Putting real-time into practice

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Future of Web Apps Boston, 2015
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Introductions

- Who this?
  - Saul Diez-Guerra
  - saul@thinkful.com // @definitely
  - EE / CS background
  - CTO @ Thinkful

Introductions (II)

- Who that?
  - www.thinkful.com
  - Thinkful is a mentor-led, project-driven, self-paced online tech school that gets (aspiring) software professionals job-ready

Motives

- Take action after the conference, and in general
- The future in tech will come as fast as we include it in our day to day
  - Need for education
    - Need to learn how to learn
    - Them
- Job gap

Flight plan

- Basics of learning for busy people
- ~~Laugh at my JS skills~~ Exemplary struggle
  - Free socket.io primer

Basics of learning for busy people

How you (probably) won't learn

- By reading HackerNews
- By (just) attending conferences

Exposition creates a false illusion of mastery

Learning by having someone explain stuff to you is the hardest way to learn: those of you who've sat through a blackboard and chalk "coma" can empathize.

...and sure, Dale's cone and the %s are inaccurate

- They depend on the subject matter and there's no proof the numbers weren't made up
- But it's still empirically and directionally right
  - We learn by doing

Say Malcolm Gladwell one more goddamn time...

- Directionally right, Lisa needs braces.
- Deliberate practice, focus on weak areas.

Chunking

- Chunking: Practice in blocks, and interleave practice.
  - Chunks as wine
  - Don't mix CSS and PI
- Classify and prioritize, create a learning path with enough backing material

Humans!

- Trust helps humans learn and internalize ideas
- As does having an extra pair of eyes for feedback and another pov for explanations

Don't procrastinate

- Process oriented vs project oriented
- Product, Process, Progress, Accept feedback, Interact freq, Reliability
- Make it a habit
  - And have aux habits that help
    - sleep, exercise, meditation

Growth mentality

- Grit, resolve, resiliency
- Reframe success and failure. Celebrate challenge
- Respond positively to confusion
  - Don't fight the mountain
- You learn best by trying to make sense of something, even if you struggle with it

So you think you can JS?

Learn by doing... and how!

- Learn by doing, avoid just exposition
  - Swishing node
  - Learning about WebSockets and socket.io

Here's the pain

- Design questions
  - How to use WS? Double tracking of timer?
  - Polling? Pushing? What interval?
  - Humans!

https://projects.thinkful.com/firebase-push-the-button-72/

Here's the pain (II)

- Trains with no Internet help celebrate challenge
  - Use the force, growth mindset
  - TH?
  - The 30 min Battle of Centering
- clearInterval
- io.emit vs socket.emit vs socket.broadcast.emit

Show. Me. The. JS!

Recap

- Don't read: Do.
- Process vs Project
- Growth mindset
- Humans
- Do it for them

Thanks!