How To Conference

A User's Guide || Conf 101



Sponsors

Who are I?



Name: Nerando
Handle: @Nerajno [🦋]
Title: Junior~ish Software Developer

Attended Confs



Glenn Renfro
14 years +

Nerando
5+ years





Code of Conduct



https://devnexus.com/code-of-conduct

How to Conference Basic Criteria :

- ❑ Quick Personal Assessment
- ❑ Be Present
- ❑ Survive
- ❑ Thrive
- ❑ What are My Deliverables ?



A Quick Assessment



- ❏ Learn
- ❏ Network
- ❏ Teach
- ❏ Swag (or pick up a new shirt to wear around the house).

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A Quick Assessment

How are you here ?

- ❏ Self Paid || Self~Invest
- ❏ Sponsored (Work, Sugar person, etc)
- ❏ Scholarship or Volunteer



A Quick Assessment

Who are You ?



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A Quick Assessment

Who are You ?



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Find Out Who You Are *In Social Situations*

Let’s find out !

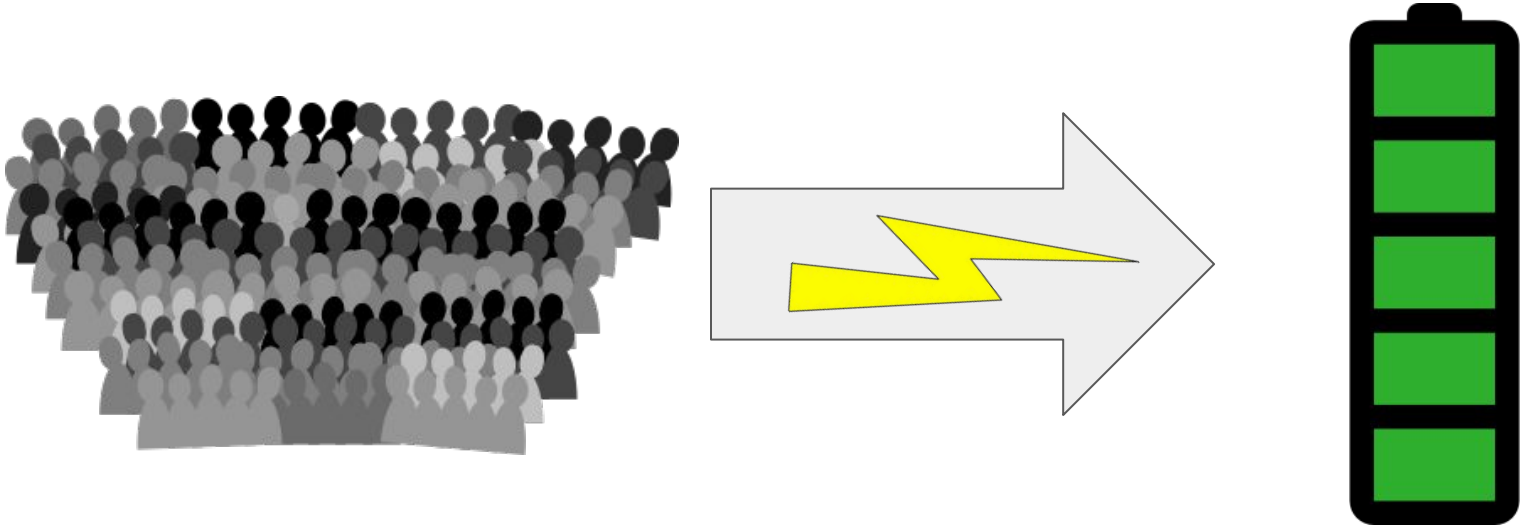
https://tinyurl.com/howtoconfquiz1



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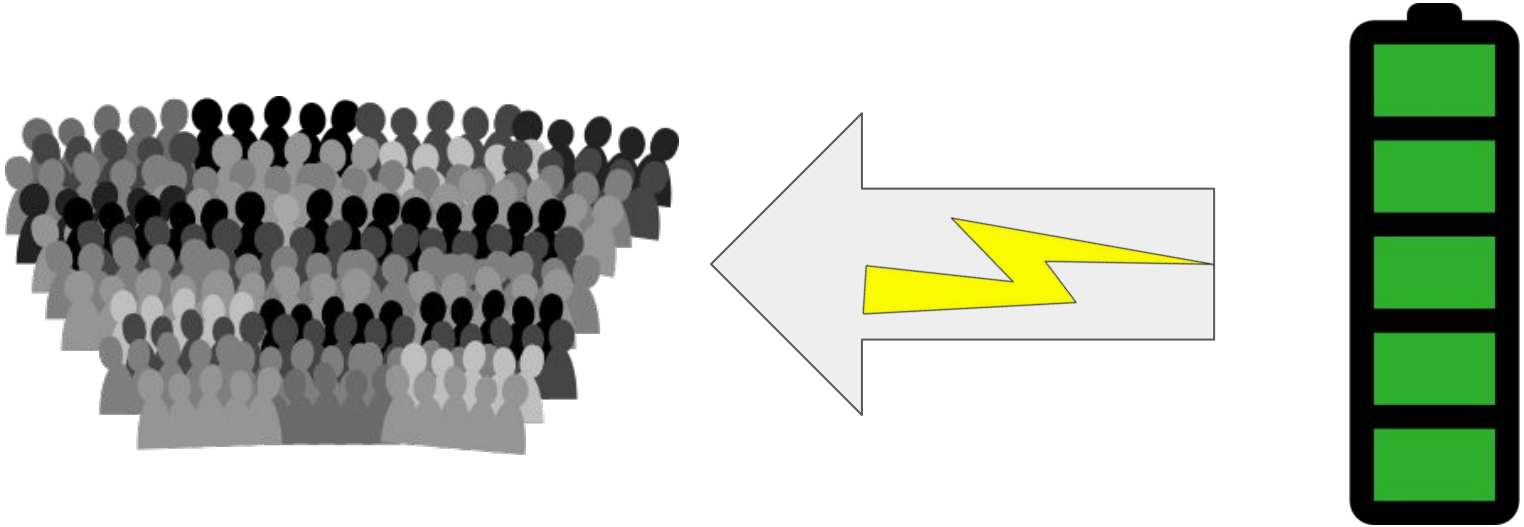
Personality Type

Extrovert



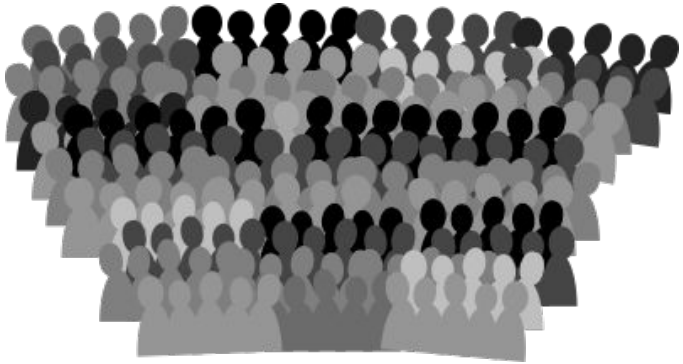
Personality Type

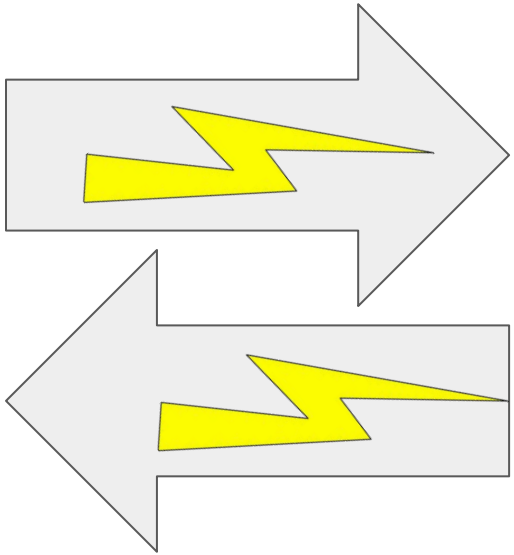
Introvert

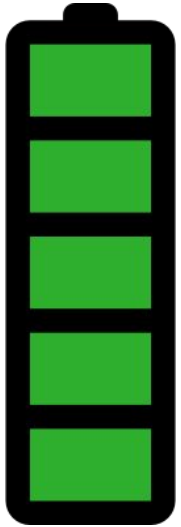


Personality Type

Ambivert







Quick Assessment

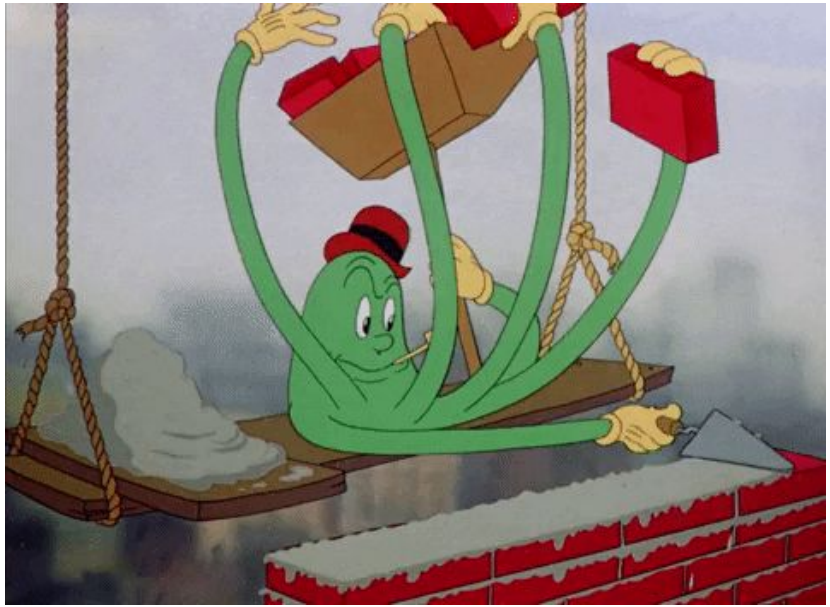
What do you want to get out of a conference?



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Quick Assessment

What do you want to get out of a conference?



Quick Assessment

What do you want to get out of a conference?

Socialize

Learn

Exploring*

Sponsored

Grab the SWAG

Network

Boss Sent Me

Survive/ Survival (Physical Needs)

- ❏ Hydration
- ❏ Walking Shoes
- ❏ Comfortable/Appropriate Clothes



Survive/ Survival (Physical Needs)

- ❏ Medication
- ❏ Power Banks for Phones & Laptops
- ❏ Note Taking Device.



Survive

Pace yourself



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Survive

Pace yourself ~ Make a plan



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Survive

Focus



Survive

Take Notes

- ❏ Bullet Points
- ❏ Cornell Notes
- ❏ Mind Maps
- ❏ Drawings



Survive

Sometimes it gets to be too much...



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Survive

Quiet Corner/ Room



Survive

Outside / Hotel Room?



Thrive

Learn, Improve, and Stretch



Thrive

Hallway Track



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Thrive

Build Relationships





Thrive

Build Relationships - EAT!



N

Thrive

Build Relationships - Have Fun



G

Thrive

Don’t Leave At 5:00 (unless you have to)

Build Relationships



N

Thrive

Volunteer

Build Relationships (cont)



Thrive

Don’t be afraid to try code the stuff on the spot



Thrive

Don’t be afraid of the sponsors.



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Side Note

Accessibility is EXTREMELY Important



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Side-Note: *Research*

Google/Search the following and consume : Homer Gaines + Accessibility

- ❑ Podcasts
- ❑ Articles
- ❑ Youtube Videos



Break Over



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Deliverables

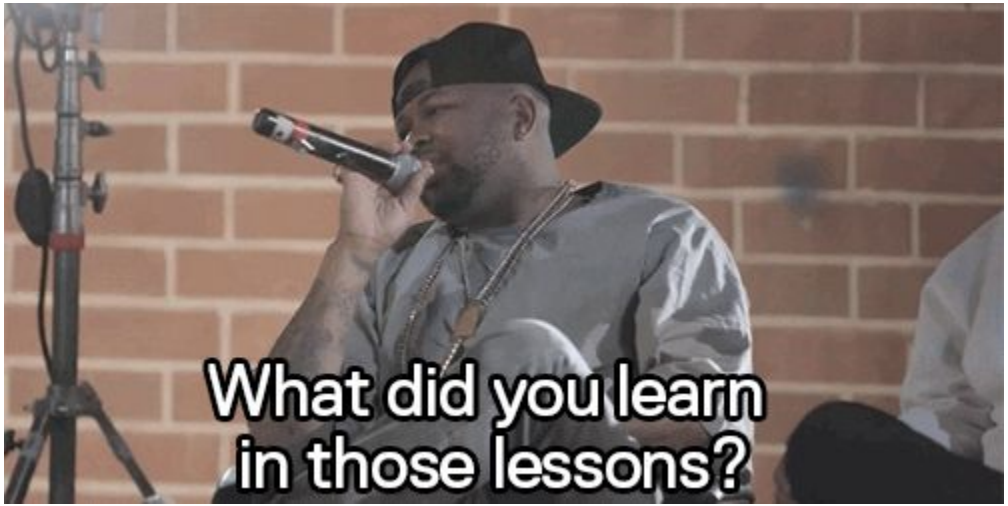
Transcribe your notes and share :

- ❏ Blog
- ❏ LinkedIn Post
- ❏ Twitter
- ❏ Vlog



Deliverables

What do we take home ?



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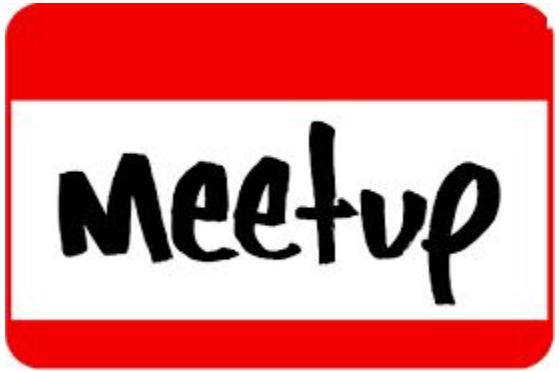
Deliverables

Follow up with the contacts you made



Deliverables

Continue Your Growth Through Meetups, online spaces and other communities.



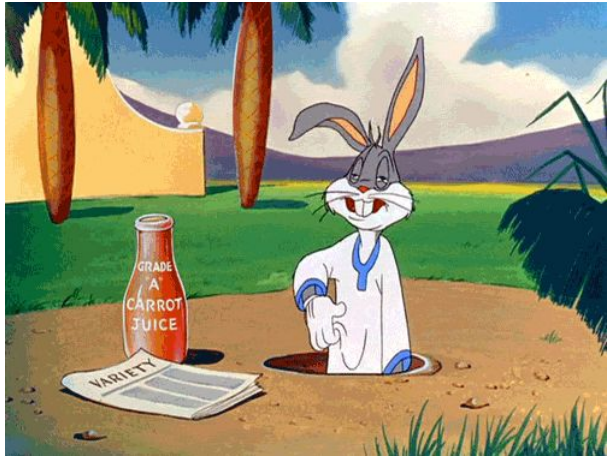
Deliverables

Leave Feedback For Your Speaker(s)



Deliverables

Sign up early for your favorite conferences and get the early bird specials

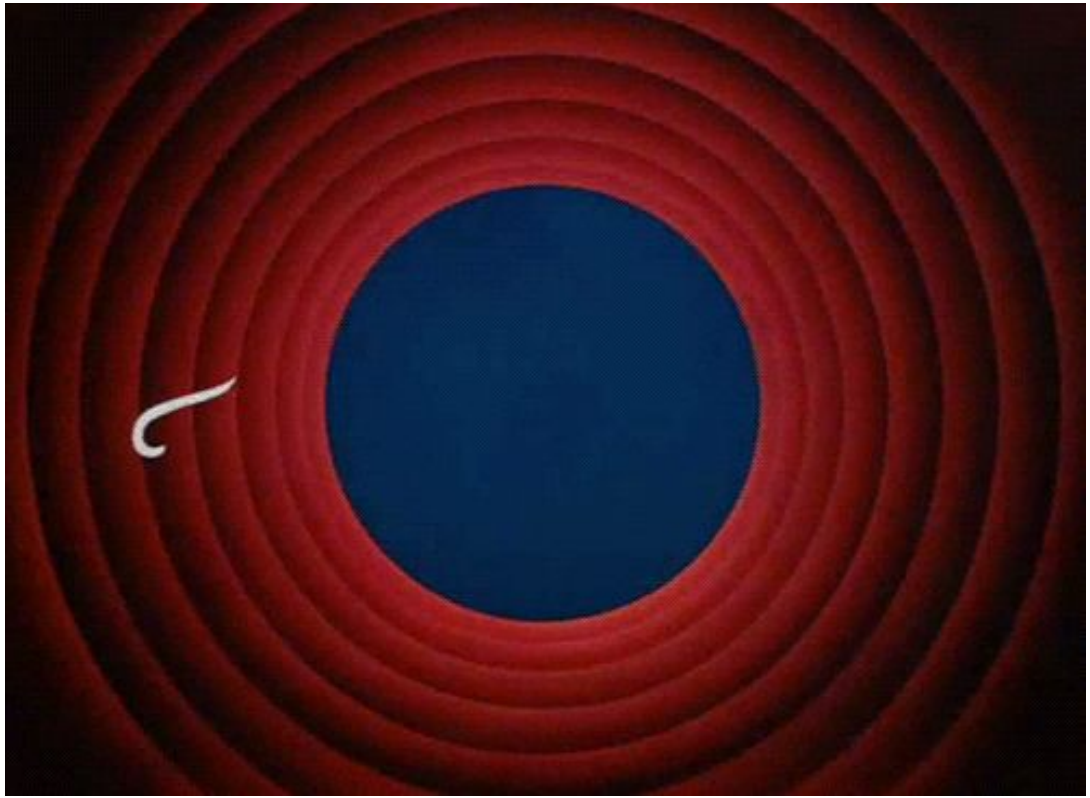


Other Resources

https://dev.to/abbeyperini/12-tips-for-attending-a-tech-conference-14mp

https://dev.to/nerajno/sothis-is-your-1st-tech-conference-attendee-edition-3c4g

Questions/FIN



Outline

- Find out who you are
  - Am I an introvert, extrovert, ambivert?
    - Introvert (Definition)
    - Extrovert (Definition)
    - Ambivert (Definition)
    - A decent test https://www.wikihow.com/Introvert-or-Extrovert-Quiz#goog_rewarded
    -

* Why are you here ?

- Survive and Thrive
  - Survive
    - Introverts
      - Earphones to reduce noise
      - Quiet rooms
      - Get a Room Near the event that you can head to when it gets to be too much
      - Pretend to be on a call. (That quick break) or an Irish exit
    - Extrovert
      - After a meaningful talk start a group chat with folks to learn more or create a study group
      - (give a talk next year) Study the speakers and maybe plan to give a talk next year or at the AJUG || imitation is the greatest form of flattery … so what talk or topic do I have that I can give like this
    - Ambivert
      - Pace yourself!

Outline

- Thrive
  - Improve, learn, stretch
    - Look for the talks that can improve the knowledge of your current techstack or abilities.
    - Learn from the experts and see what you are doing right and wrong.
    - Stretch. Learn something orthogonal from your daily job. Break out of what you know and cuss a little
    - Ask ask ask
      - Don't be afraid to ask the speaker after the talk. If they have time, they love to chat
  - EAT
    - Breakfast and Lunch. A great time to meet folks. Sit at a table of folks you don't know.
    - It is difficult if your shy, I am! But, guess what. They are too :-D
    -
  - Talk talk talk
    - Build Relationships
      - Talk to those around you at lunch, coffee (can be virtual), or waiting for a talk to begin. Learn what other are doing. Get your next job (give examples)
      - The 3 - Encounter Rule
      - Break the bias! { Me and Glenn as farm kids }
      - Creates opportunities
      - How to be memorable ~ fun glasses, cool tshirt
      - Follow up
    - Conversation don't always have on technical topics
      - Hobbies
      - Stories
      - Games
      - Legos
    - Don't leave at 5:00 unless you have to
      - Family matters
        - Pick one night for a sitter
      - Mixers HELL NO! Best time to network
        - Introverts store social energy in your batteries don't miss this.
        - Late night job offers and opportunities due to a memorable conversation
        - If you don't drink
          - Mocktails, Sodas, Juices, Water
          - many times during the mixers there are other events that you can join. OffHeap
      - Some Speakers setup times where they go jogging in the morning.
        So you have time to mix here vs. the late night.
  - Have fun
    - Games games games
  - Document your experience
    - Pictures (Twitter and linkedIn posting)
    - Take notes even if they are terms and revise and review as they are or will be fresh
    - Show value for yourself or to your boss

https://dev.to/nerajno/sothis-is-your-1st-tech-conference-attendee-edition-3c4g

What is there to do

- Breakouts
- Sponsor booths
- COFFEE
- FOOOOOOD
- Games?
- End of Day 1 Conference Drinks and mixer
- End of Day 2 Mixer
- Hallway track
  - What is this?
    - We'll talk about it
- Come for the Knowledge, Stay for the Prizes
- Catch the special treats that are given away by sponsors
  - Participate in their activities
- Women who code has a special presentation Thursday morning. Catch this!