Student Conference on Software Engineering and Database Systems 2012

Presentations

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(mostly based on material by Graham Horton)
Presentations at student conference

- 12 min Presentation
- 3 min Question & Answers

- Finish late: cut off
- Finish early: more questions

- 3 Presentations per session
  - Agree on one notebook or prepare/practice to switch
Preparation

- Prepare for a talk!
- Preparation takes time (20x time of actual presentation)
- Do not prepare slides the evening before!
Presenting Scientific Results

- Before writing a paper
  - Present ideas to colleagues for discussion
  - Put your ideas into order
  - Think about visualizations
- After writing a paper
  - Presenting an accepted paper at a workshop or conference
  - Give a rough overview: Problem, Solution, Evaluation
  - Convince audience to read the paper
  - Initiate a discussion (workshop)
- Paper and presentation often do not perfectly align
- (Lecture != Presentation)
Prepare for a very large room
Workshop Room
What makes a successful presentation?

• **Facts**
  • Content
  • Structure
  • Cohesion / line of thoughts

• **Visuals**
  • Design of slides
  • Visualizations

• **Appearance**
  • Body language
  • Language
  • Subjective impression
Goals

• Every presentation has a goal
• Every presentation has several tasks

• Answer these questions first:
  • What is my goal?
  • What is my main point?
  • Why should the audience listen?
  • Why is the topic interesting?
  • Who will benefit from this presentation?
Structure

• Beginning: Connect to audience
  • Introduce yourself
  • Motivate your topic (why should they listen?)
  • Executive summary (main points, main results)
  • (Calm down)
• Middle: Convey information
  • Facts, Arguments, Results, Discussion
• End: Take home message
  • Summarize main points
  • Emphasize consequences
  • Future work
Beginning

- What is the general problem?
- Why is this problem interesting?
- What is the specific problem?
- Why is this problem interesting?
- Which question(s) to answer?
- (State of the art)
- How to proceed and why?
- Goals and tasks?
Middle

- What background knowledge is necessary?
- Which problems need to be solved?
- Which decisions to make?
- Which assumptions/simplifications and why?
- Experiments
- Results
- Interpretation
- Does this answer my hypothesis?
End

• What was the main result?
• How general are these results? (threats to validity)
• What are the consequences?
• What remains open? Which new questions arose? Future work?
• Thank for attention
Typical problems

- Too quick introduction
- Problem remains unclear
- Consequences / results unclear
- Too much “what I did”
- Too little “why did I do this (each step)”
- Too little “what’s the point”
- No connection between thoughts / slides
- Missing cohesion
Technical Hints

• 20 min, about 7 to 15 slides
• Fontsize >= 18, sans-serif fonts (this is 22)
• Name, title and affiliation on every slide
• Slide numbers on every slide
• At most one topic per slide
• Visualization, colors where necessary
• Avoid overfull slides (> 7 objects or > 36 words)
• Avoid full sentences, instead summarize content using headwords.
Structure slide?

• Only if you have something to say
• Maybe only after motivation slides

Agenda

• Problems and Advantages of Preprocessors
• 4 Improvements
  • Views
  • Visual Representation
  • Disciplined Annotations
  • Product-Line-Aware Type System
• Summary and Perspective
Visualizations

- Assists memory
- Assists comprehension
- Emphasizes the content
- More accessible style

- If
  - Meaning is clear
  - Visualized content is correct
  - Text is readable
Different kinds of visualizations

- Diagrams
- Photos
- Clip-arts
- …

Private Ausgaben

- Miete
- KFZ
- Versicherungen
- Sparen
- Strom, Energie
- Haushalt
- Urlaub
- Hobby, Freizeit
Simplify visualizations

- A microprocessor consists of X, Y and Z...
Animation

- Use animation with care

- Use
  - to focus attention (~ laser pointer)
  - to visualize a process / several steps

- Do not use without specific purpose
Animation: Die Todsünde

• **Punkt 1**  Blah blah blah blah blah blah
  • Punkt 1–1  Blah blah blah blah blah blah
  • Punkt 1–2  Blah blah blah blah blah blah

• **Punkt 2**  Blah blah blah blah blah blah blah
  • Punkt 2–1  Blah blah blah blah blah blah blah
  • Punkt 2–2  Blah blah blah blah blah blah blah

• **Punkt 3**  Blah blah blah blah blah blah blah
Abläufe visualisieren

- Erklärung eines Warteschlangensystems:
Checklist for visualizations

- Can text be replaced by visualizations?
- Is the meaning clear?
- Are the facts correct?
- All texts and details readable?
- No unnecessary or misleading elements?
- Does it help comprehension?
Presentation
Communication

- You cannot not communicate

conscious level

unconscious level

Information
Body language
Personality
Appearance
Feelings
Where to stand

- Facing the audience
- Not too far away
- Don’t hide the projected image
- Don’t hide behind furniture
Posture

- Upright
- Open
- Relaxed
- Stable
**Movement**

- Don’t fidget
- Emphasize thoughts with gestures and facial expressions
- Calm, but not fixed
Eyes

- Look at the audience
- Try to look at everybody naturally
- Do not stare at screen/window/corner/floor
Voice / Language

- Slow enough
- Loud enough
- Clear pronunciation
- Enough pauses
- Avoid monotony

- Keep sentences simple
- Don’t read
Timing

- Practice timing
- If faster when nervous plan ahead
- Have a timer during presentation
- Check speed during presentation

- Practice fast and slow version of last 3 slides
Some Last Tips

- Always be prepared
  - Have a PDF version of your slides
  - On at least 2 USB sticks & internet
  - Prepare presentation before the session, usually only one laptop
- Laser pointer hard to see in large rooms -> animations instead
- No dress code in computer science conferences
- Practice timing and phrasing!
Feedback & Grading

• 5 Criteria
  • Motivation an goals clear?
  • Content (structure, cohesion, clarity, conclusion?)
  • Slides (amount, style, visualizations)
  • Presentation & body language
  • Clarity (understandable, slang, missing background inform.)
• Feedback sheet for everybody
Take-away slide

- Prepare for a presentation

- Make goals and motivation crystal clear
- Careful slide layout with visualizations where suitable
- Calm and focused presentation