

How To Tech Talk

A meta-discussion by
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Resources at:
deniseyu.io/techtalks

Hello CF Summit!

- Software engineer on BOSH team for Pivotal Cloud Foundry
- Avid public speaker and former competitive debater since age 14
- Doodling enthusiast:
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Why start giving technical talks?

1. Share your expertise
2. Build your professional/personal “brand”
3. Develop communication and teaching skills
4. Push yourself to learn new subject matter

...and more reasons!

Tip #1:

Public speaking and
presenting technical
subject matter are
separate skill sets.

You don't have to develop both at once!

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Technical Presentation Practice:

- Write a blog post
- Create a visual sketchnote, doodle, or diagram
- Find a local “learn to code/PM/design/etc” meetup and attend as a mentor
- Volunteer for technical onboarding activities for new joiners at your company

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Public Speaking Practice:

- Pecha Kucha:
20 slides, 20 seconds, any topic, no text
- Local Toastmasters meetups
- Practice on your own

Tip #2:

You don't need to
be a domain expert
to talk about
something.

I TRY NOT TO MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE FOR ADMITTING THEY DON'T KNOW THINGS.

BECAUSE FOR EACH THING "EVERYONE KNOWS" BY THE TIME THEY'RE ADULTS, EVERY DAY THERE ARE, ON AVERAGE, 10,000 PEOPLE IN THE US HEARING ABOUT IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

FRACTION WHO HAVE HEARD OF IT AT BIRTH = 0%

FRACTION WHO HAVE HEARD OF IT BY 30 $\approx 100\%$

US BIRTH RATE $\approx 4,000,000/\text{year}$

NUMBER HEARING ABOUT IT FOR THE FIRST TIME $\approx 10,000/\text{day}$

IF I MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE, I TRAIN THEM NOT TO TELL ME WHEN THEY HAVE THOSE MOMENTS. AND I MISS OUT ON THE FUN.

"DIET COKE AND MENTOS THING"? WHAT'S THAT?

OH MAN! COME ON, WE'RE GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE.

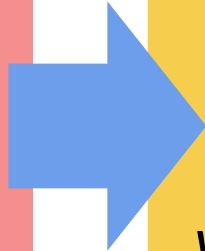
WHY?

YOU'RE ONE OF TODAY'S LUCKY 10,000.



Unknown
Unknowns

*"That's a
thing?"*



Known
Unknowns

*"Now I know
what to google
for!"*



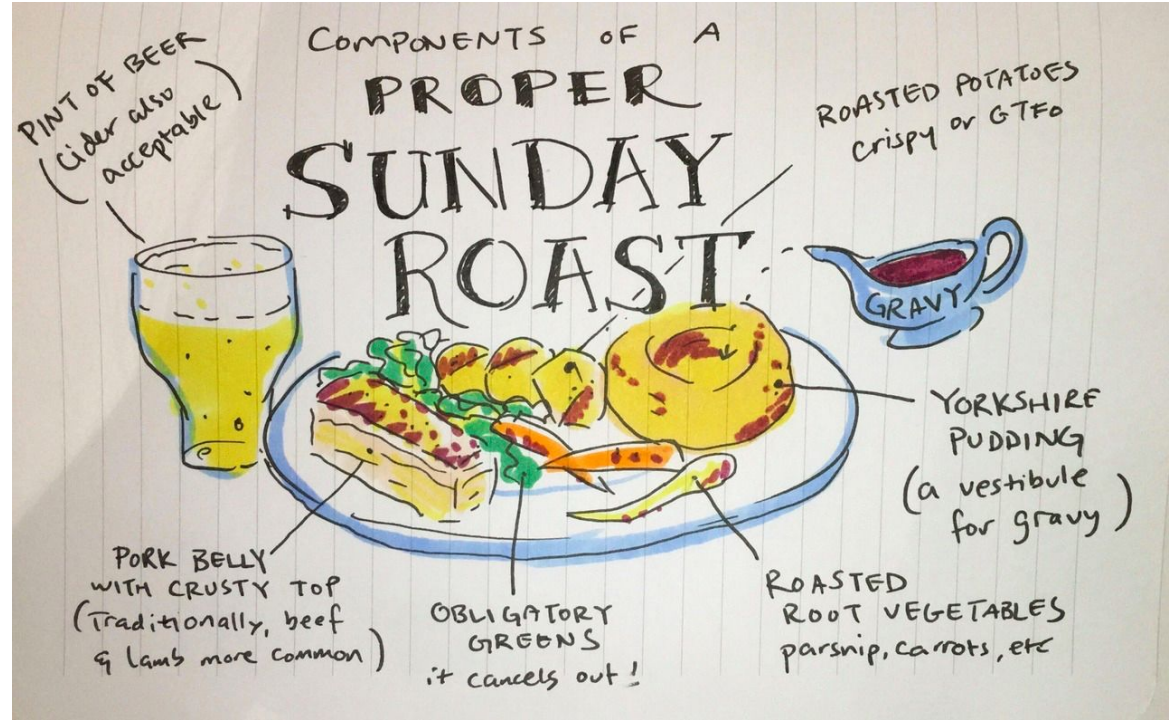
Known
Knowns

*"This makes
sense!"*

My unscientific “80/20 Rule”

I believe that most of the audience will have already encountered **80%** of my content.

But for most of the audience, I believe that **20%** of my talk will be brand new “nuggets of knowledge”!



Beginner-friendly talk formats

“Intro to...”

Introduction to the Cloud Foundry CLI

Experience Report

How we pair program as a remote team

Listicle, aka “Buzzfeed”

5 steps to improve your Test-Driven Development

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Tip #3:

Remember to
practice, but also
remember to be
kind to yourself

Practice Tips

- Put the world into speaker notes until you're comfortable

Practice Tips

- Put the world into speaker notes until you're comfortable
- Do three run-throughs, with three audiences:
 - A small group of trusted colleagues
 - A wider group of colleagues
 - A group of non-work friends

My talk practice secret weapon:

Record yourself giving the talk. (*Ideally video & audio, but just audio is OK to start.*)

Watch the recording & self-critique.

Iterate, improve, and remember to be gentle to yourself.

Slides & extra resources:
deniseyu.io/techtalks