

VIRTUAL CONFERENCES FOR PEOPLE with autism or AD(H)D

Dennie Declercq // Dev Sum 2021

The image features a large, thin white circle centered on a black background. Inside this circle, the word "Introduction" is written in a white, sans-serif font. To the left of the circle, there are two horizontal wavy lines. Below the circle, on the left side, is a small solid orange circle. To the right of the circle, there is a small orange circle with a white outline. In the bottom right corner, there is a rectangular grid of small white dots.

Introduction

Content

- Introduction
- Autism
- AD(H)D
- Virtual Conferences
- The AED Framework
- **Extra:** Vision for the future – hybrid events
- Thanks & Q&A

Who am I?

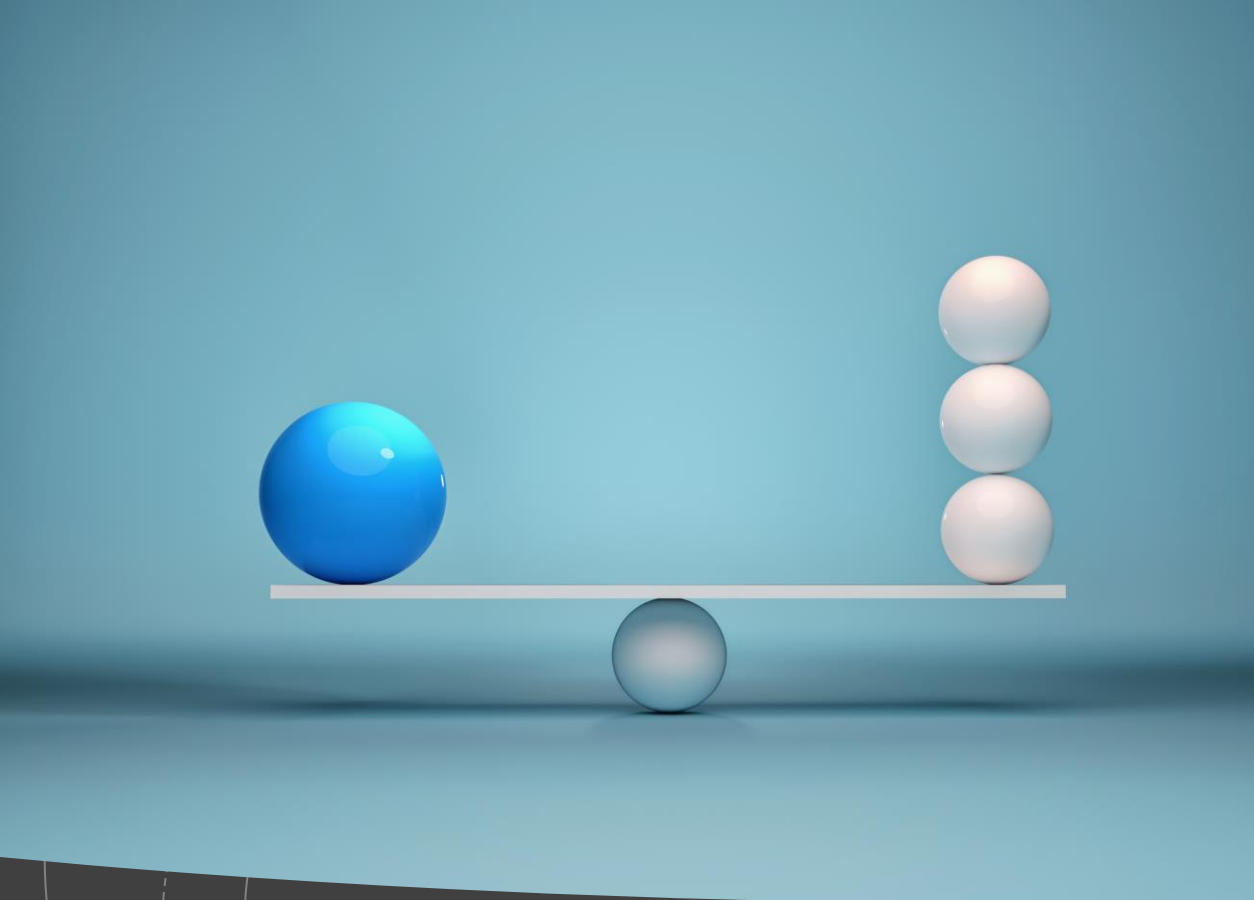
- Dennie Declercq
- DDSoft
- President / Developer
- @DennieDeclercq
- #DreamingIsBelieving



A medium shot of Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, speaking directly to the camera. He is bald, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a dark grey button-down shirt. He is positioned in front of a dark wood bookshelf. On the shelves behind him are various items: a framed photo of a family, a soccer ball, a potted plant in a white and grey pot, a book titled 'LAND O LAKES', and another framed photo. The lighting is soft and focused on him.

I Hope...

This is the last time VIRTUAL



Themes

- Balance
- Asking the right questions to ourself



The image features a central white circle on a black background. The word "Autism" is written in a white, sans-serif font in the center of this circle. A thick, light green line follows the outer edge of the circle. Surrounding the central circle are several abstract elements: two white wavy lines to the upper left, a small solid orange circle to the lower left, a small double-lined orange circle to the upper right, and a grid of small white dots to the lower right.

Autism

Theory of Mind



Understanding the WHY



Co-relation Cause and Effect



Seeing logical steps

Executive Functioning

- Everything that you need in daily living or in a working environment
- Examples:
 - Planning a timeslot
 - Planning what to wear at this conference
 - Planning which sessions you want to see

Central Coherence



Coherence of situations,
things, tasks, words



Seeing the global picture

Context Blindness



Understanding the context of something



'One incentive has one meaning'



Problems with 'use of the same words' for other meanings



Co-morbid

- Extra mental health conditions:
 - Extra stress
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - ADHD

An abstract graphic design on a black background. A large, thin white circle is centered, with a thick light green ring following its outer edge. The word "ADHD" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font in the center of the white circle. To the left of the circle, there are two horizontal wavy white lines. Below them is a small solid light orange circle. To the right of the circle, there is a small double-lined light orange circle in the top right corner and a rectangular grid of small white dots in the bottom right corner.

ADHD

What is ADHD?

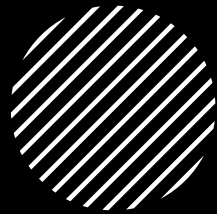
- Attention
 - Deficit
 - Hyperactivity
 - Disorder
-
- ADD:
 - Attention
 - Deficit
 - Disorder

Attention
Deficit =
Concentration
Difficulty

- Processing information
- Remembering information
- Making the right choices
- Getting de most of the conferences



Language: Disabilities vs Possibilities



- Where do you need help with?
- What/who can help you?
 - People
 - Tools
 - Both



The image features a central white circle with a thick light green border. Inside this circle, the text "Virtual Conferences" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Surrounding the central circle are several abstract elements: two white wavy lines to the upper left, a small orange circle with a white outline to the lower left, a small orange circle with a white outline to the upper right, and a grid of small white dots to the lower right.

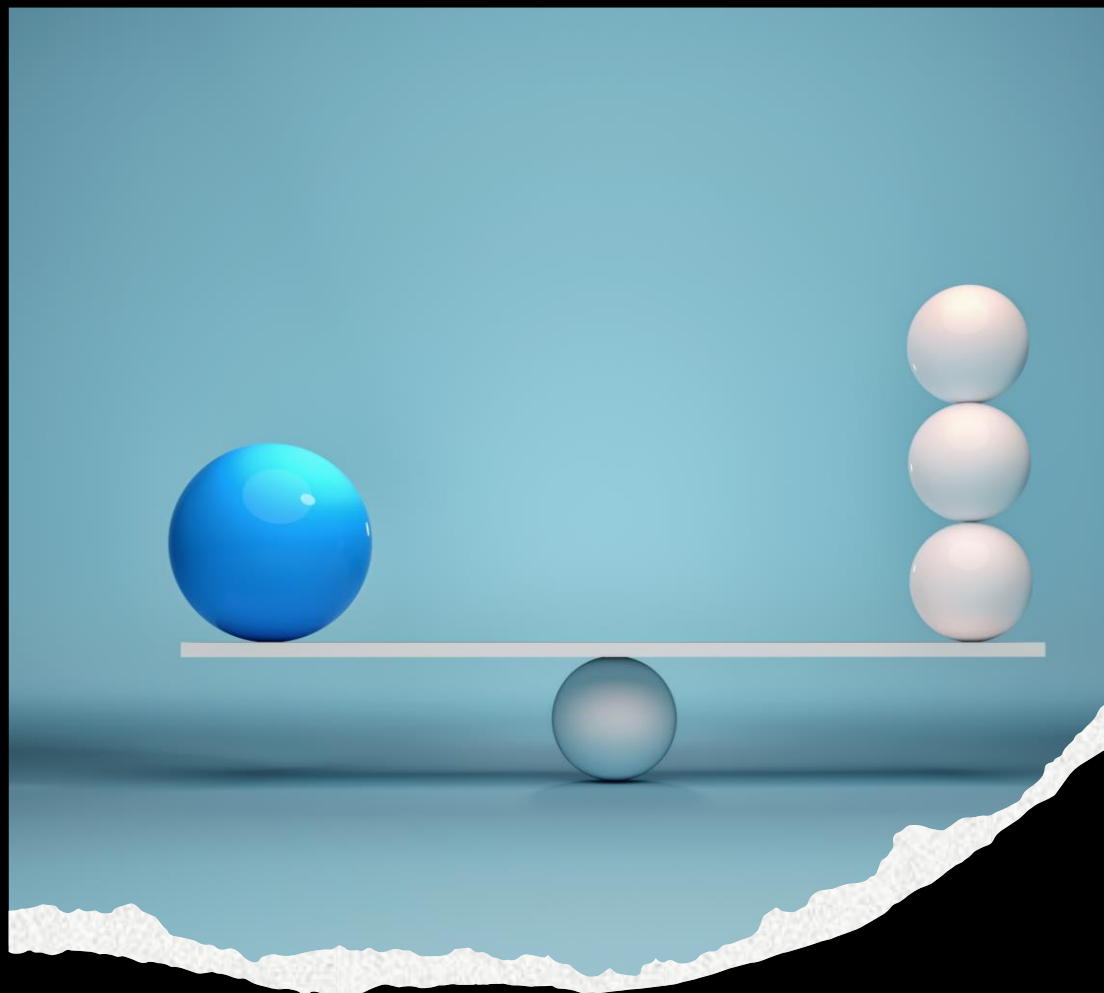
Virtual Conferences

Virtual Conferences Fatigue

- A word anno 2020
- Possibilities weren't possible before
- Been to virtual conference as escape
- Missing conversations
- Only learning

By Category

- Big Flagships
 - Build, Ignite, ...
 - 78h in 3 time zones
 - Free
- Conference brands
 - Like Dev Sum, Techorama, NDC
 - +/- 2 Days in conference timezone
 - The same as your timezone?
 - Paid
- Community extravaganza
 - Non-stop technology specific across (all) time zones
- By technology
 - Multiple technologies
 - Specific subset



CoC & Inclusion

Better

- More folks able to join
- More affordable
- Indicate borders polite
- Try to engage yourself

Worse

- Less context
- More frustrations due to Covid19

As normal as
possible?



Like in person conferences



What about the amount/count?



What gives you energy?



What consumes your energy?



What can you do?

Days, Nights & Binge-watching

- Do you only attend in your timezone?
- Or suffering to much FOMO?
- Do you have paid or not?
- What about your employer
- -- As normal as possible –
 - Can you adapt to 1 timezone?
 - Can you take (paid) leave?

Learn. Connect. Code.

Explore what's next in tech and the future of hybrid work. Join us May 25–27, 2021 at Microsoft Build.

Register now

Sign in >



What's to come at Microsoft Build

Mixing conferences?

<DevSum>

[Agenda](#) [Speakers](#) [Pre-Conf Workshops](#) [Tickets](#) [Partners](#) [About](#)

<DevSum 2021>

DevSum 2021 is going digital! DevSum will take place on the 26th and 27th of May, with pre-conference workshops on the 25th of May.

[Buy your ticket here](#) →

Work, mails & family

Do you have customers or business expectation?

What about family?

In 'Normal conference travel':

Home living family

Special situations
(caring for someone)

Out Of Office mails

But if you are home? You don't do this?

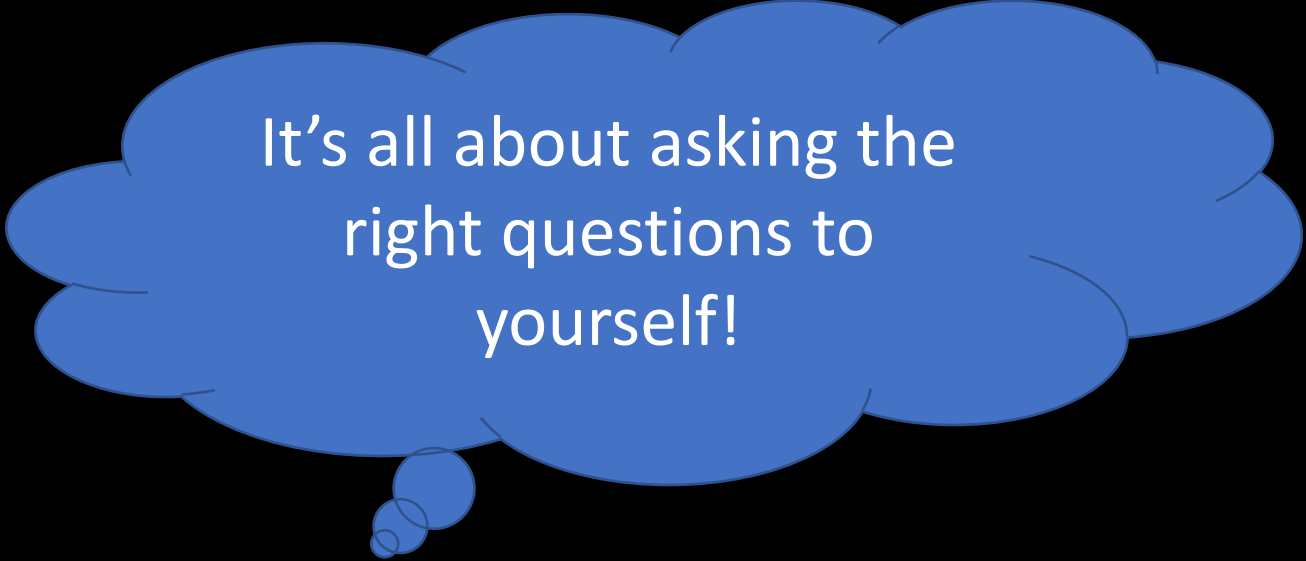


The AED Framework

It's all about asking the
right questions to
yourself!

AED: Attention – Energy – Doable

- The Balance
- Giving & Taking
 - What helps to keep Attention?
 - What gives/ takes Energy?
 - What is/ isn't doable?



It's all about asking the
right questions to
yourself!

Goals & Expectations

To consider

- Learning
 - Specific Technologies
 - Different/ Unique Insights
- Doing Business
 - Reaching customers
 - Conference visibility

AED

- A: What are the session Levels?
- E: Are you in the mood?
- D: Do you have (other) priorities

A: Can you have virtual meetings / only chat?

E: Gives the meeting possibilities enough energy?

D: Are there special opportunities?

Agenda's & Schedules

To consider

- Are there recordings?
- Can you 'meet' the speaker?
- Are there clashes?
 - Are they covered by other conferences?

AED

- A: Is it a difficult session?
- E: Is there a FUN factor?
- D: Is it doable with your day routine?

Session Types

To consider

- 'Your' Tech
- Questions to Real Life problems
- Hot & Brand new
- Personal improvement

AED

- A: Can switching types help?
- E: Gives new insights energy?
- D: Is it better doable to concentrate on 1 topic?

Learning

To consider

- Do you take notes?
- Do you make mind maps?
- Do you hack the code the same time?

AED

- A: Does everything need the same amount of attention?
- E: Can context switching help you with energy?
- D: Is it better doable to take a longer break and skip sessions?

Communication & Networking

To Consider

- Do you know people at the conference?
- Do you have products/ services you are willing to sell?
- Are you actively looking to increase your network?

AED

A: Can switching meetings with attending sessions help?

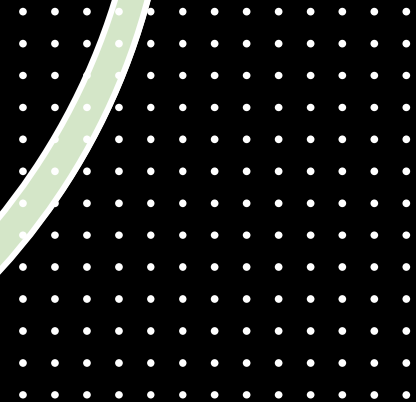
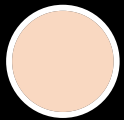
E: Does virtual meetings with active discussions give or consume energy?

D: How many 'cam on' meetings are doable?



The Vision for the Future: Hybrid events


Extra





When will 'the future' happen?

- Will it be this Fall?
- Will there be a new reality?
- Can there be a diff between conference brands?
- Can there be a diff between companies joining to in person conferences again?



Can we take
best of both
worlds?

- I definitely believe we can!
- This will be a responsibility of:
 - The conference organizers
 - The attendees
 - The companies
 - The speakers
- I believe the big flagships will always give all content virtual/ hybrid too starting from now

2 conferences
at the same
time...

- An in person conference and a virtual one
- 2 Hybrid ones?
- A local company one at the same time of a Flagship?



Will we be afraid of each other?

- Or will we all go wild and let ourselves go?
- We need to be mindful for people with different feeling/ opinions?
- How can we close the gap between people with feelings/ opinions?



Tips to engage between the virtual and the in person ones

- I believe technology based on Microsoft Kinect will help
- There are opportunities for volunteers to be the host for both
- Big screens can help showing the virtual audience to the in person audience

Can virtual-join
hybrid events
help inclusion?

- Maybe we can give free solar ships to diversity groups.
- But we need to be aware that they feel included and not excluded.
- This will also be a responsibility for everyone.



Closing

The image features a large, thin white circle centered on a black background. A thick, light green arc is positioned along the right side of this circle. To the left of the circle, there are two horizontal wavy lines. Below the circle, on the left, is a small solid orange circle. On the right, there is a small orange circle with a white outline. In the bottom right corner, there is a rectangular grid of small white dots.



Q&A || Thanks!

- Dennie Declercq
- dennie@ddsoft.be
- @DennieDeclercq
- #DreamingIsBelieving