NBIC Galaxy Hackathon
a marathon for programmers

Freek de Bruijn
Scientific programmer
NBIC
About NBIC and me

- NBIC: is the Dutch network of bioinformatics experts
- NBIC: active in research, education and support
- NBIC: collaboration of 100+ bioinformatics scientists and 50+ programmers

- me: studied computer science
- me: interested in biology
- me: working for NBIC for almost 1 year
NBIC hackathon

- yearly event for community building
- 2011: April 13th and 14th
- 25 developers in 3 teams:
  - Amazon’s Mechanical Turk: community intelligence
  - combine GCSF and MOLGENIS (2 systems to help model experimental protocols)
  - **Galaxy (12 developers)**
- Hailiang Mei already told about it yesterday
Getting started: coffee, red bull and coke

10 times `hg pull [...] galaxy-central` and a flaky wifi connection took some time
Two days flew by
Results

- **new**: loop over files in a directory
- **new**: tool configs in separate files → easier installation
- **new**: tool selection with tags
What did we learn - 1

- Galaxy is very easy to modify (with some Galaxy devs)
- we learned a lot about the internals of Galaxy
- we stumbled upon something previously unheard of
- Guido did a great job: Python is very elegant
- hackathons are lots of fun!
- we learned that there is international interest for Galaxy hackathons organized in tiny European countries
- we are of course already thinking about planning the next hackathon, so we will keep you informed
What did we learn - 2

Nate and Dannon discovered that they really like "stroopwafels" (Dutch syrup waffles)

Dannon and Nate found out that hotel reservations can go wrong - it can be a way to get free drinks
Acknowledgements

- participants (Galaxy hackathon team): Alex Bossers (WUR), Dannon Baker (Emory), Frans Paul Ruzius (NGS), Freddy de Bree (CVI, WUR), Henk van den Toorn (UU), Ishtiaq Ahmad (RUG), Joachim Jacob (VIB-BITS), Martijn Vermaat (NGS), Nate Coraor (Penn State), Rob Hooft (NBIC) and Wil Koetsier (UMCG)

- hackathon organization: Christine Chichester, Hailiang Mei, NBIC Office and many others

- Galaxy team for enabling Dannon and Nate to join & help
- NBIC for organizing and funding
- photography: Rob Hooft (bit.ly/nbichack3)