
Hack the planet!

Social Goodness || Civic Hacking

What's In It For Me ?

Nerando Johnson @ DevOpsDays 2025

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Hello!

I am Nerando
I am here because I because ~~*long ago I lost a bet*~~ someone took time to speak and teach me .
Handle: @Nerajno [🦋]
Title: Junior~ish Software Developer

Session Pitch

- How to use civic hacking to grow **your soft skills**.
- How to use civic hacking to grow your **technical skills**.
- How to use civic hacking as a **networking tool**.
- How to use civic hacking projects as a part of job hunting.



01

DEFINE

What is it ?

02

EXAMPLES

Who used it ?
International
National
State
Local

03

USAGE

How can you use it ?

04

STORY TIME

How I used it.

“Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

01

DEFINE

What is it ?

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EXAMPLES

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STORY TIME

How I used it.



01 DEFINE

WHAT IS IT ?

Civic Hacking is .....

Civic hacking refers to the use of technology and open data to create innovative solutions that address civic and social issues.



Civic Hacking ....

Innovation

Unconventional Solutions

Civic and Social Problems

02 EXAMPLES

YES, IT WORKS

The Ushahidi Platform

is an open-sourced Kenyan software platform that provides a set of tools for collecting, visualizing, and analyzing data from multiple sources. Thus the information is :

- Crowdsource data
- Map and visualize data
- Collaborate and share data
- Analyze and report data
- Mobile responsive

Application of this data ?



Crisis response and management

Acquires data and makes it readily available to authorities as needed



Community mapping and development

Maps and tracks community assets, such as schools, health clinics, and water sources



Election monitoring and voter education

Monitor elections and provide real-time reporting on voting irregularities, election violence, and voter turnout.

Come Closer



U.S. Digital Response



Formed during COVID-19, this organization rapidly built application systems that served millions during the pandemic.

- COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Finder
- Ask a Scientist Website (New Jersey)
- COVID-19 Volunteer Food Delivery System (Concord, CA)

What have they done ?



Crisis response and management

Create protocols and culture for the government, local, state and federal to communicate and function during the first phase of the pandemic.



Community mapping and development

Maps and tracks community assets, such as food banks, health clinics, and water sources.

Come Closer





Code for Atlanta

A brigade of Code for America. We partner with local organizations and governments on civic-minded projects that make metro Atlanta more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible.

Impact :

- Open Data Resources for Metro Atlanta and the State of Georgia
- Georgia Courtbot
- Marta.js - Marta's real time Apis

03 USAGE

How can you use it ?

Step 1 - Process



Show Up & Be Sincere

- Research and got to the meetups.
- Bring your skills and you.
- Leave the fear at home.

Be Consistent

- Attend meetings
- Do the work
- Communicate
- Be Accountable

Step 2 - Learn



- Gaining experience in Project Management:
- Professional Development and Upskilling
- Opportunity to Use Skills for Social Good
- Increased Development of Communication skills

Step 3 - Learn V2



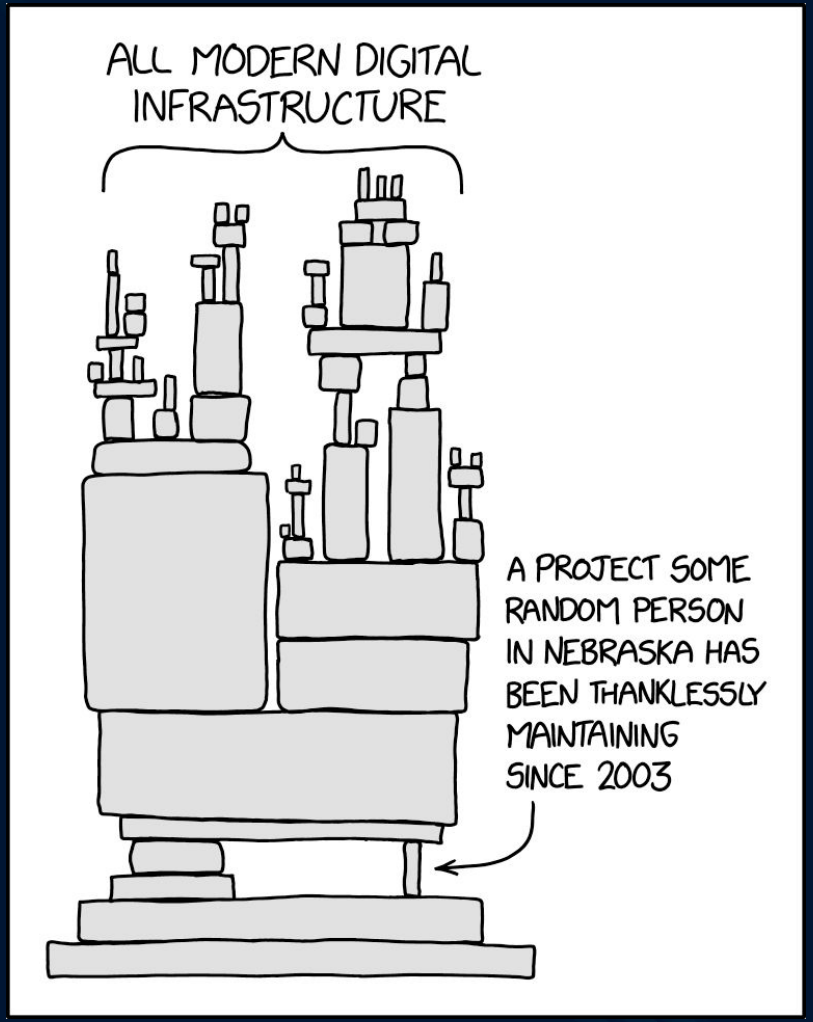
CODE FOR ATLANTA

- Contributing to Open Source Projects
- Building A Portfolio of Work.
- Opportunity to work on meaningful projects
- Increased Development of Communication skills

Step 3 - Lead



- Create or find new projects
- Grow others
- Write or create Documentation


ALL MODERN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
A PROJECT SOME RANDOM PERSON IN NEBRASKA HAS BEEN THANKLESSLY MAINTAINING SINCE 2003

04 STORY TIME

How I used it

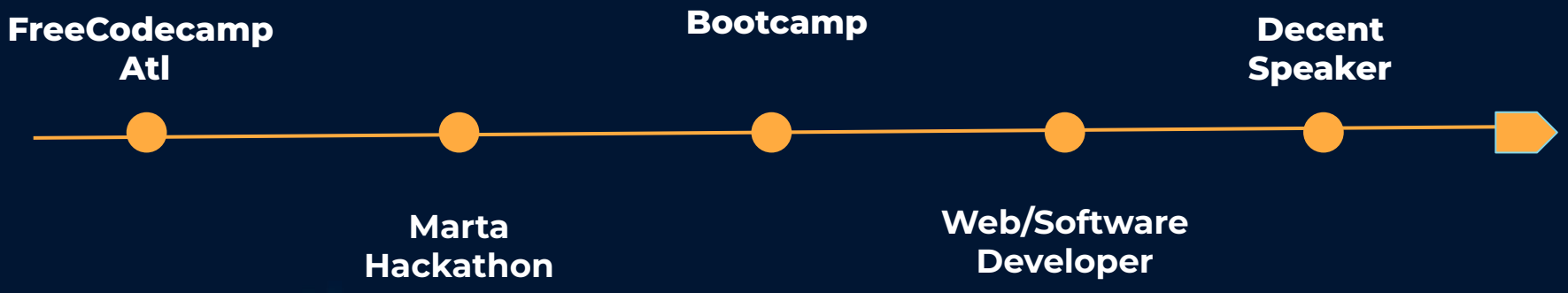
Context Resource

Paratransit Pal won $40,000 at AT&T's Atlanta Civic Coding Challenge and gave it all to charity

Do It Scared



Career thus far



RESOURCES



Questions || Follow Up

