

# Kainos Drives Software Innovation in Healthcare

Submitted by: Sarum PR

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As further proof of its commitment to transforming everyday UK healthcare challenges through agile development techniques, open source platforms and the latest Internet and mobile technologies, Kainos is supporting a major 'health hack' weekend next month

The innovative software coding challenge, Health Hack NI, which is already over-subscribed, will bring together medical clinicians and technology innovators to pool ideas and – in the space of just 2 days - create ready-to-use software

Belfast and London – November 26th, 2012 – Thriving technology company Kainos continues to champion innovation in healthcare. A pioneering 'Health Hack' that is being organised by Kainos CTO Tom Gray and CHIC Director Stephen McComb in Belfast next month, will bring together medical clinicians and the latest technology and design talent to brainstorm and develop the next generation of healthcare software applications.

With weeks still to go, all places at Health Hack NI have already been filled. The social entrepreneurship-led event being hosted by Belfast City Council is just the latest in a series of initiatives supported by Kainos to harness and foster new IT talent and cutting-edge development techniques for the benefit of society. The health 'hackathon' is targeted directly at the health sector, where Kainos is already helping to transform hospital technology at a rapid pace with its flagship Evolve electronic document management and workflow solution. This has been developed hand-in-hand with practising clinicians.

Kainos prides itself on harnessing the latest technology innovations, from the most effective agile development methodologies to open source development, using cloud and mobile platforms. These enable rapid deployments - accelerating payback - as well as maximum flexibility in the way solutions can be mixed, matched and added to.

In the spirit of social entrepreneurship, all code developed at Health Hack NI event will be made available on an open source basis so that clinicians and technologists are free to take it further, using the code as the foundation for new applications capable of transforming UK patient care.

Health Hack NI, the latest in a series of innovation-led collaboration forums across the UK, will take place over the weekend of December 8-9 at Belfast City Hall. On day one, practising clinicians will present their ideas and outline challenges they face in their jobs every day before teaming up with skilled technology enthusiasts. Together they will design and create real-world apps in an intensive 26-hour development 'marathon' across the weekend. The final products or 'proofs-of-concept' will be presented to an influential panel of judges on the Sunday afternoon.

The current event has been organised by a consortium of parties at the cutting edge of technology in healthcare. Kainos, which has a strong track record for innovation and fostering new talent through extraordinary competitions such as its student 'AppCamp', is supporting the latest forum alongside Belfast City Council, the Northern Ireland Connected Health Innovation Centre (CHIC) and technology company EMC.

Commenting on Kainos's participation in the event, Tom Gray, CTO at Kainos, said, "Instead of simply talking about the challenges, the goal is to do something about them while all of the stakeholders and resources are in one place. This is a rare opportunity for enthusiastic and motivated healthcare and technology professionals to work together in an informal and non-commercial environment to improve local healthcare and related services."

The event format is based on the concept of a 'hackathon', proven to be a highly productive way of quickly taking ideas to working software prototype. "By emphasising hands-on work on small projects that can be tackled in a short period of time, assumptions can be quickly tested, teams can be built, and momentum can be generated for promising ideas in healthcare," Tom explains.

On the preference for open source platforms as the basis for development, he adds, "Our emphasis on openness is in recognition of the fact that this is increasingly becoming the standard in the technology industry, and across parts of government. Equally importantly, openness in technology fits with the collaboration and transparency found in medical and academic culture."

For more information on Health Hack NI visit <http://www.healthhackni.com/home.html>

A blog on the event can be found at @healthhackni

Anyone interested in organising subsequent events is invited to email Tom Gray of Kainos at [t.gray@kainos.com](mailto:t.gray@kainos.com).

#### About Kainos

Kainos is a thriving technology company with particular expertise in three core markets - healthcare, financial services and public sector.

Harnessing and optimising best-in-class solutions to address its customers' specific needs, Kainos has particular expertise in portals, mobile and cloud - but what it really does is make organisations work smarter, faster and better. For more information, please visit [www.kainos.com](http://www.kainos.com)

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