

Random Hacks of Kindness (RHoK) Brief Description

Random Hacks of Kindness is an initiative that seeks to make the world a better place by building a community of innovation. RHoK collaborates with subject matter experts in disaster risk to develop and define problems, which form the framework of a RHoK hackathon—a marathon weekend event of competitive coding, gathering software engineers together to develop software to respond to the problems posed by the subject matter experts. A RHoK event brings together the best and brightest hackers from around the world, who volunteer their time to solve real-world problems.

Random Hacks of Kindness is the brainchild of a dedicated team of partners from Google, Microsoft, Yahoo!, NASA and The World Bank.

The very first RHoK event, held November 2009 in Mountain View, California, resulted in software solutions that were later implemented in Haiti and Chile following the earthquakes there in early 2010.

RHoK #1.0 will be a global event held June 4th to 6th, 2010. While the main stage for RHoK #1.0 will be Washington D.C., RHoK will feature simultaneous satellite RHoK hackathons on every continent. RHoK #1.0 Washington D.C. will be held in conjunction with the D.C. Crisis Camp and the Understanding Risk: Innovation in Disaster Risk Assessment conference at The World Bank. It will include a keynote reception at the State Department and forty-eight hours of dedicated hacking at Microsoft's offices, followed by an awards ceremony showcasing the winning hacks.