Badges and Recognition.

Shared Use Mobility Center:

It's been awhile since we've been to hack night, but we're interested in start to explore ways to leverage the data and tools we've been developing over the last two years around shared use mobility (by which we mean carsharing, bikesharing, uber, lyft, microtransit, etc.)

Here are some links to what we've got cooking:
maps.sharedusemobilitycenter.org
policies.sharedusemobilitycenter.org
Calculator.sharedusemobilitycenter.org

The Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC) is a public-interest organization working to foster collaboration in shared mobility and help connect the growing industry with transit agencies, cities and communities across the nation.

Events

Please only list events coming up in the next 2 weeks

Machine Learning: Algorithms and Applications Demo and Open House On January 24, attend a Machine Learning presentation by Jeremy Watt, instructor of the upcoming Metis course Machine Learning: Algorithms & Applications and author of *Machine Learning Refined*. Register here.

Metis Bootcamp Open House with Alumni from GrubHub, Datascope and eSpark
On January 25, Enjoy food and drinks as Metis bootcamp alumni share their experiences. In addition, Metis Sr. Data Scientist David Ziganto walks you through a sampling of what students learn throughout

their 12 weeks of project-based data science work, and Metis Career Advisor Ashley Purdy details the extensive career support. Register here.

Elm Meetup at Tock, Jan 25th
Also on January 25th, Tock is hosting this month's Elm meetup. I've you've ever wanted to try a strongly typed language or just see an alternative to Javascript, come check it out. We love introducing the language to newcomers and the meetup is largely focused around creating fun projects. Register here.

Jobs

Chicago Public Schools - Director of Web Services
The Director of Web Services provides the vision and leadership for designing, developing, implementing and supporting mobile friendly, cloud-based Web
applications that support the district's digital strategy, simplify the user experience, improve processes and create business value.
Email Jay Van Patten to apply: jjvanpatten@cps.edu

Code for America - Head of Product
Define product strategy, core metrics, and roadmap. Align on shared initiatives, shape and scope projects, and develop clear, measurable goals in line with business goals. (SF Only)

Peter DeWeirdt (pdeweird@hamilton.edu) - Looking: Junior at Hamilton College majoring in math. Looking for a data science-y summer internship in Chicago. Not at meeting b/c studying at University of Oxford, but- willing to learn and good sense of humor.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning - Associate Designer
Apply online at the link above. Please contact Tina Fassett Smith (tsmith@cmap.illinois.gov) with questions.

Presentation Notes: Hacking Housing at the Latin@ Techies Hackathon

Help us take notes during the presentation! *Please add a new line before typing so that we don't overwrite each other.*

Presenters: Kara Carroll, Luce, Shelly (sp?), Noah, Alejandro (fill-in), Henry, Janet
Note taker: Alison Stanton
Second hackathon Latin@ Hacking did, focused on housing, in Pilsen on a Saturday in November.

Latino Techies (latinotechies.com) is an initiative of Gozamos.com - online magazine focusing on Latino arts and activism in English. 1) Empower next generation. 2) Connecting Latinas in tech 3) Tackling community issues through tech

3 Teams at the hackathon:

- Reclaiming mi barrio: empowering tenants through storytelling.

- (Winner) Renter Power: making open data accessible to housing advocates. Somos Logan Square and Autonomous Tenants Union
- Zoning Invaders: making zoning meetings transparent

Problem: 30,000 evictions are filed each year in Cook County. Almost half of tenants in eviction cases don't go to court. 95% of tenants who do go to court appear pro se (self-representing) to eviction hearings, which tend to last 90 seconds on average. Cook county does not have: *just cause eviction*, *rent control*.

Knowledge is your leverage.

Currently have a large gentrification problem. Without legal protections, they got creative. They used public information to find information about the owners. Most housing is owned by LLCs, you can find main investors. Can find code violations and alderman information. Find lawsuits filed against unethical landlord - share with investors and potential consumers. Also disincentivized investors. Got alderman to send a letter to investors to get landlord to negotiate with tenants. Also tried to organizer tenants across entire landlord portfolio.

Technical Problems: websites clunky, some require specialized knowledge, cross-referencing. Tedious process that takes hours and days to find information. Wanted to build website to make finding that easier. Original goal was to build automated workflow. But given that there was 6 hours, they built step by step process.

Next up: complete the "worksheet" website. They have a mock-up of what it could look like. Need more user interface design. Also want to build another website that is an automated workflow for entire process. Most websites don't have REST APIs, so you'd have to create webscrapers. Need web development help for that.

Questions

What system did you use to build website right now: HTML, CSS, Javascript.

Hope of developing website to prevent tenant from going to court? How does this win in court?
Eviction is actually start of 30 day negotiation. (missed a lot of good information)

What happened to Rent strikes? Can we ban together tenants across buildings?
That was an intention of this project. There is a rent reduction letter in Chicago.
Primary crisis right now is in conditions. Landlords actually want you to not pay your rent. We can talk about it more. Risky, doesn't sound like great choice.

If you have all the data about the landlords, can you identify those problem landlords? Have you looked at "naughty landlords" city releases?

A lot of tenants don't know who their landlord is. They hide behind multiple LLCs.
Reaching out to landlords personally can help. Chicago's list is about code violations not unethical practices.

(didn't catch the question)
Majority of folks sued for evictions are being sued because they have some other crisis in their life that makes it so they can't pay their rent. Landlords do scary things like having a friend dressing up as a cop saying they're going to take their stuff. Even though in Chicago only Sheriff's can lock you out. But most people don't know better and will leave before 30 days arrives.
Landlords will threaten with immigration raids.
Renters may not want information because of immigration status. Also scares people away from housing court.
Organization lost space because landlord doubled their rent.

Fighting gentrification or people not getting evicted?
Import issue to discuss as we continue in the next year.

Assuming website completed. How would you make it well known to people who actually use it?
Example: mother of 3 being evicted. No, she doesn't have a computer. She has an iphone. Put your phone on speaker. Within 5 minutes she had access and information to use the website. The people that were involved (i.e. organizational people) would be the distributors to their clients.

Would be interested in creating APIs for websites that don't already have them.

Cook county recorder of deeds website closed down was a problem. If you know how to get at that data let them know. (merged with another office in 2020)

Civic Hacking Portion of Evening

https://chihacknight.org/breakouts.html

Discussion of Gentrification with Alderman Joe Moreno
https://aldermanmoreno.eventbrite.com

Wed, February 15, 2017
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM CST
LOCATION

Quiote
2456 North California Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647