The mission of MD5 is to provide a platform to cultivate the people and ideas necessary to build technology-based ventures that align national economic, security and social objectives for the good of the nation.

What is MD5 Innovation Community

The MD5 Innovation Community is the ongoing, collaboration space for MD5 members. It’s the place to share and discuss Ideas and engage Resources. Ideas cards and Resources created at MD5-sponsored events, like hackathons, are centralized here to make it easier for members to see what other members or teams are doing, and to connect with each other. After an MD5 event has wrapped up, continue the conversation by staying you can stay engaged with the Innovation Community.

Becoming a Member

Why become a member?

- The MD5 Innovation Community is open to everyone. Browsing does not require you to be a Member. If you want to comment, like, follow, add your own Idea, or participate in an Event - you will need to become a Member.
- When becoming a member of MD5 you become a member of the MD5 Innovation Community, as the membership in one is a membership of the other.
How to Become a Member

- Clicking on any of the “Become a Member” buttons around the Community site takes you through the steps to becoming a member. There will always be a “Become a Member” button in the top navigation bar, if you are not a Member (or you haven’t signed in).

- If you have attended any of the MD5 Sponsored Events you are a Member already. To sign in, use the email address you signed up with.

Becoming a Member: Set-up profile

- **Add a Username** - The first part of setting up your membership is adding a username. We do not use your email address as your username, but if you don’t input a username the platform may use a variation of your email address as your username until you update it. Adding your first and last names is optional but providing this can help other members search and connect with you.

- **Add Your Skills** - Adding skills is an important part of setting up your profile. You may select skills tags that are pre-populated, or you may add skills you have that you believe are your strengths and will be valued by the Community.

- **Add a Bio** - Adding a short bio will help provide others context about who you are and how you can help.

How to use the platform

- **The Community Highlights** - provide glimpses into upcoming events, highlights from recent events, feature ideas or members, and can provide a focus on resources.

- **Social Media** - activity from MD5 can be found at the bottom of the Community page. Follow Tweets and Instagram photos from MD5 as they are aggregated the the Social Media module.

- **The Event listings** can be found in the Community Event section if your are looking for a quick list of upcoming or recent Events. To see the MD5 Sponsored Events you can click on the Events count in the main header image. To see all events click on Events in navigation at the top of the Community page.
**Activity Space**

**Activity Space Overview** - The activity space keeps its focus on three main aspects of the MD5 Innovation Community: Ideas, Members, and Resources. Each of these are tabs in the Activity Space. Each gives highlights and provides links out to the full listing pages related to their focus.

**Ideas**

- **Ideas** - Ideas are the core focus of MD5 ideation activities. Each idea can be worked on and improved. The Ideas can also inspire others to focus on solutions that help MD5 achieve its focus.

- **Ideas Highlights** - Ideas in the Activity Space can focus on Ideas that have won at MD5 events or highlight some of the most active Idea cards. The Idea cards in this space provide a glimpse of what is in the MD5 Innovation community. You may click on the Ideas to find out more about them and interact around the idea by liking it, following it, and/or commenting on it.

- **See All Ideas** - If you would like to view all of the Ideas or be able to filter and sort Ideas click on the "See All Ideas" link. This opens the Ideas listing screen where you can filter across all the Ideas in the MD5 Innovation Community and you can use various sorting preferences as well.

- **Add an Idea** - After reading through some Ideas you may find that you are inspired to share an Idea with the Community so you can collaborate on it, or others can use it at an Event. Click on the “Add an Idea” button and fill in your idea, which can be saved as a draft, or shared with everybody.

**Members**

- **Member Highlights** - Highlighted Members appear in the Activity Space Members section. These highlights can focus on Members whom have shared Winning Ideas or have been active contributors in other ways in the Community.

- **See All Members** - Clicking on "See All Members" takes you to the Members listing page. On this page there are many different filters you can use, as well as sorting options, to find others to follow or connect with. When you click on a member's card you will go to their profile page and be able to see their activities and be able to follow them.

**Resources**

- **Resource Highlights** - The Resource Highlight module showcases Resources that have been or are available for MD5 Members. Members can click on the Resource cards that have been highlighted to find out more about the Resource, how they have been used, and can like or follow that resource.

- **Go to All Resources** - Clicking on the Go to All Resources link goes to the Resource listing page where the resources can be filtered and sorted. This page makes it easier to see all the resources that have been or are available for Members.
Leaderboard

- **Leaderboard Overview** - The Leaderboard is a short running list of top Ideas, Members, and Resources. This can be used to quickly find who or what is most active or has the most interest.

Using Tags

- **Tag Overview** - There are various uses of tags in the MD5 Community. There are tags for topics, skills, and events (that function as tags as well). Clicking on a tag will take you to a screen that lists all objects with that tag, so you can explore. When creating or editing your profile you may select from existing skill tags that match the skills you have, or you may add skills in their category that are not yet in the system. When creating or editing an Idea you may select topic tags that correspond to the subject of your Idea, but you may also create a new tag that also fits the subject(s).

Likes, Follow, Notifications and Comments

- **Likes, Follow, Notifications, and Comments Overview** - The MD5 Community offers the ability to interact around various objects. “Likes” can be used as a light type of voting or work as a way of signaling appreciation. You can see what you have Liked on your Profile page. You can Follow Ideas and Members, which will send notifications when there are updates to them. You can view and manage things you Follow on your Profile page. You can also manage notifications for follows and other responses from the “Edit Settings” link in the drop-down / pop-up from your member icon in the header. Comments you contribute to Ideas and Resources can have responses or follow-on comments. These responses and additional comments trigger Notifications. Notifications can be seen in the main navigation of the MD5 platform where you see an unread notification count in the top chat icon. You can opt to have notifications sent by email by going to “Edit Settings” link in the profile dropdown menu.

Visit the innovation community page at community.md5.net