

1. **What you learn or attain through this hackathon**

Megan - As a novice in the pharmaceutical engineering industry, terms such as MES, ERP, MSAT and so on were new to me. I was extremely perplexed and lost on the first day of the hackathon. However, with the help of my experienced teammates, the coaches and my own research, I eventually understood these once foreign terms. I felt that the hackathon had broadened my knowledge of the pharmaceutical engineering industry and motivated me to look forward to learning more about the different processes and softwares widely utilised in this industry. Holistically, the Hackathon has taught me the importance of synergy and open-mindedness. For instance, despite his extensive experience, Nirmal never acted condescendingly towards us, he always asked for our feedback, opinions and encouraged us to clarify our doubts. Thus, I felt that with our group's natural cohesiveness and cooperation, we cultivated a fun and comfortable environment for each other to enjoy the Hackathon while hurriedly rushing our presentation. This environment is something I would actively replicate in my future group projects.

Jia Jia - Participating in this hackathon was an incredible learning experience. I gained valuable insights on how automation and technology can revolutionise the industry by making things faster, safer and more efficient. Together with my team, I got to see and feel firsthand cuttingedge technology and apply cool new ideas to solve real-world problems.

Niha - This hackathon felt like a teaser into what it would be like as a contractor for a pharma MNC which I think is particularly useful for students/fresh graduates to give them a feel of how it will be like to work in the pharmaceutical industry. Working together with my team made me

realise how much we could do with collaborating with people of various backgrounds as each one of us had a unique perspective to o□er. This allowed for better collaboration with my team as we tackled the theme of automation and sustainability.

Nirmal - Participating in this hackathon provided valuable insights into current industry trends, particularly in automation. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to dive deeper into industry standards, which I've now begun to actively research. As a new working professional, this experience also reinforced the importance of humility when working with a diverse team of individuals, each bringing different levels of experience. It was a reminder that continuous learning and collaboration are crucial, regardless of where you are in your career.

Sugus - Through the hackathon in Singapore, I learned how to apply my pharmacy knowledge in a practical setting, which was a great way to bridge the gap between theory and real-world applications. I gained hands-on experience in problem-solving and teamwork, as we worked together to develop creative solutions under tight deadlines. The event also helped me build connections with fellow participants and mentors, broadening my perspective on how technology can intersect with healthcare. Overall, it was a valuable opportunity to grow both academically and personally while tackling real-world challenges.

2. **How was the hacking journey, how do you feel/experience before the hackathon, during the hackathon and after the hackathon.**



Megan - The Hackathon was extremely fast-paced and exciting. Before the hackathon, I felt quite relaxed, I was enjoying the Schneider tour. However, during the Hackathon, I felt a mixture of confusion and exhilaration. I was aware of the limited time we had and the mountain of knowledge I knew I had to learn within this short timeframe. For example, I had to quickly learn about all the different cloud softwares and business management systems, to select the best software on the first day. Through this experience, I learnt how to manage my stress and improve my resilience. Therefore, despite how daunting the Hackathon may seem, it imbued in me valuable life experiences.

Jia Jia - The journey was a mix of excitement and nervousness. Before the hackathon, I didn't know what to expect and felt a bit anxious. As the hackathon began, I found that it was all about collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving. Working alongside ambitious but encouraging teammates kept me motivated, even through challenging moments. After the hackathon, I felt a strong sense of accomplishment and pride in what we achieved. It was an experience that pushed me beyond my comfort zone and left me inspired to keep exploring new challenges.

Niha - For pre-hackathon, I felt anticipation of what is to come for the hackathon as participating in this was out of my comfort zone and searched up on the trends for automation and sustainability to get a sense of the experience in the hackathon. This has allowed me to

better identify areas or content which should be focused on for our team and drove me to deepen my understanding of certain concepts through research and clarifying with fellow hackathon team, peers & mentors. For post-hackathon, I felt proud of what our team achieved and also learnt from understanding the problem statement to presenting our solutions within the short timeframe of 24-36 hours for this year's hackathon.

Nirmal - Before the hackathon, I felt a strong urge to quickly research potential topics, such as sustainability and single-use technology, to prepare myself for any challenge. This pre-work provided a rough framework that helped me map out an approach based on the actual problem statement. During the hackathon, the focus shifted to quick decision-making and progress, avoiding getting stuck on any single topic. Treating the challenge like a real-world project, our team established checkpoints to track progress and collaborate efficiently. After celebrating our win, I realized the importance of continuously seeking out challenges to learn and grow. I was genuinely surprised to be awarded MVP, as all the participants were excellent team players.



Sugus - Before the hackathon, I felt a blend of excitement and nervousness, knowing it would be a challenging experience. During the event, the intensity of the competition and tight deadlines made it tough, but it also pushed me to think creatively and work closely with my team. The experience was demanding, and integrating my pharmacy knowledge with technology was a significant challenge. After the hackathon, despite the difficulties, I felt a strong sense of accomplishment and growth, having managed to overcome obstacles and make valuable connections. It was hard work, but in the end, it was worth it because we won, which made all the e□ort feel really rewarding.



3. A call to action to fellow EL/student to join in for more EL/student events or even join a hackathon planning committee for next year

Megan - the hackathon has imbued in me many core values and life lessons, which is why I encourage fellow students / EL to participate in the Hackathon. The Hackathon had exemplified the importance of equal distribution of work and teamwork, which I would have never realised how effective these 2 values are when working in a team. Furthermore, especially if you are an inexperienced year 1 / year 2 who wants to learn more about the pharma industry, I'd strongly encourage you to join.

Jia Jia - To all my fellow students and EL members, I highly encourage you to dive into events like this. Whether it is participating in a hackathon or joining the planning committee for next year,

these experiences are invaluable. They are not just about competition, they are about learning, growing, and making a real impact. Let’s make the most out of these opportunities!

Niha - To anyone who is interested in the pharmaceutical industry, I invite you to actively involve yourself with such opportunities like this hackathon. Whether it's through participating in upcoming ISPE events or joining the planning committee for next year’s hackathon, this is your chance to collaborate on real-world challenges, expand your expertise, & network with professionals in the field, it is a win for all!



Nirmal - For new working professionals or anyone seeking more exposure in the industry, I highly recommend participating in ISPE-related events. These events not only provide valuable insights into current industry trends but also foster a supportive community where you can learn from one another. It’s a safe space to grow, share knowledge, and help each other succeed—exactly what a community should be.

Sugus - If this hackathon has inspired you, I encourage you to engage in more EL/student events and consider joining the planning committee for next year. It's a valuable opportunity to further develop your skills, build meaningful connections, and contribute to shaping impactful experiences for others. Get involved and make a difference ^^