

Presenting 101

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Why?

- Communication is a universal skill
- Coding along has a ceiling
- Researchers must present their work
- If you can't tell anyone about your work, why should they care?

How?

- Tell 'em what you're gunna tell 'em
- Tell 'em
- Tell 'em what you told 'em

The preparation...

- Have a defined message
 - I had a neat approach to using Ajax in my chat tool
- Know your audience
 - These are my peers
 - Master's-level computer scientists
- Understand:
 - Material
 - Talk roadmap
 - Implications of your work

The Structure...

- Introduction
 - Stories help! Captures attention.
 - Problem statements here, preferably with examples
- Approach
 - How did you go about solving the thing?
- Results
 - Figures, diagrams, stats, etc.
- Analysis, conclusions, next steps

The Questions...

- No questions == no one cares
- Be prepared to answer questions
- It's acceptable to not know, but explain why!
- Questions aren't traps
 - Flattering – I liked your talk so much that I thought about it and decided to continue this conversation

Extracurriculars

- Be fun, engaging, etc.
- Use slide numbers
- Use common punctuation
- Reading slides == terrible presentation
- Minimize text
- Slides are presentation *tools* to aid the presenter's *soundtrack*