

THE CHALLENGE

ANIMA TRIX '26

アニメ
ハッカソン
ANIME HACKATHON
EDITION 2026

Official Problem Statement

Build the Ultimate Anime Companion — reimagine how the world discovers, tracks, evaluates, and experiences anime.

ORGANIZED BY

DevNest

IN COLLABORATION

Anipedia

EDITION

ANIMATRIX '26

AUDIENCE

Participants · Judges · Mentors

THE BRIEF

01 Background and Context

Why a better anime companion is needed

With anime spanning countless genres, storytelling styles, and viewing experiences, **discovering the right title can be challenging**. Fans often rely on multiple platforms to explore anime, manage watchlists, track progress, and evaluate what to watch next.

GAP 01**Recommendation systems**

Conventional recommendation systems may **overemphasize popularity**, leaving fans with generic rankings rather than titles that fit them.

GAP 02**Tracking tools**

Basic tracking tools offer **limited personalization** and little insight into an anime's tone, pacing, themes, and viewing commitment.

02 The Challenge

What teams are asked to design and develop

DESIGN AND DEVELOP

An intelligent, personalized, and interactive Anime Companion Platform that helps users **discover** relevant anime, **organize** their viewing journey, and make **informed decisions** before watching.

Your solution should combine **meaningful recommendations**, **viewing-progress management**, **spoiler-free anime exploration**, and at least one **distinctive innovation** that improves the user experience.

1 Recommend

Personalized, explained, beyond popularity

2 Organize

Lists, episodes, ratings, insights

3 Evaluate

Spoiler-free previews before watching

4 Innovate

At least one original, meaningful feature

WHAT TO BUILD

03

Core Functional Requirements

Four capabilities every solution is expected to address

A

Intelligent Recommendations

MANDATORY CORE

Develop personalized recommendations using relevant signals. **Explain why titles may suit the user** and support discovery beyond generic popularity rankings.

SIGNALS

Genres

Themes

Ratings

Viewing history

Mood

Storytelling styles

B

Anime Library and Progress Tracking

MANDATORY CORE

Enable users to organize anime into lists and manage their viewing journey with optional depth.

LISTS

Currently Watching

Completed

Plan to Watch

On Hold

Dropped

MAY INCLUDE

Episode tracking

Personal ratings

Notes

Viewing statistics

Progress insights

C

Anime Preview and Viewing Intelligence

MANDATORY CORE

Help users evaluate titles before watching. **Clearly distinguish verified information from generated or subjective insights.**

EVALUATE WITH

Spoiler-free summaries

Genre and tone insights

Pacing

Estimated viewing time

Sourced reviews

Content advisories

Comparisons with similar anime

D

Distinctive Innovation

REQUIRED - AT LEAST ONE

Every team must introduce **at least one original, meaningful feature** beyond a conventional anime catalogue or watchlist.

EXAMPLES (SUGGESTIONS ONLY)

Conversational anime assistant

Mood-based discovery

Intelligent viewing planner

Group recommendations

Preference analysis

Visual map of an anime journey

RULES OF THE ROAD

04

Scope Restrictions and Privacy

Mandatory for every team

THIS IS NOT AN ANIME STREAMING WEBSITE HACKATHON

The primary purpose must be **discovery, recommendations, organization, and viewing intelligence** — not hosting or distributing full anime episodes or unauthorized content.

WELCOME

- ✓ Discovery and recommendations
- ✓ Organization and viewing intelligence
- ✓ Authorized trailers
- ✓ External links to legitimate platforms

NOT PERMITTED

- ✗ Hosting full anime episodes
- ✗ Distributing full anime episodes
- ✗ Unauthorized content
- ✗ Projects centred on unauthorized content

Privacy is mandatory.

Teams must apply the following principles across data, credentials, and third-party services.

✓ **Collect only what is necessary**

Minimal, purposeful data

✓ **Communicate use transparently**

Say how data is used

✓ **Protect credentials and personal information**

Secure by design

✓ **No covert tracking**

Or unauthorized collection

✓ **Private viewing stays private**

Share only with appropriate consent

✓ **Use APIs, datasets, and AI responsibly**

Follow applicable terms

Disqualification risk

Serious privacy violations or projects centred on unauthorized content may result in disqualification.

05

Technical Guidelines

Free choice of stack, with responsible engineering

Teams may use **any suitable technology stack, databases, anime APIs, recommendation algorithms, machine learning, or generative AI**. AI/ML is not compulsory. Solutions should demonstrate:

Original implementation

Responsible data handling

Appropriate attribution

Coherent interface

Technical feasibility

Honest representation of features and results

06

Creative Freedom

Teams define their own audience, interface, architecture, and implementation approach — provided they address the core challenge and meet every mandatory requirement.

SUMMARY

07 The Problem Statement at a Glance

Expected outcome and how submissions will be valued

The prototype should demonstrate that it can

- 1 Deliver useful, personalized anime recommendations
- 2 Organize and track a user's viewing journey
- 3 Help users evaluate anime before watching
- 4 Introduce at least one meaningful innovation
- 5 Provide a functional, coherent user experience
- 6 Respect privacy, copyright, and data-use requirements

Prioritize a few reliable, well-integrated features over numerous incomplete ones.

Evaluation values

- Problem-solving
- Personalization
- Originality
- Responsible engineering
- Demonstrable user experience

Quick reference

AREA	STATUS	WHAT IT MEANS
Intelligent recommendations	● Core requirement	Personalized and explained
Library and progress tracking	● Core requirement	Five list states, plus optional depth
Preview and viewing intelligence	● Core requirement	Verified vs. generated clearly labeled
Distinctive innovation	● Mandatory	At least one original feature
Streaming or unauthorized content	● Out of scope	May lead to disqualification
Privacy and responsible data use	● Mandatory	Serious violations may disqualify
AI / ML	● Optional	Not compulsory

THE MISSION

Build a companion that understands what anime fans love, helps them discover what they might love next, and makes every anime journey more personal.

