

The Official Newsletter of the Flight Deck

Congratulations  
**Andrew Sheahan**

You were our **300<sup>th</sup>** Feedback

## FLIGHT DECK SPOTLIGHT

**By Andrew Sheahan, 8 OSS Projects Officer**

What a year it's been! I moved into 8 OSS in January to work on exercise planning and some minor projects around the wing. At the time, we were still working with consultants to restructure the dispatch cell when a call from the RAWC completely derailed everything - in the best way possible! Maj Christian Hirt recommended we get in touch with the team down in Kitchener and try to modernize our operation, instead of restructuring the whole team and adding staff.

I think it's fair to say that at 8 OSS we didn't know how much things were going to change, and that getting to work with The Flight Deck team has made a dramatic improvement in our daily work and quality of life!

Out of the whole experience, I'm most impressed by how hard the software team works. Much of the raw coding power has come from the rotating crews of co-ops that work on four month terms. It seems like each team leaves their own special touch on the applications they produce. From Ellen's UI and the dashboard feature, to Moe's completely Herculean engineering efforts that essentially built the digital football and CI/CD pipeline, to the new work started on the Canadian Beacon Registry (Rescue!), it's certainly going to be harder for each new round to add their own improvements!

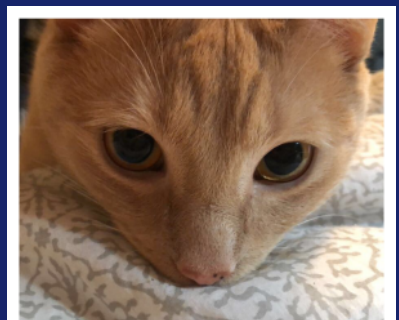
This is an incredible resource that we are lucky to have as an organization, and the rumour is that this capability is growing! I can't wait to see what's coming next!

## COOPS CORNER

**Sophia Scott**

Hi there!  
 I'm a Science and Business student, specializing in Biochemistry at the University of Waterloo. I am the Marketing Expert here at the Flight Deck, which means I am the face behind these newsletters and other propaganda that will be coming your way in the near future. When I'm not in the office, I like to go to the gym, hang out with friends, play with my cat, and watch tiny house videos (Yes, you heard that right!).

Here's a picture of my little tabby cat!



*tango*



A person pushes his car to a hotel and tells the owner that he/she is bankrupt. Why?

## FLIGHTHAX II

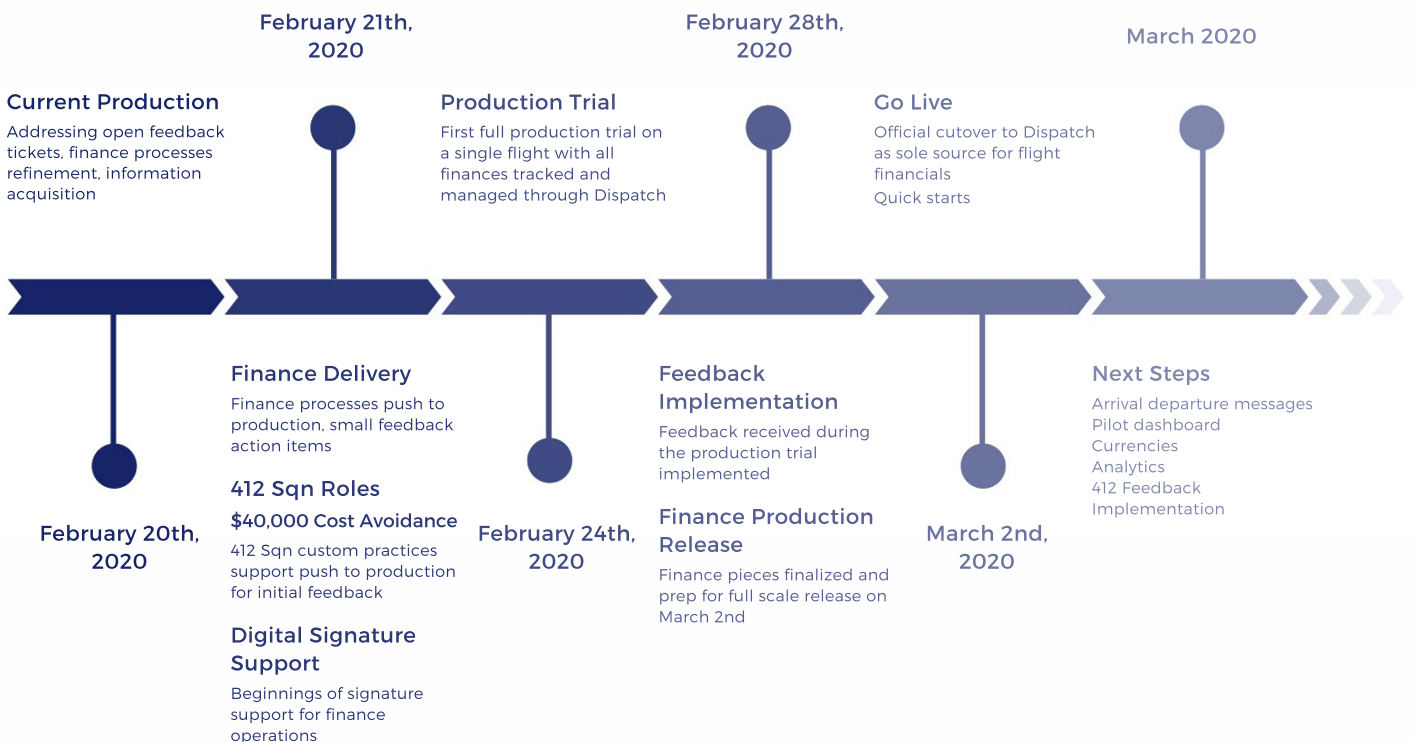
By Grace Geng, Full Stack Developer

I'd like to introduce you to another project I'm taking the lead on; organizing FlightHax II, a hackathon hosted at our workplace Communitech. Of course, a hackathon is an event where programmers come together to hack into the most advanced security systems around the world, stealing information, money, identities . . . just kidding!

Let's break it down a bit: hacking + marathon = hackathon. So what does it actually mean to hack? Think of it like hacking on a problem – maybe your bag breaks and you “hack” it together with some duct tape. It's an event for creative problem solving and inventing. What about marathon? A hackathon often lasts several days, and is always a test of endurance. Building a solution in a limited time frame is challenging, so sleep is often one of the first things to be sacrificed (which is why coffee is often in excess at hackathons). Add in a team element, judges, a prize for the best solution and you've got a hackathon! What I have always loved about hackathons is the community aspect; it's a great place to meet other innovators, share ideas and learn from each other.

FlightHax II will be a hackathon just for the coops here at Communitech. We'll have the chance to see what the coops at other labs have been doing this term, and collaborate on problems that are big headaches for the Air Force. Keep an eye out early April for what we come up with!

# DISPATCH SOFTWARE UPDATE: WHERE ARE WE HEADED?





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IN OUR NEWSLETTER OR  
JUST WANT TO CHAT?**

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[hello@theflightdeck.ca](mailto:hello@theflightdeck.ca)