CU BUILD
A Build-a-Thon for the Symitar Community

5 Reasons Credit Unions Should Send Staff to Participate in CU Build

1) **Networking -** Trying to find a network of Symitar Credit Union peers who you can share best practices with? Maybe even looking for a developer peer group to collaborate with down the road? These are all great reasons to attend CU Build! Since the event lasts such a short amount of time, it forces people to work together, grow together and test out chemistry. It may be a shot in the dark you'll find your soulmate. However, there are a number of developers who say that they made a ton of contacts and friends at build-a-thons—many which last long after the weekend wraps up.

2) **Confidence -** Even if you aren't a winner in the traditional sense, build-a-thons are an extremely rewarding experience! Let's face it—creating something from nothing is hard. In fact, it may be one of the most challenging things you can do. However, participants can attest that there is no greater feeling of accomplishment than working hard with your team to see a solution come to life in just a matter of hours. CU Build offers participants a chance to push the limits on what they thought was possible and enlightens many on how the creative process in coding unfolds. In addition, CU Build is geared toward the assistance of all Symitar Credit Unions. Not only do you get to showcase your skills, network and win prizes – you also get to use your skills to do real good for others and help out society as a whole!

3) **Teamwork -** When you gather a group of people together and put a time constraint on a project it opens the door for innovative ideas. You try to find ways to work quickly, with more precision. One common practice at build-a-thons is "pair programming." It's essentially finding someone of a similar skill level, and then taking turns typing and advising on the project. It offers huge learning potential and teaches effective collaboration (in a high-stress environment, at that).

4) **New Skills -** When you attend CU Build, you can acquire important Credit Union as well as developer-specific job skills. If you're newer to programming, you'll learn how to create a project from scratch, buff out the problems, and present to a panel of judges. Even if you're already a coding pro, you have an opportunity to enhance your team collaboration and presentation skills. All-in-all, a hackathon prepares you for working in a fast-paced environment and gives industry professionals experience tackling coding challenges. This is not a developer only event – any Symitar CU employee can participate! We need subject matter experts to bring these innovations to reality.

5) **ROI –** From the Credit Union perspective – CU Build offers a chance for your staff to immerse themselves in a 3 day skill building intensive event with industry peers at an amazingly low cost. The event is centrally located in Dallas, Texas to support inexpensive flights and venue. Where else can you obtain training for your valuable team members for $337 ($99 registration covers all meals; hotel room block $119 per night x 2 nights) + flight/ drive to Dallas?