Baking (solution)

by Ong Kah Kien

The 14 given sample pizzas comprise of different types of pizza from Pizza Hut Singapore, which is hinted in the flavortext with “makin’ it great” being one of the first slogans for Pizza Hut. The first step is to identify the types of pizzas in each sample. Note that Pizza Hut Singapore has two different menus for dine-in and delivery, so solvers would need to reference both in order to match up and identify all the pizza types using the images. In each sample, there are up to 12 slices (these might not be contiguous slices) of each type of pizza, making up a total of 16 slices. Using the number of slices as an index into the name of the corresponding type of pizza, a set of 3-6 unordered letters can be extracted for each sample. The flavortext further mentions needing to pair up the samples, which can be done with the help of the extracted letter sets. Combining pairs of letter together sets yields the letters for names of various pizza toppings (also hinted in the flavortext). The names of the pizza toppings (in alphabetical order) fit into the given blank circle enumerations at the end of the puzzle, providing a confirmation. Extracting the letters in the numbered circles in order gives TAKEAWAYSLICES. This could be thematic answer phrase when read as TAKEAWAY SLICES, but solvers will be asked to carry on solving if this is submitted as the answer. The aha is that the phrase should be interpreted as **TAKE AWAY SLICES** as a clue instruction on the next solving step. As the slices of each pizza type in a sample are sometimes not contiguous, this hints that their given layout within the sample is meaningful. To determine which slices to take away, reuse the toppings formed by and associated with each pair of samples. If the pizza type contains that topping, remove those slices. This leaves behind only the slices of pizza types without each sample’s associated topping. These form the shape of a letter for each sample, spelling out the phrase **CREDIT YOUR CREW**.

When solvers submit this phrase into the answer checker, they receive the following response and instruction for a further submission task:
“To receive the answer to this puzzle, email us (at puzzlesmiths@gmail.com) a single A4 landscape PDF page having one labelled pie chart for each named team member. Each chart should show the distribution (over the hunt duration/time so far) of the various ways that the member has contributed (or not) to your team's hunt efforts. The charts should use the same color scheme, and make sure they are not half-baked. Bake in some humor to make them entertaining, as we will showcase them as part of the wrap-up! Alternatively, we will accept receiving actual physical pies instead too :)”

When a team emails Hunt HQ with either of the stated requirements above (ideally the former), they will receive the answer for this puzzle **PASS EVEN PIES** (a reference to actual pies being an acceptable substitute for the task).

The table below summarizes the types of pizzas in each sample, the pairings, toppings formed and the extractions:

Sample	Types of pizza	Number of slices	Extracted letters	Paired sample	Topping formed	Topping present	Letter shape
1	CHEESE N' CHIC CHICKEN SUPREME CURRY CHICKEN HAWAIIAN SUPREME TROPICAL DREAM	1 7 1 2 5	C N C A I	13	CHICKENHAM	N Y N Y Y	C
2	CHEESE N' CHIC CHICKEN SUPREME HAWAIIAN SUPREME MEAT GALORE	1 10 4 1	C P A M	11	CAPSICUM	N Y N N	R
3	CHIC HAM N' SHROOM MEAT GALORE SIMPLY CHEESE TROPICAL DREAM	12 1 1 2	O M S R	14	MUSHROOM	Y N N N	E
4	BEYOND SUPREME CHICKEN SUPREME MEAT GALORE	5 3 8	N I O	7	CABANOSSI	N N Y	D
5	CHEESE N' CHIC HAWAIIAN SUPREME MEAT GALORE SIMPLY CHEESE SUPER SUPREME TROPICAL DREAM	3 2 2 2 3 4	E A E I P P	8	PINEAPPLE	Y Y N N Y Y	I
6	BEEF PEPPERONI BEYOND SUPREME HAWAIIAN SUPREME MEAT GALORE TROPICAL DREAM	1 6 4 2 3	B D A E O	10	BEYONDMEAT	N Y N N N	T
7	CURRY CHICKEN HAWAIIAN SUPREME MEAT GALORE SIMPLY CHEESE SUPER SUPREME VERY BEEFY	1 2 6 1 1 5	C A A S S B	4	CABANOSSI	N N Y N Y Y	Y
8	BEEF PEPPERONI BEYOND SUPREME TRUFFLE SHUFFLE	5 5 6	P N L	5	PINEAPPLE	N N N	O
9	BEYOND SUPREME CHICKEN SUPREME HAWAIIAN SUPREME TRUFFLE SHUFFLE VEGGIE LOVER'S	5 7 1 1 2	N N H T E	12	WHITEONION	Y Y N N Y	U
10	BBQ BEYOND BEYOND SUPREME MEAT GALORE	5 5 1	E N M	6	BEYONDMEAT	Y Y N	R

Sample	Types of pizza	Number of slices	Extracted letters	Paired sample	Topping formed	Topping present	Letter shape
	TROPICAL DREAM	1	T			N	
	VERY BEEFY	4	Y			N	
11	CHEESE N' CHIC	1	C	2	CAPSICUM	N	C
	CHICKEN SUPREME	9	U			Y	
	SIMPLY CHEESE	1	S			N	
	VEGGIE LOVER'S	5	I			Y	
12	BEYOND SUPREME	4	O	9	WHITEONION	Y	R
	CHIC HAM N' SHROOM	3	I			N	
	CHICKEN SUPREME	3	I			Y	
	HAWAIIAN SUPREME	3	W			N	
	TROPICAL DREAM	3	O			Y	
13	CHEESE N' CHIC	4	E	1	CHICKENHAM	N	E
	CHIC HAM N' SHROOM	5	H			Y	
	CHICKEN SUPREME	5	K			Y	
	HAWAIIAN SUPREME	1	H			Y	
	MEAT GALORE	1	M			Y	
14	CHIC HAM N' SHROOM	12	O	3	MUSHROOM	Y	W
	CURRY CHICKEN	2	U			N	
	HAWAIIAN SUPREME	1	H			N	
	MEAT GALORE	1	M			N	

Constructor's notes:

This puzzle answer and the baking theme made this puzzle suitable to work in a submission task, which is always an interesting element and team interaction that we try to include for SGPH. Obviously, unlike the MIT Mystery Hunt, baking and submitting a pie would not be a very practical task for an online hunt like SGPH, so the alternative is to ask teams to create and submit pie charts of their team member contributions to credit them. This enables Hunt HQ to get to know the team members better, while allowing teams the opportunity to exercise their creativity in making their submissions interesting and unique for the showcase. For the puzzle itself, I decided on pizzas as the theme, since they are visually closest to pie charts, and are considered pies. The puzzle is kept relatively easy as a straightforward Identify-Sort-Index-Solve (ISIS) puzzle to enable all solvers to contribute, with also a word solving element of pairing letter sets to form the names of toppings, which are then used for the extraction.