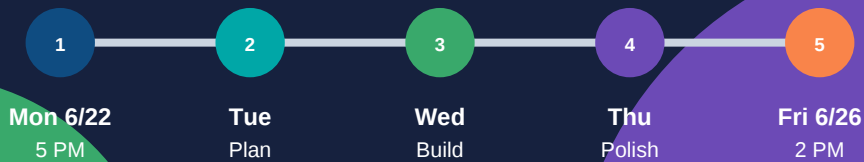
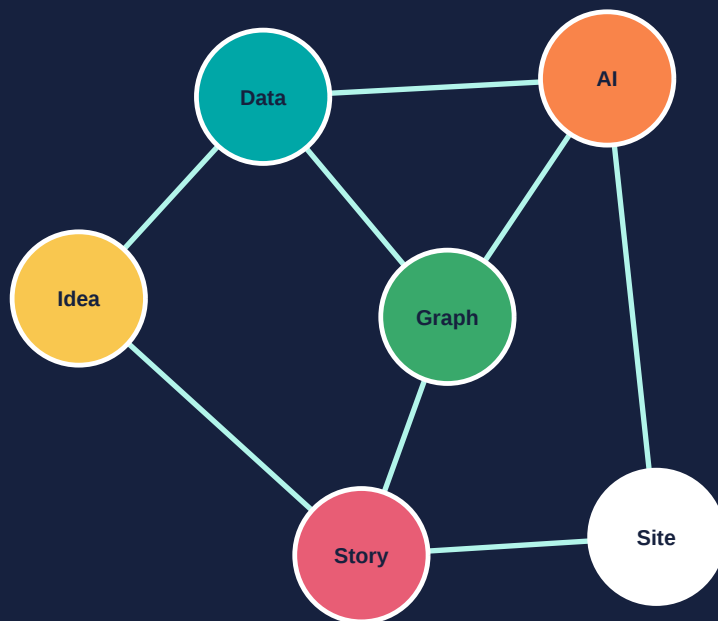


HackHPC@ADMI26

Project Plan Guide

A friendly guide for building a hackathon project plan and Gantt chart



Project work: June 22, 5:00 PM - Final presentations: June 26, 2:00 PM
Eastern Time | Start simple. Build steadily. Ask for help early.

1. Your Mission

Welcome, teams! Your project starts on **Monday, June 22 at 5:00 PM ET**. Final presentations begin on **Friday, June 26 at 2:00 PM ET**. That gives you a few days to plan, build, test, explain, and present something real. No pressure. Okay, maybe a little pressure. But this guide is here so nobody turns into a confused raccoon fighting over a laptop.

The Big Idea

HackHPC@ADMI26 is about exploring how knowledge connects. You will use ideas like knowledge graphs, AI, data, timelines, and visualization to explain how people, events, technologies, and ideas shape each other.

Choose One Innovation Track



Origin Tracking

Ask: Where did this idea or event come from? Trace the people, events, and ideas that helped create it.



Future Event Prediction

Ask: What might happen next? Use past patterns and connections to make a smart prediction.



Alternative Timeline

Ask: What if one key event changed? Explore how the future might shift because of that change.

1

Ask

Pick a clear question

2

Plan

Split tasks and roles

3

Build

Make the graph/site

4

Explain

Poster + slides

5

Present

Tell the story

Tiny Project Wisdom

A small finished project beats a giant unfinished multiverse every time. Keep your question clear, keep your build simple, and make sure you can explain it to a judge in plain English.

2. What Goes in a Project Plan?

A project plan is your team's game plan. It tells everyone what you are building, why it matters, who is doing each part, and when the work needs to happen. Think of it like the Avengers assembling before a big battle. If everyone tries to be Hulk at the same time, the building may not survive.

Question	What your team should answer
1. What are we building?	A website, visualization, app, dashboard, graph, timeline, or other project artifact.
2. Why are we building it?	The problem, story, or knowledge connection you want to explain.
3. Who is doing what?	Roles for research, data, coding, design, documentation, and presenting.
4. When does each task happen?	Your Gantt chart shows start and end times for major tasks.
5. How do we know we are finished?	Deliverables are uploaded, tested, explained, and ready to present.

Suggested Team Roles

Project Lead Keeps the team organized.	Research Lead Finds facts, sources, and examples.	Data Lead Organizes nodes, edges, and tables.
Developer Builds the code, site, or app.	Design Lead Makes visuals, poster, and slides clear.	Presentation Lead Helps the team tell the story.

Funny but True

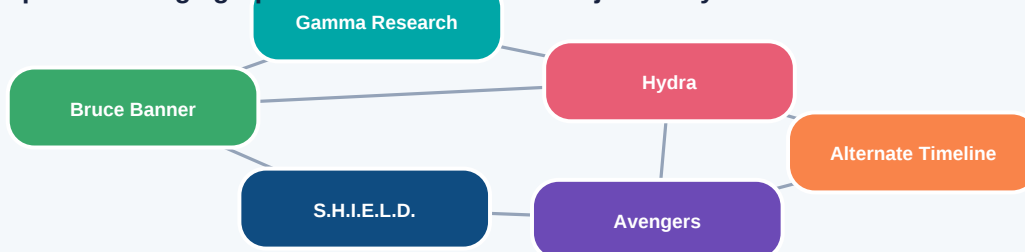
One person can have more than one role, but nobody should have zero roles. This is a hackathon, not a group project where someone mysteriously appears only on presentation day.

3. Example Project: What If Bruce Banner Joined Hydra?

Let's pretend a team chooses the **Alternative Timeline Analysis** track. Their big question is: **How would the MCU timeline change if Bruce Banner became part of Hydra after the gamma experiment?**

This is not just a superhero question. The team can turn it into a real knowledge graph project by studying connected people, groups, events, and technologies. The goal is not just to say, "Hydra Hulk would be scary." Even though, yes, extremely scary. The goal is to explain what changes and why.

Example knowledge graph: "What if Bruce Banner joined Hydra?"



The project studies how changing one key node can shift people, groups, technology, and later events.

Project Question

How would the MCU timeline change if Bruce Banner joined Hydra after the gamma experiment?

Final Product

A website with an alternate timeline, a knowledge graph, and a short explanation of the biggest changes.

Example Data Table

Node	Type	Connected To	Relationship
Bruce Banner	Person	Gamma Research	studies
Bruce Banner	Person	Hydra	alternate membership
Hydra	Organization	Super Soldier Research	uses
Hulk	Character	Gamma Radiation	created by
S.H.I.E.L.D.	Organization	Avengers	supports

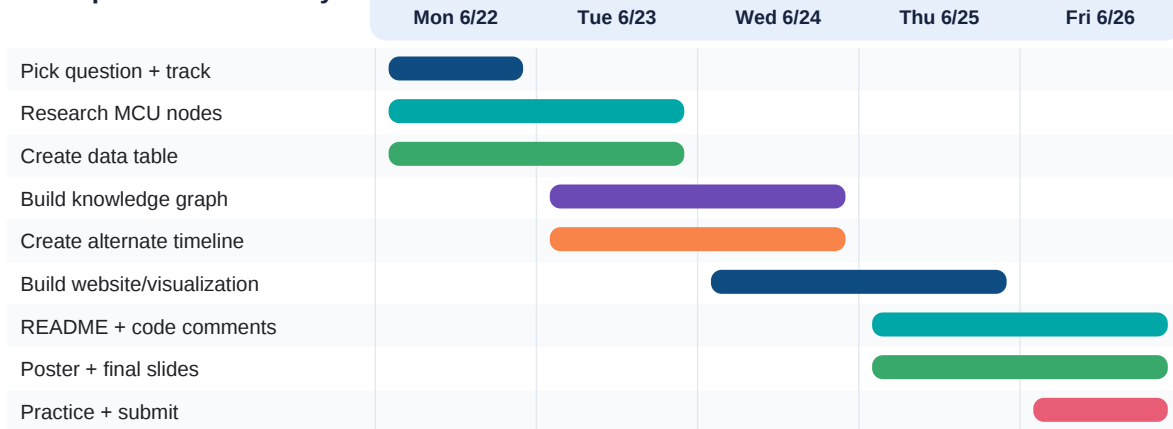
4. What Is a Gantt Chart?

A Gantt chart is a timeline for your tasks. It shows what needs to happen, when it starts, when it ends, and which tasks can happen at the same time. In simple terms, it is a "who does what and when" chart.

Why Teams Need One

A Gantt chart helps your team avoid the classic hackathon disaster: "Wait... I thought YOU were making the website."

Example Gantt Chart: Hydra Hunk Project



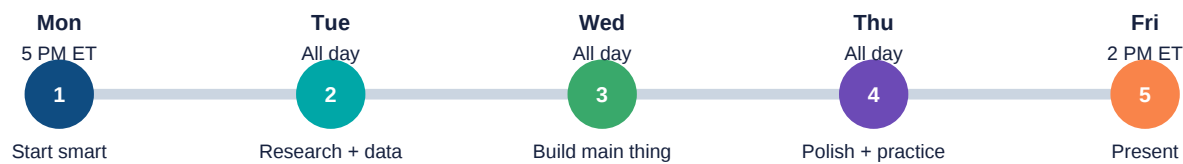
Tip: A finished small project beats a giant unfinished multiverse every time.

How to Build Your Own

- List every major task your team must finish.
- Assign an owner to each task.
- Choose a start and end time for each task.
- Mark the task on the chart with a block, color, or checkmark.
- Update the chart daily so it stays useful, not decorative.

5. Daily Mission Plan

This schedule keeps your team moving from idea to presentation. Do not wait until Friday morning to discover your website is allergic to working. Test early. Ask for help early. Sleep at least a little.



Monday Evening: Start Smart	Team name, project question, innovation track, roles, task list, first Gantt chart.
Tuesday: Research and Structure	Research notes, data table, important nodes and connections, basic GitHub repository.
Wednesday: Build the Main Thing	Working draft of graph, timeline, website, dashboard, or app.
Thursday: Improve and Prepare	Clean up code, finish visuals, draft README, poster, and final slides. Stop adding giant new
Friday Morning: Finish and Practice	Submit files, test links, practice presentation, and get ready for 2:00 PM ET.

Feature Freeze Warning

On Thursday, do not say, "What if we add a full chatbot, 3D animation, and voice assistant?" Put the feature down. Back away slowly.

6. Final Deliverables Checklist

Use this checklist before final presentations. Judges cannot grade what they cannot find, open, read, or understand. Your job is to make your project easy to review.

☐ GitHub repository with README.md

☐ README includes project description and goals

☐ Source code with comments explaining key functionality

☐ Project poster saved as PDF

☐ Final presentation saved as PDF

☐ Slides include team names, schools, and photos

☐ Slides include technology used and chosen innovation track

☐ Visualization of chosen theme

☐ Website, visualization, or application link

☐ Proof of poster submission to Gateways 2026, if available (+5 points)

Award	How your deliverables help judges
Knowledge Graph Analytics Award	GitHub, README, code, documentation, and analysis show technical depth and how well the t
Knowledge Portal Award	Website, visualization, or app shows how clearly users can explore the project findings.
Gateways Impact Award	Presentation, poster, full project story, and overall integration show creativity, communication, a

7. Tell a Clear Story in Your Final Presentation

A good presentation is not just a list of tools. It is a story. Your team should explain the question, the track, what you built, what you found, and why it matters.

Slide	What to Include
1	Team name, team members, schools, and photos
2	Project question and why it matters
3	Chosen innovation track and why you chose it
4	Data, tools, and technology used
5	Your visualization, website, or application
6	Main findings and what changed in your knowledge graph or timeline
7	Challenges, lessons learned, and future work
8	Links to GitHub, website, poster, and proof of submission if available

Example Closing Line

"By changing Bruce Banner's path, our project shows how one key node in a knowledge network can reshape people, organizations, technology, and later events."

Presentation Tip

Judges cannot read your mind. They probably do not have telepathy. Explain your work clearly and show why your project matters.

8. Team Planning Worksheet

Use this page during your first team meeting. Fill it out together before you build. Future-you will thank present-you.

Team Name	
Project Title	
Innovation Track	
Project Question	
Project Goal	
Final Product	
Project Lead	
Research Lead	
Data Lead	
Developer	
Design Lead	
Presentation Lead	
Biggest Risk	
Backup Plan	

Top 5 Tasks

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

9. Blank Gantt Chart Template

Copy this table into Google Sheets, Excel, Notion, or your team notebook. Use blocks, colors, checkmarks, or anything else that makes the timeline clear.

Blank Gantt Chart Template

Task / Owner	Mon Eve	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri AM	
Task: _____ Owner: _____						
Task: _____ Owner: _____						
Task: _____ Owner: _____						
Task: _____ Owner: _____						
Task: _____ Owner: _____						
Task: _____ Owner: _____						

Final Reminder

Your team does not need to build the most complicated project in the multiverse. You need a clear question, a chosen innovation track, a working visualization or application, strong deliverables, and a presentation that explains what you found.

Before 2:00 PM ET on Friday

Check your links. Open your PDFs. Confirm your GitHub repository is updated. Practice your presentation. Then breathe. You made it.

One Last Line

Even the Avengers needed a plan. Your team does too.