

Ably Challenge

Overview

Every day we are moving closer to an event-driven world. We are seeking digital ways to react to real-world events - like tracking a moving cab on a map, getting notified in realtime about continuously changing stock or bitcoin prices, playing multiplayer games online that work by sharing controller data in realtime with all the players involved, seeing a graph grow as more people vote for a choice, etc.

However, unlike simple REST based communication, the realtime web involves a vast number of communication protocols, data formats and diverse devices. Hence, it is complex to maintain minimal latencies while supporting interoperability and scale. Ably Realtime solves these challenges by providing a realtime messaging infrastructure as a serverless service. You can choose any of the SDKs available and use our APIs to implement Publish/Subscribe out-of-the-box and enable realtime communication in your applications - without needing to worry about the mechanics of how it's all managed.

There are an infinite number of possibilities and use-cases for streaming data and realtime communication. Ably enables you to tap into those possibilities and spend time on the innovative use-cases rather than getting bogged down in the low-level technicalities.

Problem Statement

The goal of this Hackathon is to create an app which has a core feature requiring the use of realtime messaging. This can be built using any platform or programming language, so long as it's supported by [Ably's Realtime API](#).

This problem statement is quite open ended so participants can leverage this freedom to think of unique ways of using realtime data. The participants are also free to use any of the freely available open data streams as found on the [Ably Hub](#). This means that realtime data sharing can be enabled between any two entities - which may be web apps, mobile apps, IoT devices, serverless functions, etc. The app built needs to be working so anyone from our team can try it out. (Bonus points for hosting the app using Glitch, Netlify, Heroku or any other free hosting service)

Judging criteria

All the applications that use Ably's realtime APIs will be eligible for judgment in a special category. The winning team in this category will be awarded a cash prize of 12,000 INR and the runners-up team in this category will be awarded a cash prize of 8,000 INR.

All the participants in the winning and the runners-up teams will also receive custom t-shirts, water bottles and stickers.

The following points will be the primary basis for judgement:

- Innovation of the idea/ realtime use-case
- Aply APIs used in conjunction with other web APIs or stream processing services
- Popular tech areas covered (for ex. IoT, AI/ML, VR, Serverless systems, etc)
- Possible feature extensions to the prototype built, written down and sent over along with the app submission

Resources

- I've put together a simple developer onboarding guide so anyone new to the platform and get up and running quickly: <https://dev.ably.io/onboarding/>
- We have a huge collection of tutorials explaining the implementation of various product features as well as some realtime use-cases: <https://www.ably.io/tutorials>
- Our developer documentation is very detailed and verbose but contains all the information one might need: <https://www.ably.io/documentation/realtime>
- Our SDKs page shows which platforms and frameworks we currently support: <https://www.ably.io/download>
- Our showcase contains real-world examples of how our customers are implementing realtime data sharing: <https://www.ably.io/showcase>
- Our design patterns show the most efficient ways of implementing our APIs: <https://www.ably.io/design-patterns>

Social media champion - additional award category

- We'll be closely monitoring Social media before and during the hackathon. The official hashtag we'll track will be #HackWithAply
- Feel free to tweet or post about your raw ideas, thoughts, challenges or progress as you work on the apps using the official hashtag.
- We'll give away special swag to the participants with interesting or thoughtful posts/ tweets and even to participants with most social media presence with the hashtag.