

how to succeed with Tech Talks

Discover your story

Everyone has a tech talk in them!

Consider the work you have done recently. Some aspect of that work is new or unusual, or perhaps you overcame a challenge within your organisation.

How could you show your organisation in a good light? What really fires you up?

- New use of tech
- Collaboration
- Team changes
- Learning from failure
- Size / Longevity
- Risk and Impact

Prepare your narrative

Summarise your talk outline in a single slide of 3 or 4 bullet points.

Include a joke or icebreaker near the start and memorable pictures.

Purpose, Audience, Form

What is the purpose of the talk?
What are you trying to achieve?

Who is the audience? What is their background and level of knowledge? What will they expect?

What form will your talk take? A demo? A single thread of narrative? Several examples? A song?!

Write your proposal

Read and re-read the proposal info

Many talks are rejected because they do not meet the criteria. Address the themes of the conference or event.

Explain exactly what attendees will learn from your talk

- <https://medium.com/@fox/how-to-write-a-successful-conference-proposal-4461509d3e32>
- <http://blogs.tedneward.com/post/speaking-tips-proposals/>
- http://www.oreilly.com/conferences/sample_proposals.html

Focus on one pair of eyes at a time in the audience.

Speak slowly enough for a non-native speaker to understand you.

Practise your talk

Practice makes perfect happier!

Give the talk in real-time to your friends, family, or colleagues.

Give the talk at a local meetup group before its first conference appearance. Feel the flow!

CodeMill offers various training courses for Tech Talks
See <http://codemill.tech/> for details.

About CodeMill

A not-for-profit initiative based in Leeds, UK, CodeMill provides high-quality digital skills via partnerships with industry, academia, employers, and communities.

About the author

Matthew Skelton has spoken at many tech conferences around the world. In 2014 he founded PIPELINE Conference and runs several tech meetup groups in the UK.

