

Happy Hacking!

First ETAS hackathon took place at headquarters

According to Wikipedia “A hackathon (also known as a hack day, hackfest, or codefest) is an event in which computer programmers and others involved in software and hardware development... collaborate intensively on software projects.” It goes on to explain that “some hackathons are intended simply for educational or social purposes, although in many cases the goal is to create usable software.”

Such an event took place recently, when the software development department at ETAS hosted the first hackathon at its headquarters in Stuttgart-Feuerbach. Associates desired an opportunity for creativity beyond the daily grind and to think outside the box. This desire is something ETAS management took seriously. So topics were gathered and discussed, and teams formed in preparation for the one-day hackathon, which was attended by 25 colleagues.

“I’m enthusiastic about the variety of topics and the quality of the achievements,” said Dr. Alexander Burst, head of software development at ETAS. “Moreover, I’m impressed by how well the teams organized themselves and joined forces with other groups. The hackathon was planned as an experiment – and it’s certainly one that we’ll be carrying forward, after all the positive feedback we’ve received from colleagues,” Dr. Burst continued.

The winning team – as nominated by the other participants – extended ETAS ASCET, the leading product for model-based development of embedded software for electronic

control units in the automotive area, so it can work with two new platforms, Arduino and Lego Mindstorms, both of them particularly popular at universities and amongst nerds and inventors. The team demonstrated its results by bringing two model cars to life using simple autonomous driving functions.

“Based on our demonstrator, we’re

now able to put together an out-of-the-box-solution that will give young engineers an understanding of ASCET and the ETAS brand. This is going to pay dividends in the long run,” said the initiators of the project, Abhik Dey and Timon Reich. And this isn’t the only topic they’ll be working on in the near future. On this note: Happy hacking!

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The winning team: Holger Ruf, Frank Beckmann, Patrick Engel, Abhik Dey, and Timon Reich.