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Hacker tournament comes to downtown Miami

*Another sleepless night, this time for computer hackers*

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When the words “hacker” and “government” make it into the same sentence, it usually involves an illegal security breach by a faceless cadre of e-saboteurs. Not so in Miami this weekend, when a group of computer programmers will be battling for cash prizes in an event sponsored by the Miami Downtown Development Authority.

The 24-hour tournament, dubbed HackDay Miami, will take place this weekend at MiamiShared, a communal office space inside the Biscayne 900 building in downtown Miami. The 40 programmers chosen will compete for $10,000 in cash prizes and the chance to present their phone application in front of venture capitalists and investors at Florida International University's 2011 Americas Venture Capital.

The Miami DDA is dishing out $1,500 in cash for the hacker that develops the best app to assist people in avoiding traffic jams by finding alternative routes when the downtown bridges are up.

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