

2012 is not only the year of the Olympics, but also the launch of the first ever Digilympics.

The Digilympics is an international athletics competition in the form of a Twitter-powered race for success where you determine the outcome. Four Lego athletes move down a physical racetrack as fans Tweet for their team to move them further towards the finish line.

Starting today (07/18/2012), the Digilympics will be a two-week event as the four teams - UK, US, Canada and Japan - compete for the prestigious Digilympics Gold Medal.

The competition is open to anyone on the web, allowing them to Tweet their team to success using one of four unique Twitter accounts (UK\_Digi, US\_Digi, CA\_Digi & JP\_Digi). Tweets in support of a particular account will move that country's contestant physically along a running track.

After each race, the team victories are recorded and contestants go back to the starting line. At the end of the week the team who has won the most races will be given the Gold Medal online at digilympics.com

### **How does it work?**

A Processing sketch scans the Twitter account of each country for any '@' replies. Any new replies are passed to an Arduino with 4 motors attached, one for each team. The motors spin and advance each team forward in response to tweets received. An infra-red beam detects the country reaching the finishing line first and signals for the reset of a new race.

Watch the video on: <https://vimeo.com/45893070>

Watch the action live and tweet your votes of support at digilympics.com.

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Note for Editors:

*Arduino* is an open-source electronics prototyping platform based on flexible, easy-to-use hardware and software. It's intended for artists, designers, hobbyists, and anyone interested in creating interactive objects or environments.

*Processing* is an open source programming language and integrated development environment (IDE) built for the electronic arts and visual design communities with the purpose of teaching the basics of computer programming in a visual context, and to serve as the foundation for electronic sketchbooks.