

Mistakes I made while navigating a career change into Data Science



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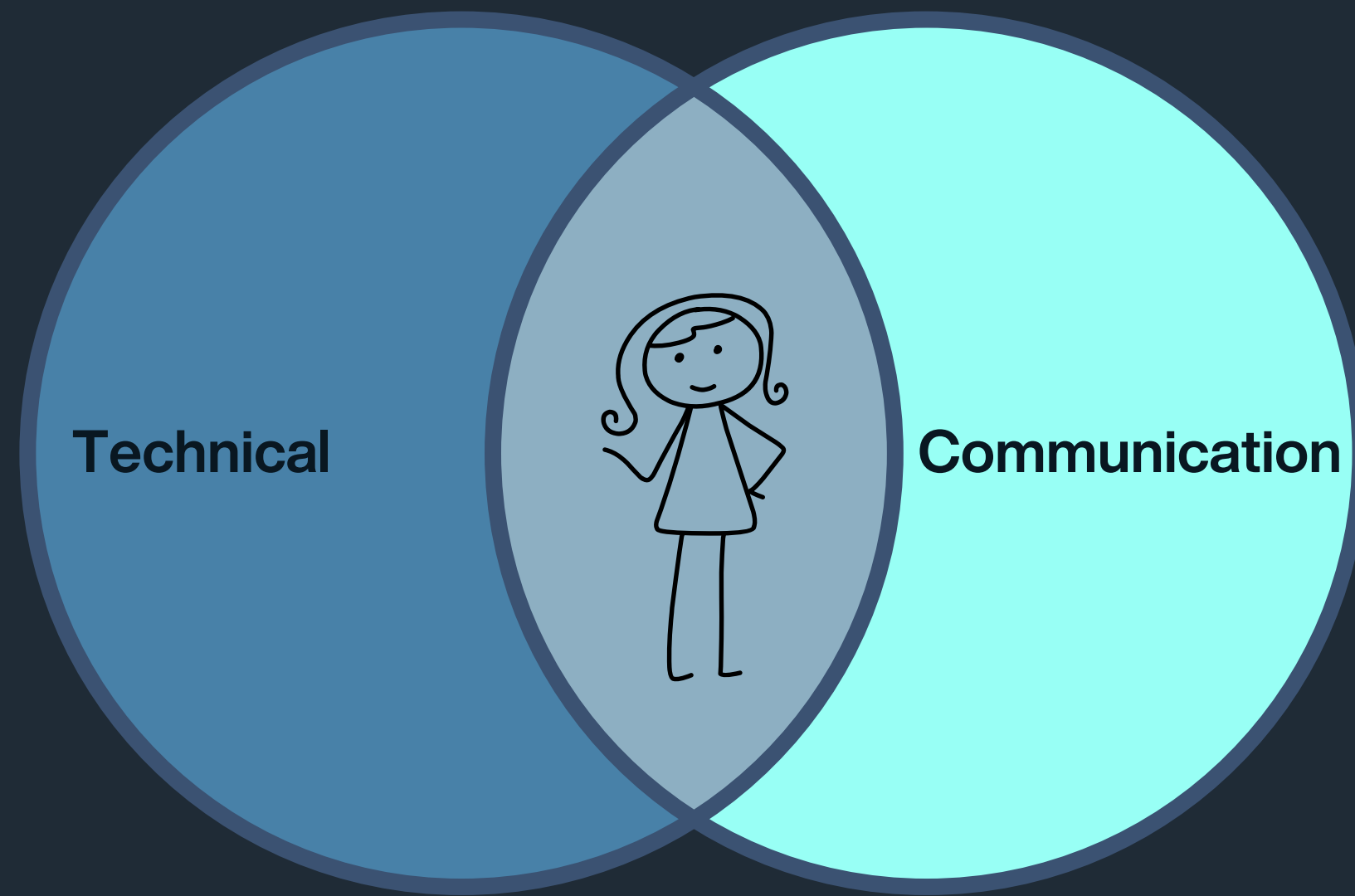
AND WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM THEM



About Me

Surya Ramesh

Data Consultant



but that's not all!



Conference Speaker



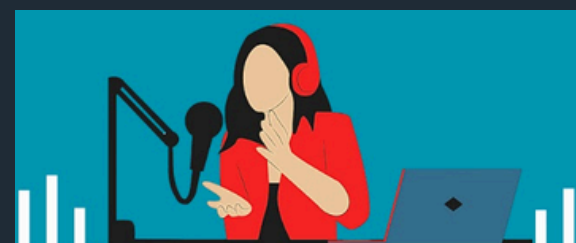
Co-organiser



Data Advisory Group
member



Alumni List of 20



Youtube/Spotify



At the end of this session

01.

Understand common pitfalls in transitioning to a data science career

02.

Learn practical tips for overcoming these challenges

All while having a laugh!

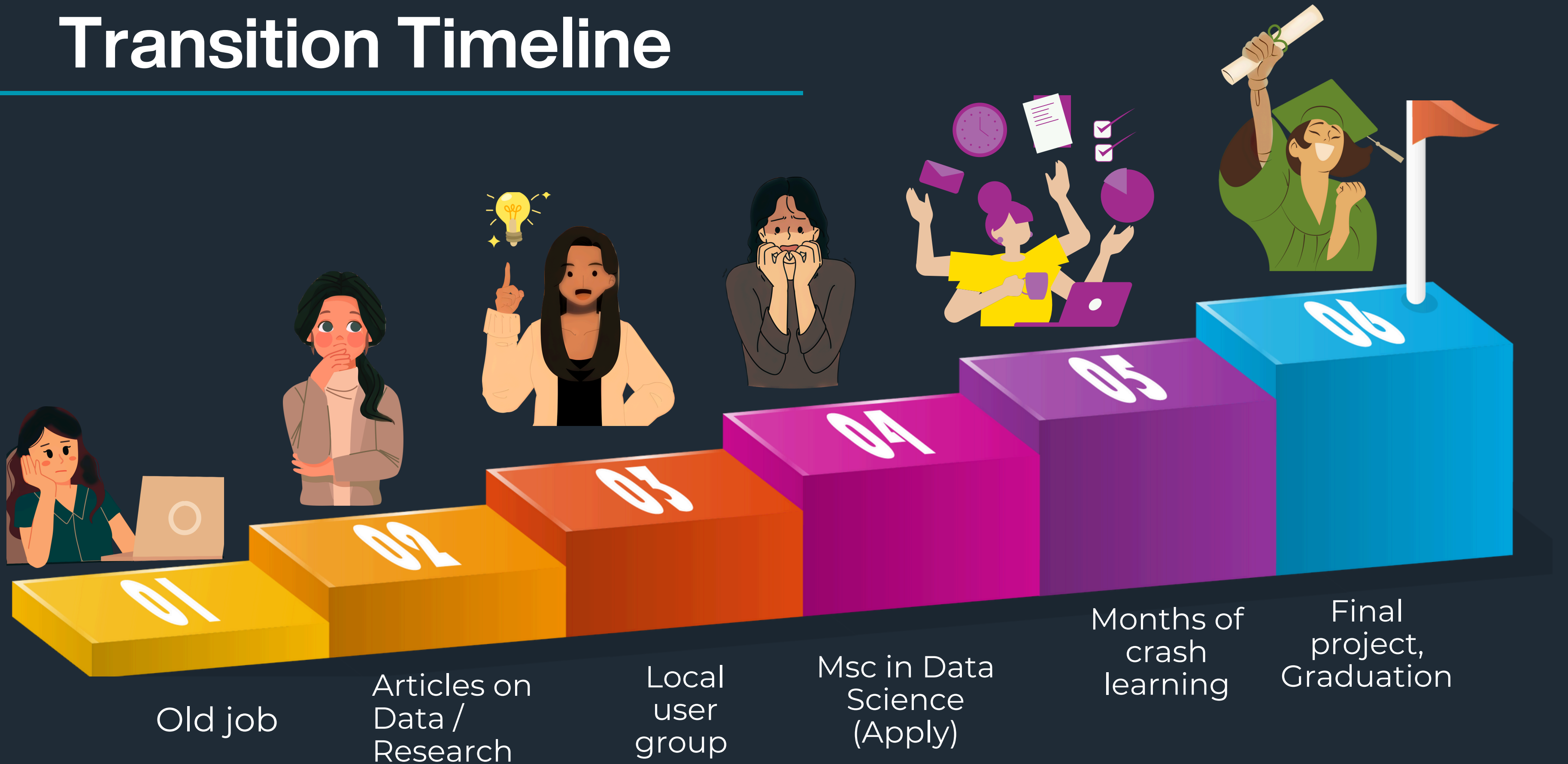
Why transition careers?

Mini-me says:

"I realised I could create more havoc with data errors,
than just shocking students with electronics."



Transition Timeline



The Takeaways

Mistake 1

Underestimating my own abilities after a decade in one role

Takeaway

- Take time to understand your own strength and weaknesses
- Research roles in Data to see which ones your personality aligns with.

Mini-me says

"Turns out, data science has more curves
than electronics waveforms"



Mistake 2

Overloading on Online Courses

Takeaway

- Focus on Quality not Quantity
- Start creating portfolio projects, as application on the info is key.

Mini-me says

"I was like a data hoarder
collecting courses but not using it much"



Mistake 3

My final project choice

Takeaway

- Pick final project based on your aspirations
- If you can't, create a strong portfolio of projects on what you want to work on, and bring link it to CV/ LinkedIn profile



Mistake 4

Joining a company with a proprietary language

Takeaway

- Consider the long-term growth opportunities when choosing technologies

Mini-me says

"It felt like learning a secret code - great for spies,
not so much for general work"



Mistake 5

Overcommitting to the first job

Takeaway

- Continue networking and developing connections beyond your current role

Mini-me says

"I was so focused on my job, my network started to resemble a local area network (LAN) - limited and closed off"



Mistake 6

Juggling It All - Life goes on!

Takeaway

Time management and resilience are key

Mini-me says:

"It was like running a marathon barefoot with hurdles and random Lego pieces on the track"



What worked well

- Joined a local Python user group a year before. Helped with initial networking and appreciation of the subject.
- Leveraged communication skills, which helped with online engagement and class participation
- Applied teaching experience to support peer learning and presentations
- Leveraged all the opportunities presented by Data Lab.

Tips for Aspiring / Current DS

- Embrace lifelong learning
- Build a strong portfolio
- Develop soft skills
- Network actively and broadly
- Ask for recommendations, books, courses.
- Remind yourself that there is no thing as perfection.

Remember

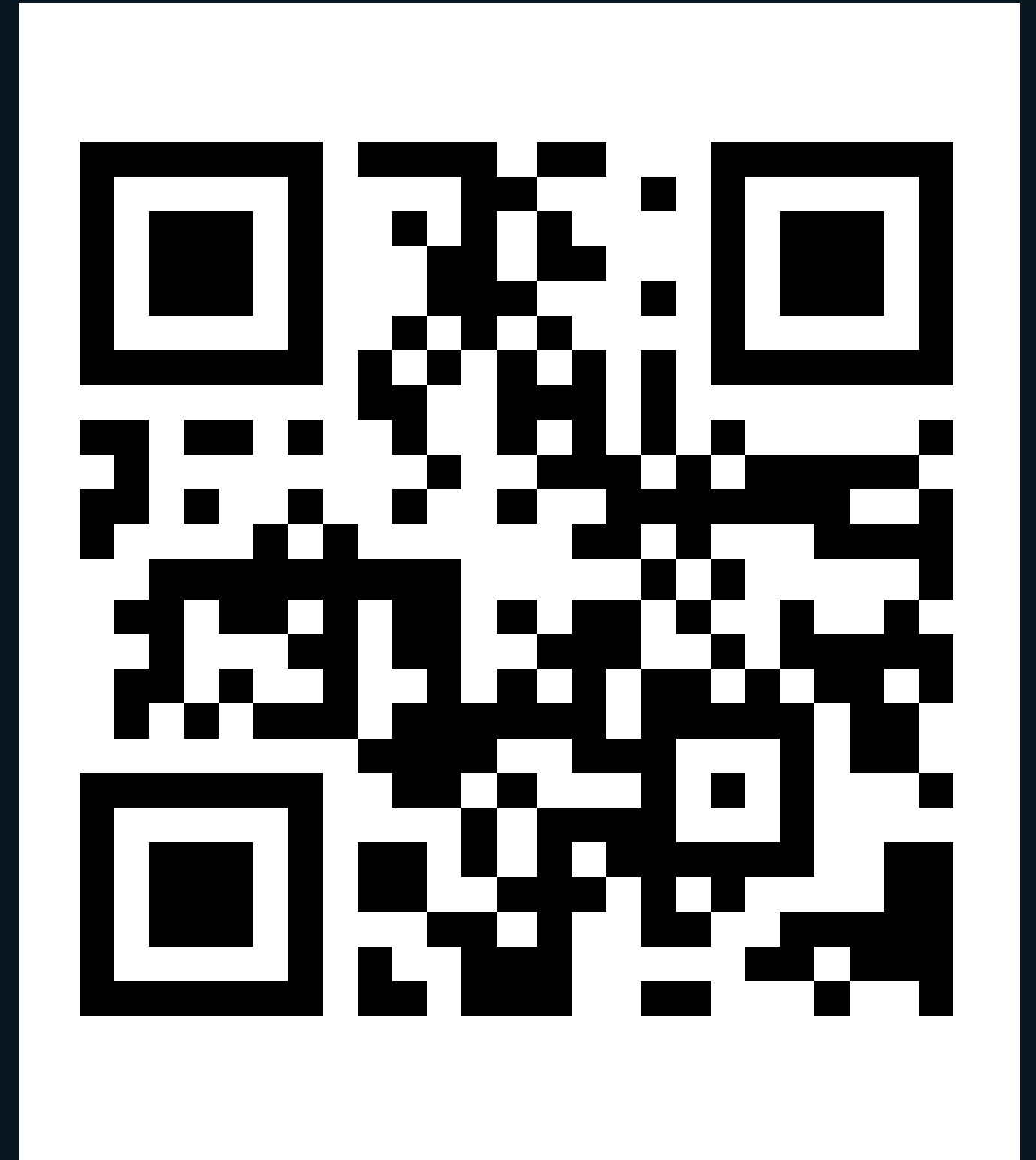
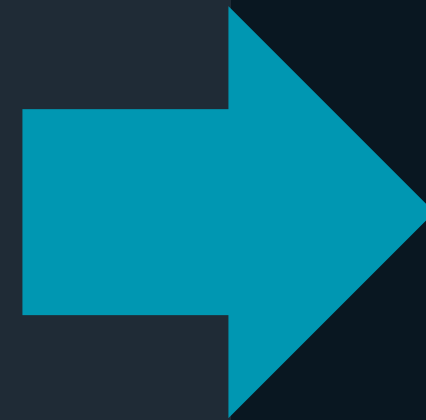
"Even data scientists need a break from data - go outside, touch grass"



Thank you!

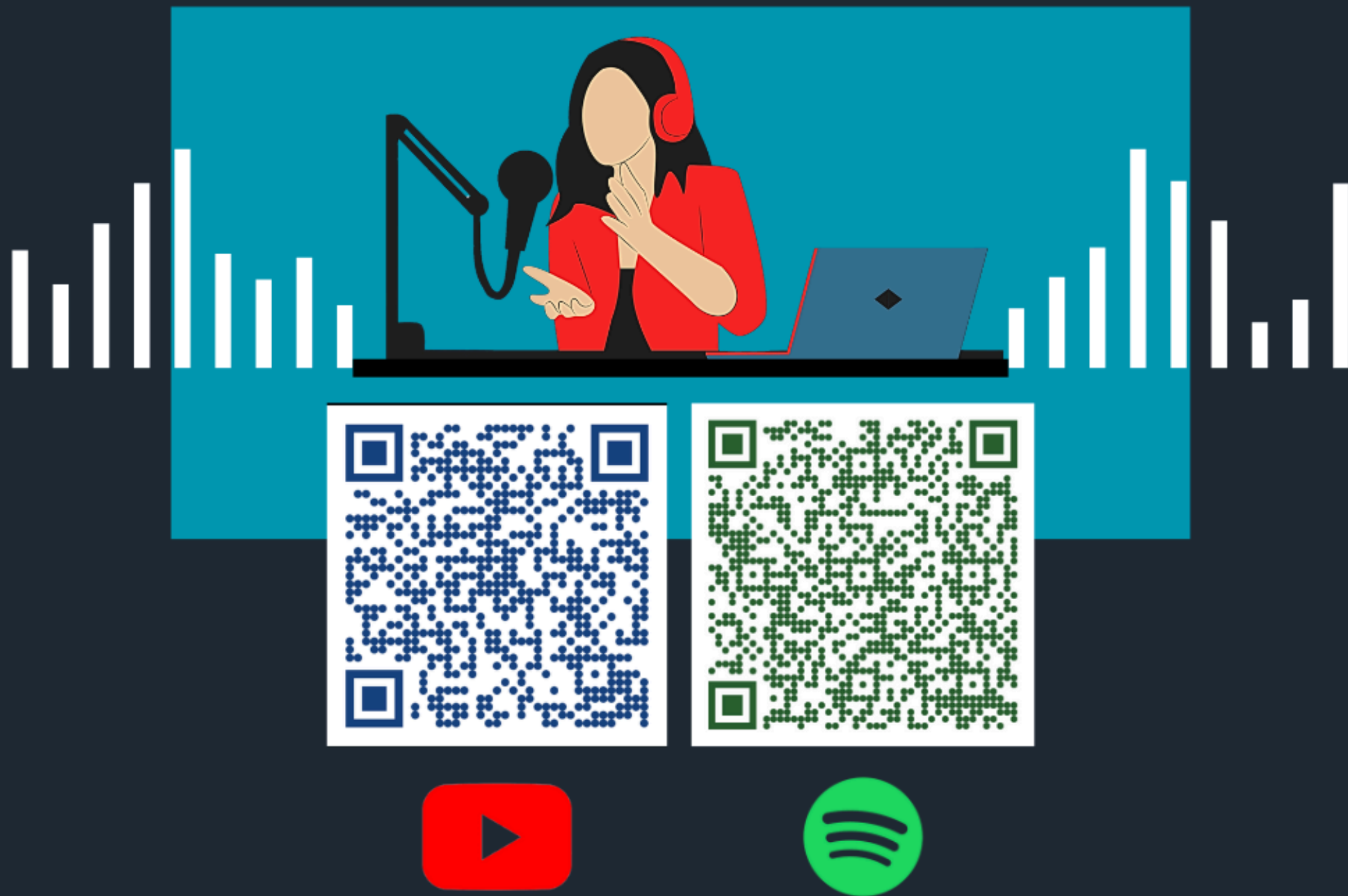
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Data & AI Conversations with *Surya*



Share your experience
