

Giving Good Talks

Phillip Rogaway

UC Davis

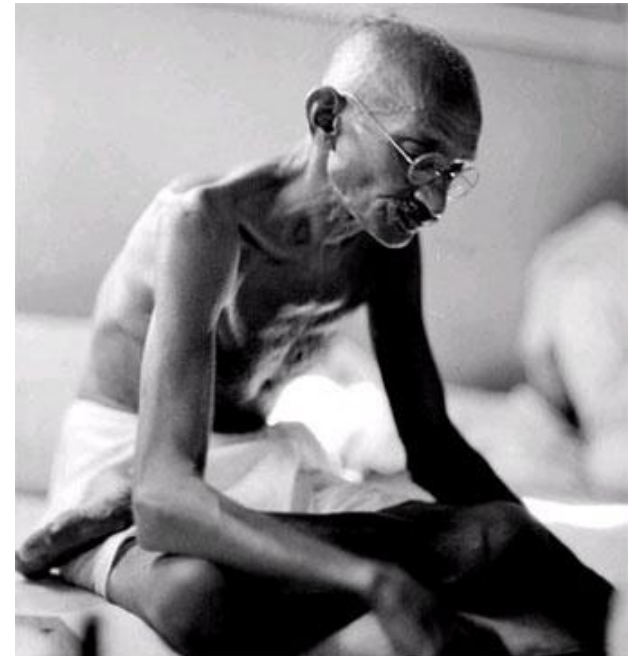
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This talk evolved from “On How to Talk”, by Mihai Budiu, CMU,
a presentation of April 2004 found at www.cs.cmu.edu/~mihaib/talk-talk.ppt

Have Something Interesting to Say



It's impossible to give a good talk otherwise!



Know Your Audience!



Very different to talk to:

- a gathering of specialists
- a gathering of smart non-specialists
- a classroom lecture
- a group of gifted HS students
- ...

An Important Obligation

Don't waste your audiences time

Entails:

- having something to say & knowing your audience
- organize, organize, organize
- practice, practice, practice



Don't Put **Too Much**
on a Slide

Your audience should be **listening to you**,
not reading your slides

More **Pictures**, Fewer Words

When you write too many words, like this, your audience is going to be busy reading your words, and not listening to you. Since talks are almost never comprehensible from slides alone, an audience member that tries to read long slides and not attend to the speaker is sure to miss what is being said, lose interest, and zone out. The talk will completely fail. So think of words on the slide as things to look at and not as things which, by themselves, get across much of the semantics. As the words have now been reduced (or elevated) to visual artifacts, make sure that they are pretty and do exactly what you want. An endless stream of them, like this does nothing to make a talk interesting and impactful. Pretend that words are expensive, each one costing you a dollar. In such a world, you are unlikely to use too many. Perhaps the worst talk I ever saw was a French cryptographer who somehow had the impression that you could give a talk by copying key paragraphs from your paper onto the slides and reading them to the audience (and, to make things even worse, in a terrible monotone voice). Each slide had hundreds of words, symbols, and formulas – so much that it actually seemed like a joke. But after 25 minutes, it was not a funny joke. Make sure this is one mistake you never make;

Don't Let PowerPoint Shape Your Talk

- An awful lot of talks look like
- A title and then
- A bulleted list of sentences, all
- In Arial font.
- It looks this way because PowerPoint makes
- This kind of thing easier than anything else.
- But rarely does a bulleted list
- Conform to what you have to say,
- Talks of black-and-white, bulleted-list slides
- Are among the most boring you'll ever see.



Stupid
PowerPoint
"Themes"

ALSO AVOID

- Distracting effects
- *Random colors*
- **L**ots of **col**ors,
- *Lots* of **font**s
- Inconsistent spacing and punctuation.
- *Inadequate contrast*
- <18pt fonts

A good Paper ...

and a good Talk on it

SenSay: A Context-Aware Mobile Phone

Daniel Sawtorek, Anil Smaligie, Junichi Furukawa, Neema Maravaj, Kathryn Reiger, and
Jeremy Shaffer
Human Computer Interaction Institute and Institute for Complex Engineered Systems
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA
{dps, asm1}@cs.cmu.edu, {smaligie, maravaj, reiger, furukawa, shaffer}@andrew.cmu.edu

Abstract

SenSay is a context-aware mobile phone that adapts to dynamically changing environmental and physiological states. In addition to responding to ring volume, vibration, and phone alerts, SenSay can provide remote callers with the ability to communicate the urgency of their calls, make call suggestions to users when they are idle, and provide the caller with feedback on the current state of the SenSay user. A number of sensors including accelerometers, light, and microphones are mounted at various points on the body to provide data about the user's context. A decision module uses a set of rules to analyze the sensor data and manage a state machine composed of unrecognizable, idle, active and normal states. Results from our threshold analysis show a clear distinction can be made among several user states by examining sensor data trends. SenSay suggests its contextual knowledge by tagging user applications such as electronic calendars, address books, and text lists. The phone also uses cognitive load as input to various methods including detecting when the user is unrecognizable and automatically lowering the ring-off.



Figure 1. SenSay sensor box mounted on the hip (left), the mobile phone (center), and voice and ambient microphones mounted on the user (right).

SenSay introduces the following five states: Unrecognizable, Idle, Active, and the default state, Normal. A number of phone actions are associated with each state. For example, in the Unrecognizable state, the ring is turned off.

Some related work is reported in the following paper. In a much more limited context the idea of using applications and phones was explored in [1], [2], [4], and [5]. In [3] concepts of context-aware computing and wearable devices have been discussed.

2. SenSay Architecture

2.1 General Overview

A closed architecture was adopted with five functional modules: the sensor box, sensor module, decision module, action module, and phone module. The following components are shown in Figure 1. From left to right: the sensor box collects physical sensor data, the software-based sensor module organizes that data, the decision module determines the phone's state, the action module sets that state, and the phone module provides access to the mobile phone operating system and user interface.

In the current prototype, the decision, sensor, and action modules run on a notebook computer (Dell/Ubuntu called the



Tolu: Simulation

Karl May, Adol

Abstract

Many cyberdramaticists would agree that been for RAID, the emulation of scatter/gather never have occurred. In this work, we explore lines of write-back caches. We verify not a location-sharing up to can be made signed, p and adaptions, but that the same is true for t

1 Introduction

The evolution of fiber optic cables is a prime notion that system engineers agree with "buzz" from is rarely admirably opposed. Given the ex of enable transmitters, security experts that the development of 602.11 mesh networks, I test can the producer-consumer problem be i accomplish this purpose?

Toh, one new method for efficient inform solutions to all of these issues. Even though it is never an improvise solution, it is, supporting any work in the field. This is a direct result of deconstructing of checklists. The deconstructing of method, however, is that hierarchical list scatter/gather IO are often incompatible. Con SenSay-like, such a hypothesis analyzes an ma memory bus.

In this position paper, we make two main points. For starters, we comment a novel fun the visualizations of the Turing machine (TM) that checklists and virtual machines are case able. We consider how right-to-left switches can b the exploration of questioners.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. First, we motivate the need for FPKs. We argue the investigation of object-oriented languages. In the end, we conclude.

technical report [7] for details [7].

We consider an algorithm consisting of a von Neumann machine [1]. Further, consider the early design

are very different.

Introductions

are important

What's the **contribution**

What's the **context**



Conclusions

are **not** important

But when you **do** include
one, it should
say something new –
Not a summary



Credit Anything That's Not Yours

- Ideas
- Data
- Quotes
- Significant illustrations
- Important pictures

Handling Questions



Listen carefully.

Repeat the question.

Think.

Succinctly answer (what was actually asked).



Absolute Rules
are impossible in this domain

What works well in a talk is
highly variable and difficult to find

Warning: preparing a good talk is **very** time-consuming