Name of Speaker: Kevin Young

Title of Lecture: Adobe: Five Keys to IT Success

Date of Lecture: 10/24/2013

Introduction

The speaker, Kevin Young, is an IT Security Engineer at Adobe. He previously worked as an IT Director for UVU and has also received his Bachelors of Science degree in Information technology from UVU. Before, working at Adobe, he was certified in many areas of IT including the CISSP certification. He has a passion for security with a main emphasis in the area that focuses on passphrase securities.

Summary

The lecture started out with a brief introduction of Kevin and his back ground. He started to introduce the main body of the lecture by talking about how he had been previously rejected by Adobe. He talked about his credentials and achievements, but then went on to note that he was not different than the majority of his industry colleagues. He then introduced his first key to success which was to “Differentiate”. He gave advice that to do this, there needs to be a passionate about something. After that he was able to advance with the right opportunities because people wanted to know what he knew.

The second key to success for Kevin was to “learn from others”. He talked about what he considers to be a disruptive technology. He said that they were technologies that would change the industry. It does not mean the technology is bad, it simply means that it will change the way current things are done. He said to watch customer trends and see what other major corporations are doing that is different from main stream options. He also spoke about his meetings with others, and learning what you can

The third key for success was to “have confidence” in what you are doing. He said that it is important not to be afraid to make mistakes. However, when mistakes are made that we must learn from them, and be able to refine and update our skills. He gave the quote to speak with authority not arrogance. This will help you be trusted for you expertise and experience, which makes someone valuable.

The fourth key was to keep a proper “perspective”. Each person has different objectives to accomplish, it is important to remember that the demands placed on other people will lead to different outcomes. It is important to remember others have different insights, and that we can continue to learn from one another and those differing viewpoints.

The final key was to “build relationships”. He said that we deal with the people we trust, and trust does not come only by acquiring knowledge. He spoke about how to act in meetings. He made it a point to talk about driving one of the VP’s Tesla cars, and how that relationship was built. He talked about informal lunch meetings and the importance of those.

Reflection

Overall this was a good presentation. Kevin gave a lot of information in a short amount of time. One of the parts that I liked the most was the discussion about speaking with authority not arrogance. He said that this was a soft skill, or a skill that had to be developed by practice, not necessarily something that can just be taught. I appreciated this reflection because often times, we may not be the smartest people in the room, however we can still be influential or influenced because of creditably gained by the way we speak.

I also enjoyed his story about approaching the one of the vice presidents of the company with a security issue. It can be intimidating to approach management with a negative issue, and I liked how he showed that it could be turned into a positive experience. He talked about how by the time he and his colleague left; the vice president was encouraging them to make sure the pressed hard on the accelerator as they tested out his expensive vehicle.

Also, the first point of being different is very relevant to what we are doing here at UVU. There are a lot of majors and a lot of people who take the same courses; however, we have to find a way to stand out. I liked the advice that he gave about finding something that we are passionate about to continue to study and research. With the breadth of courses that we have to take, and the variations of technology in each one, it shouldn’t be too difficult to find a topic and be able to grow and develop an expertise around that concept or idea.

I will take away from this lecture the knowledge that there is a lot more to a technology career than just focusing and being good at one thing. While that is extremely important, keeping in mind other people’s perspectives and building relationships can be equally as important. That large companies like Adobe are looking for all of those things.

Conclusion

In conclusion the speaker was very insightful, and gave a great presentation that was applicable to me, and many others.