

OPEN SOURCE LEGALTECH HACKATHON

March 2021



Open Source LegalTech Hackathon

19 March, 24 March and 31 March 2021

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Challenge

Bringing the legal industry together with third sector, technologists and innovators, to rapidly design ideas on how we can purposefully use open source technology to ensure **access to justice** for all.

We are calling for SMEs in the West of England to be part of an event that will rapidly prototype solutions for improved legal opportunities and legal service outreach. Together we will build a collaborative community that is focussed on solving problems for all.

Why Access to Justice?

The pandemic is widening the justice gap, with a sharp increase in the problems that many people face at a time when it is harder to get legal support. It has exacerbated many justice issues for those in vulnerable groups and low-income communities who are hardest hit by job or rental insecurity, homelessness and eviction, cybercrime and reduced access to criminal justice systems - now more than ever there are more people needing access to legal advice and help with understanding their rights.

New and maturing open source technology for legal applications holds promise for the development of cost-effective systems that can be sustainably implemented by small organisations. There is an opportunity for legal experts and service providers to become more empowered as power users or developers. At the same time, technology solution providers can find new solutions by forming a strong and mutually supportive local legal technology community.

What is a hackathon?

For those new to hackathons, a hackathon is a competition, usually held over the course of a couple of days. It is a collaboration between small teams of business people and software developers to develop a product, service or platform that addresses a specific challenge. It is an opportunity for people with a common goal to come together to harness their ideas and build solutions for the future.

We will be delivering this on-line over several days to help form mixed teams. We will bring together the growing legaltech community across the West of England area and take this

diverse group through a creative design sprint process to rapidly develop and prototype ideas/demonstrators.

The idea is to bring together the 3rd sector, legal industry professionals, entrepreneurs and software developers, and challenging them to explore and create solutions to real-world issues faced by lawyers, clients, and other stakeholders within the legal justice systems.

The event culminates in a pitching competition before a panel of judges, who score the pitches along the challenge criteria and select a winner. We will run workshops to help participants can learn more about the subject of the challenge and the capabilities of open source - in our case, justice, legal services, lawtech and using open source technologies to enable access to justice.

Space is limited, so request your ticket now! Your participation in the hackathon is by selection. A ticket does not guarantee a place. We will notify the final participants separately by email.

Featured Open Source Systems

How can digital technologies improve Access to Justice through addressing resource, operational and accessibility challenges faced in the legal industry? We are looking for solutions to workflow management, streamlining data aggregation, customer interactions (but feel free to suggest other issues) – specifically those that help improve **access to justice**.

We will specifically be highlighting the capabilities of:

1. DocAssemble (<https://docassemble.org/>). Docassemble is a free, open-source expert system for guided interviews and document assembly. It provides a web site that conducts interviews with users. Based on the information gathered, the interviews can:
 - a. present users with documents in PDF, RTF, or DOCX format, which users can download or e-mail.
 - b. submit an application, direct the user to other resources on the internet, store user input, interact with APIs, or simply provide the user with information.
2. Panache Legal Platform (<https://github.com/PanacheSoftware/PanacheLegalPlatform>). Panache is an open source legal platform (in alpha) offering task, team and case management.

Feel free to suggest other software and resources, and we will also discuss other ways to prototype using other familiar resources such as PowerPoint or apps for non-technical teams like <https://marvelapp.com/>. But you are free to come up with your own solutions because it's the good ideas that matter!

Participants and teams

You do not need to be a coder to be part of this hackathon. We want to bring together the best creative talent from across the region. We would like to work with SMEs from the West of England (Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire local authority areas) who wish to innovate in access to justice, including:

- Creative thinkers and Entrepreneurs
- Coders and Technologists with an interest in legaltech
- 3rd Sector organisations who have legal challenges that might be solved by technology
- SME legal firms and other SME businesses who want to innovate in legaltech
- You can form your own team of course but we ask that you limit the number of team members to 5 people to make it fair and that you are based within the West of England.

Networking

The Bristol and Bath region has a lively and growing legaltech community. There will be opportunities to meet like-minded individuals and join our growing network of businesses engaged in LegalTech.

Key Dates

	Dates	Content	Your time commitment
Registration	Expression of Interest closes 5 March 2021 <i>NB. Registration does not guarantee a place – please wait for further instructions</i>		
Hackathon Day 1	19 March 21 9:30am - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LegalTech Challenge – How to use design sprints to solve big problems Introduction to open source software for Legal Tech How to pitch 	4 Hours
Hackathon Day 2	24 March 21 9:30am - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge Talks Ideation Networking Forming teams 	4 hours
Team work	25-30 March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product Design Prototyping 	4 hours commitment from all participants
Hackathon Day 3	31 March 21 9:30am-1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrations Pitching competition Judging Winners announced 	4 hours

How to take part?

Sign up to the Open Source LegalTech Hackathon **here**.

- You will need to commit to all three days plus a minimum of 4 hours working as a remote team on your legaltech solution during that week.
- You will need a computer or laptop with a camera, internet access, ability to download meeting apps and file sharing software such as Zoom, MS Teams Github, Slack etc and somewhere to work where you won't disturb others.
- Each team will have a mentor who will help organise, support prototyping and problem solve any issues.

This event is delivered by the Digital Innovation Fund and funded by the ERDF for the benefit of SMEs in the West of England. We will be guiding SMEs and Social Enterprises through the enterprise innovation and ideation process, creative design sprints and agile working practices to support new product design, improve resource efficiency and R&D activities. Your attendance at this event will count towards to State Aid and by participating, you are agreeing to ERDF business support and accompanying documentation.

If you are not an SME or you are not based in the West of England but you wish to be part of the LegalTech hackathon delivery or to join the wider network, please contact Thanh Quan-Nicholls to discuss this further.

Thanh Quan-Nicholls

Thanh.quan-nicholls@uwe.ac.uk

T0117 32 81287 / 0774 866 8626

Or book a meeting here

<https://calendly.com/thanh-quan-nicholls>