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Splunk User Groups: More than Pints and Pizza

Tony Reinke, Nebraska User Group
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Agenda

1. The Wonder of User Groups - We will be exploring the value of user groups, being a great citizen, how everyone wins, how we can join forces and what is next for user groups
2. User Group Creation and Management - We will be showing exactly what is involved in creating and operating successful User Groups. Everything you could imagine from emails to venues to YouTube to Agendas Section
3. Q&A



Why Community Matters

- Communities Build Shared Memory *
- Communities Build Trust *
- Shared Memory and Trust Lead to Helpful Community Members *

- Communities **care**
- Communities **nurture**
- Communities have **identity**
- Communities have **culture**
- Communities have **values**
- Communities **grow** together
- Communities **inspire**



* Wendell Berry "What are people for?"



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The Wonder of User Groups

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Aleem Cummins
London User Group
Data Analytics CTO, Computacenter



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London Story

Founded:	November 2013 following .conf
Meets:	Every month face to face
Membership:	300+
Organizations:	120+
Average attendance:	40+
Meeting organized:	20+
Special Guests:	15+



Positive Intentions

- Establish a genuine community
- Create and maintain a safe environment
- Zero cost for members
- Foster Social Justice in the digital world
- Raise bar for IT
- Surface value and credibility
- Defining and modelling Success & Best Practice
- Personal & Professional Development
- Public Speaking
- Collaboration & Discussion
- Splunk Roadmap Insight
- Therapy
- Entertain, Empower and Inspire



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 User Group London

Familiar Special Guests



Helping Culture and Ethos

- Chatham House rules apply
- No selling
- No hiring
- Everyone is welcome
- No pressure to attend or speak
- Progressive
- Collegiate
- All voices are equal
- Community front and center
- Learn together



Lessons of World Community

- Share materials with other groups
- Share success stories
- Collaborate
- Speak at different groups
- Share effort
- Share guests
- Beta Programmes
- Vacations
- Fresh thinking
- Identity





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User Group Creation and Management

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Tony Reinke

Nebraska User Group
Lead Systems Engineer - National
Research Corporation



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Happy Birthday Hannah

Miss you - Love You



Why Community Matters

OSSEC and Splunk

July 27th, 2009 | Author: Tony Reinke

I have been playing with OSSEC and Splunk. OSSEC is a Host based Intrusion Detection System (HIDS). Splunk is a log archiving and searching system. OSSEC is open source and is multiple platform. You can run it on Linux/Unix and Windows. I am using OSSEC to forward Windows Event Logs to Splunk. Splunk makes the searching and correlation. Splunk can do WMI. This would be great since no agent would need to be installed. The problem is that if you have more than 30-50 systems, the amount time and traffic would cause issues. Using the OSSEC agent, I am able to push the event logs to the OSSEC server. From there the OSSEC server will upload to the Splunk server via Syslog.

Right now I have the servers all talking but I do need to adjust a few things. Right now Splunk sees all the hosts as the OSSEC server. I believe I just need to tweak the fields. The question is how.

Splunk
<http://www.splunk.com>

OSSEC
<http://www.ossec.net>



Michael Wilde says:
July 29, 2009 at 1:24 pm



Anthony. Next to each event, right below the timestamp is an “Extract Fields” link. Its a nice little wizard that helps you pick out things you’d like to be fields and it writes the REGEX for you. You give it samples, it builds the field extraction.

Check it out. I’m a regex ninja and i don’t need most of my skills anymore.

Michael Wilde
Splunk Ninja
twitter: @michaelwilde

[Reply](#)

Meeting Tools – Knowing Your Audience

- Go to other user groups
- Get outside your core group
- Talk to your Splunk Account Manager
- Talk to Splunk Partners

Meeting Tools – Knowing Your Audience

Do your homework!

- Technical Group or Business Group?
- How often will you meet?
- What time works?
- What day of the week?

Meeting Tools – Knowing Your Audience

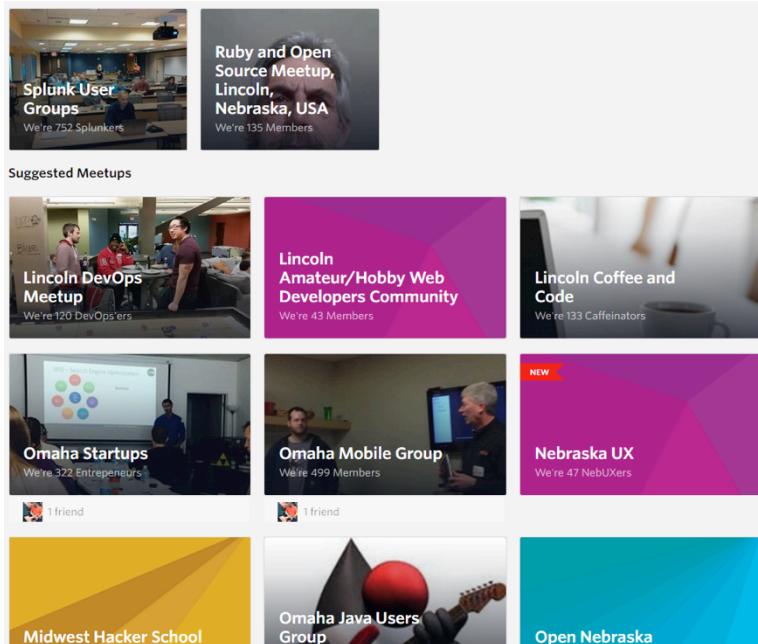
The calendar displays various local tech meetups and conferences throughout the month. Key events include:

- August 1:** 11am Open Nebraska
- August 2:** 5:30pm Interface W, 6pm Open Nebraska
- August 3:** 8am Omaha Coffee
- August 4:** 6:30pm Omaha Linu, 7pm OMG Regular
- August 5:** 9am 1 Million Cups
- August 6:** 6:30pm Nebraska User Group, 7pm Omaha Mobile
- August 7:** NEJS CONF
- August 8:** 10am Omaha Coding
- August 9:** 6pm TEDxOmaha Series
- August 10:** 9am 1 Million Cups
- August 11:** 5:30pm Interface W, 7pm OMG Off-Week
- August 12:** 6pm Omaha Ruby a
- August 13:** 9am 1 Million Cups
- August 14:** 8am SQL Saturday
- August 15:** 7pm Nebraska Gam
- August 16:** 6pm Omaha Java U
- August 17:** 7pm OMG Regular
- August 18:** 9am 1 Million Cups
- August 19:** Nebraska Cert, 5pm Beer & Code, 6pm Omaha Python, 7pm Omaha Bitcoin
- August 20:** 6:30pm WP Omaha, 7pm Meteor Omaha
- August 21:** 6pm Omaha Code S
- August 22:** 7pm Meteor Omaha
- August 23:** 7pm Omaha Coding
- August 24:** 9am 1 Million Cups
- August 25:** 10am .NET User Gr, 7pm OMG Off-Week
- August 26:** 9am 1 Million Cups
- August 27:** Barcamp Omaha
- August 28:** 10am .NET User Gr
- August 29:** 7pm Meteor Omaha
- August 30:** 6:30pm Omaha Linu
- August 31:** 7pm OMG Regular
- September 1:** 4:30pm Agile for Dev, 6pm Omaha Mobile

Events shown in time zone: Central Time

<http://techomaha.com> | @techomaha

Meeting Tools – Knowing Your Audience



<http://www.meetup.com/>

<http://www.meetup.com/Splunk-Meetups/>

Meeting Tools – Get The Ball Rolling

Rachel Perkins

Sr. Director, Community
aka PieBob
aka Your New Best Friend



Planning Your Meeting

- Meeting Day of the Week
- Meeting Time
- How Often to Meet
- Food
- Drinks
- Speakers
- Topics
- Vendors / Sponsors ?



Vendor / Sponsor Talks

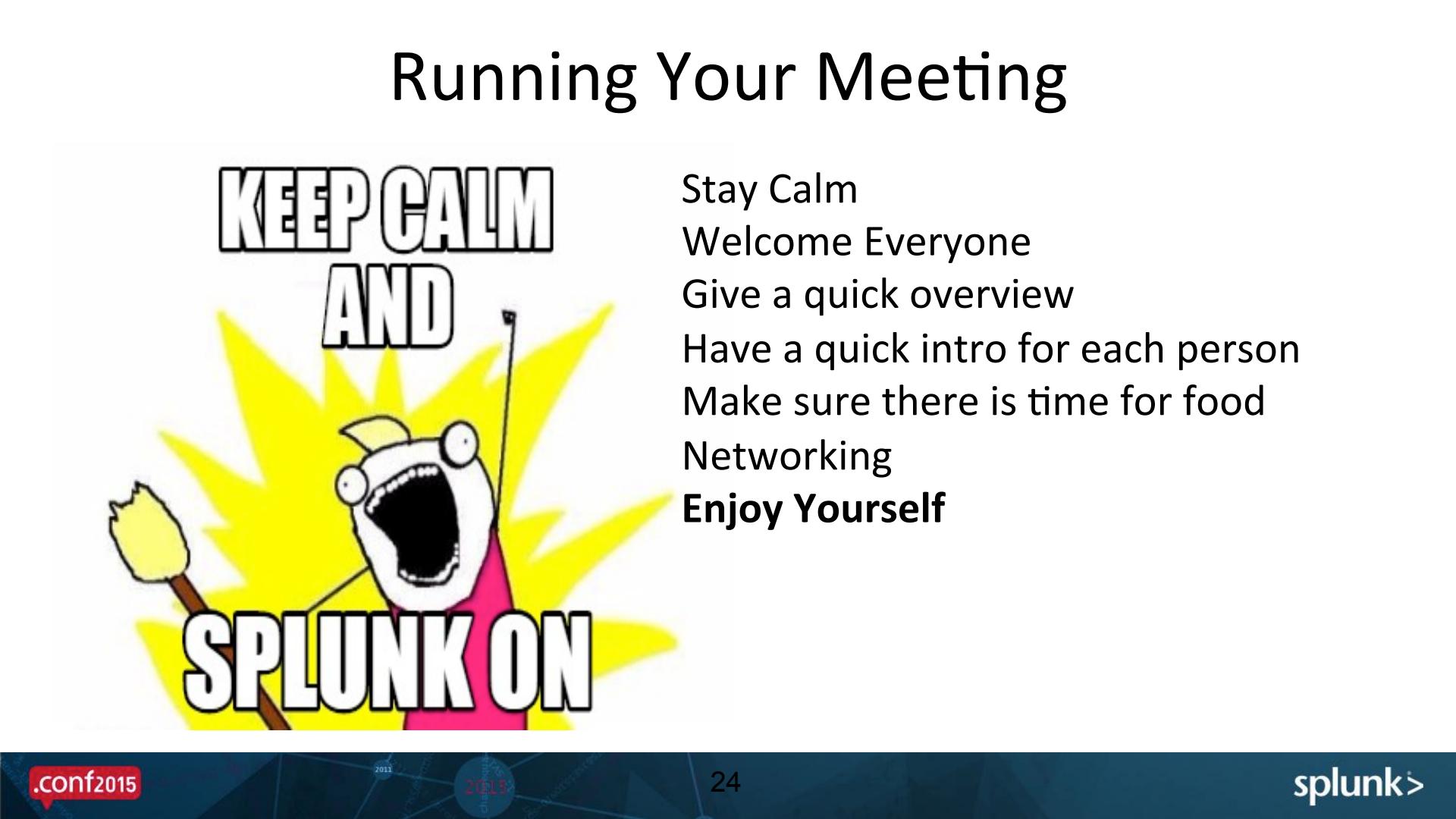
A background image showing silhouettes of many people in a conference or networking environment, with a world map graphic overlaid.

85% technical
10% sales
7% electricity
5% evaporation
3% butterscotch ripple

Getting the Word Out

- Social Media
- Your Splunk Account Manager
- Splunk Partners
- Friends
- Family
- Random person walking their dog

Running Your Meeting

A cartoon illustration of a white dog with a pink collar, shouting with its mouth wide open. It is surrounded by yellow sunburst-like rays. Above the dog, the text "KEEP CALM AND" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the dog, the word "SPLUNK ON" is written in large, bold, black letters.

**KEEP CALM
AND**

- Stay Calm
- Welcome Everyone
- Give a quick overview
- Have a quick intro for each person
- Make sure there is time for food
- Networking
- Enjoy Yourself**

Sample Meeting Agenda

6:00pm – Start Meeting, Introductions and Welcomes

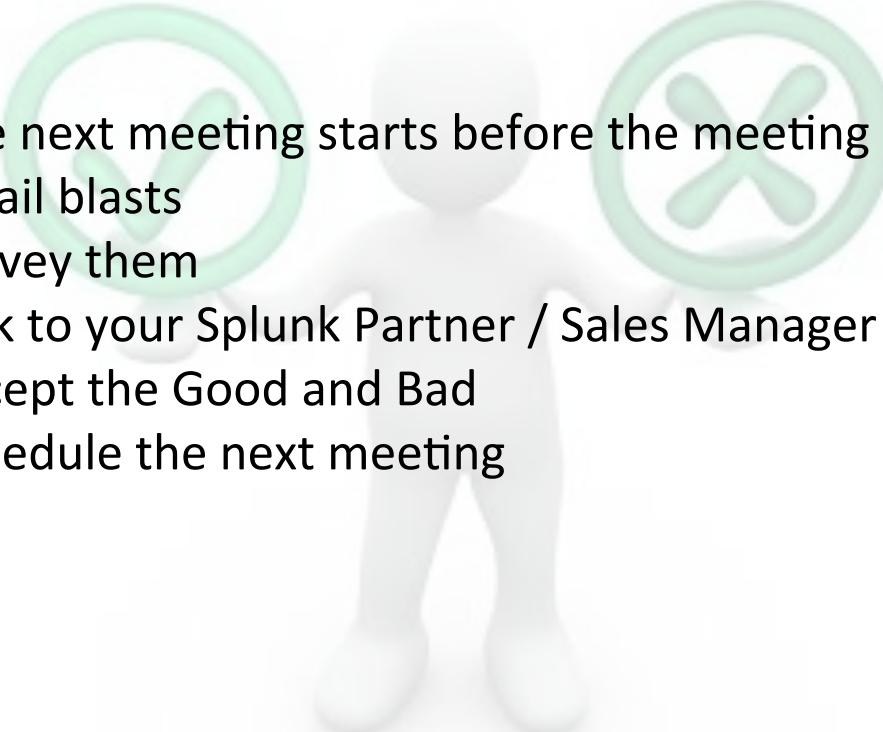
6:15pm – Customer Success Story

6:45pm – Technical Topic

7:30pm – Vendor / Guest Speaker

8:15pm – Networking

The Follow Up



The next meeting starts before the meeting ends
Email blasts
Survey them
Talk to your Splunk Partner / Sales Manager
Accept the Good and Bad
Schedule the next meeting

The Main Take Aways

Follow Your Passion

Have Fun

Don't Go Alone



The Splunk402 Community





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Q&A

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