

# BIG DATA **HACKATHON** \ SAN DIEGO **OCT. 3, 4, 10**

The first ever Big Data Hackathon for San Diego was held at San Diego State University (SDSU) from October 3 - 10, 2015. The aims were to promote the development of data science and information technology solutions for San Diego on important civic issues. This hackathon also sought to bring people from different disciplines together in order to come up with ways to improve San Diego by addressing the themes of water drought and conservation, disaster response, and crime monitoring. There were several sponsors, judges, mentors, and speakers from a variety of professional fields that made this hackathon special. Participants were given the opportunity to learn about issues that San Diego faces, receive help on their projects from the mentors, and network with attendees on possible future career opportunities.

There were a total of nine teams in the beginning, and once the final day for presentations came, there were five teams ready to present their apps and technology. The judging criteria focused on the quality of the ideas, innovativeness and creativeness, practicality and readiness, impact on the community, technical difficulty, and overall quality of the presentation. Of these five teams, there were three teams who received “Best Overall Project” and won prizes (total of \$2,600 in cash prizes) for their hard work. The awards included the top three Best Overall, Social Justice Award, Most Innovative Proposal Idea, and the Strongest Teamwork.





Third Place, Social Justice Award, and Strongest Teamwork: **AnyAware**

This team developed algorithms to rate neighborhoods based on their crime rate using data found on the San Diego Regional Data Library related to crime incidents from 2007 – 2013.

Using an internal threshold, their app can determine if a neighborhood is unsafe, so users can use caution at certain times of the day or night. Their supplemental Android application will notify users via Google Cloud Messaging if they enter one of these areas and provide them with tips to avoid crime.



Second Place: **Team Dozier**

This team's idea was to create an app that can allow users to be notified when a disaster occurs near your loved ones and to view or request help when in need. This app helps to alleviate the pressure placed on response institutions by giving them a direct way to find out what help people need and where they need it.



First Place and Most Innovative Proposal Idea: **Water Savers**

This mobile app is meant to educate San Diego County residents about how to conserve water and understand why conserving water is essential to our quality of life. The app asks the user a number of questions about how much water they consume and then ranks them relative to other residents in the county. Based on the users inputs, the app also generates a short list of water saving tips.

Each year, the Big Data Hackathon for San Diego will be held at SDSU and that these three major themes will continue to be addressed so that the community can come together to work on improving the city. In spring of 2016, a symposium will be held so that each of the teams can share their progress.