

Student hopes for big record

SUDBURY: Game jam 'tremendous opportunity'

By Russell Cook

A SUDBURY student is among more than 300 gaming pupils taking part in a national world record attempt this weekend.

Train2Game, the world's first blended learning courses specifically designed for the games industry by the games industry, has teamed up with Microsoft to set the world record for the largest game jam held in a single location.

And Dan Hawkins, a design student, will be among more than 301 pupils taking part in the Microsoft and Train2Game Gameathon 2012 at the University of Bedfordshire.

Dan, 20, is a team captain and will create video games for Windows 8 in 48 hours. The world record will be set with a target of 301 or more participants.

Dan, of Ballingdon Street, who works part-time as a chef, decided to join the Train2Game



RECORD BID: Dan Hawkins, of Sudbury, is hoping that a new world record will be set

course because he felt university study was not for him.

He said: "I prefer home study. I've always been interested in interior, architecture and playing computer games. This course combines those."

During the event Microsoft experts will be on hand and the contestants will use Windows 8 software.

A judging process will also take place with gaming industry representatives choosing

a best game of the show and games deemed suitable that Dan makes could be set for release through the Windows store.

He said: "I'm looking forward to meeting new people, networking and learning new skills. The game jam will help by giving me more experience with working with a team.

"I'm loving the course and I am really confident for the future of the gaming industry and my own career path. I would like to set up my own indie studio eventually."

Train2Game course director Myra Smallman added: "This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to work with one of the most respected technology companies in the world. Microsoft is a major player in the video games industry globally and being part of this relationship will be incredibly positive for Train2Game students."

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www.train2game.com