

Mastering the Mic: Confidence in Workplace Communication

With Hannah Seligson, Sr Developer Advocate
in Developer Relations



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Prior .NET/C# backend developer in the insurance industry.



Agenda

- Introduce use case
- Common challenges of public speaking
- Why public speaking is important for tech professionals
- Tips and advice to improve public speaking skills
- Public speaking challenge



Meet Alex!



A senior software engineer named Alex was tasked by their tech lead to present a demo of a new feature they had a significant role in architecting, building, and leading to the entire Engineering org.

Alex, despite being highly skilled and experienced in their field, was terrified by the prospect of public speaking, especially in front of their peers and superiors. Alex had always been more comfortable behind a computer screen, solving complex problems and creating innovative solutions.

The thought of standing in front of a crowd, even a virtual one, and articulating their thoughts and ideas was daunting. They feared judgment, criticism, or simply not being able to convey the technical complexities of the project effectively

Common Challenges of Public Speaking



Common fears and misconceptions associated with public speaking...

FEARS

- Fear of judgement
- Fear of failure
- Fear of the unknown

What if I mess up during the demo?

I wish I was more confident or outgoing.

I've rehearsed many times, but I'm exhausted and even more nervous!

MISCONCEPTIONS

- Public speaking is an inherent skill
- Anxiety is a sign of incompetence
- More preparation leads to less anxiety





Despite these fears, Alex understood the importance of the task. They knew that effectively communicating their work was crucial for the other engineers to understand and increase the likelihood of the feature's overall success.

So, they began preparing for the presentation, practicing their speech, and seeking advice from colleagues who were more comfortable with public speaking.

Why is public speaking important for tech professionals?



Public speaking is an important skill because...

- It helps communicate complex ideas.
- It's essential for leading teams, influencing decision making processes and inspiring others.
- It helps facilitate better collaboration.
- It enables you to present your work effectively and gain recognition.
- It empowers you to teach or mentor others.
- It opens up opportunities for career advancement and growth.





The day of the presentation arrived, and despite their anxiety, Alex managed to deliver a comprehensive and engaging presentation. They faced their fear head-on, demonstrating not only their technical prowess but also their ability to overcome personal challenges for the betterment of the team and the project.

This experience, while terrifying, helped Alex grow both personally and professionally, and it served as a reminder that fear is often a stepping stone to growth.

Practical Tips & Advice to Improve Public Speaking Skills



Tips & Techniques

- Know your audience
- Use clear and simple language or analogies
- Use visual aids
- Encourage your audience to participate
- Tell a story
- Practice active listening
- Be your authentic self
- Provide context
- Repeat key points
- Use humor



Benefits of Public Speaking in Everyday Workplace Interactions



Speaking up has SO many benefits in the workplace

- It promotes open communication
- It encourages innovation
- It improves decision making
- It helps boost employee engagement
- It enhances problem solving
- It fosters a culture of respect for one another
- It supports personal growth



It's Your Turn to Grab the Mic!



I challenge you...

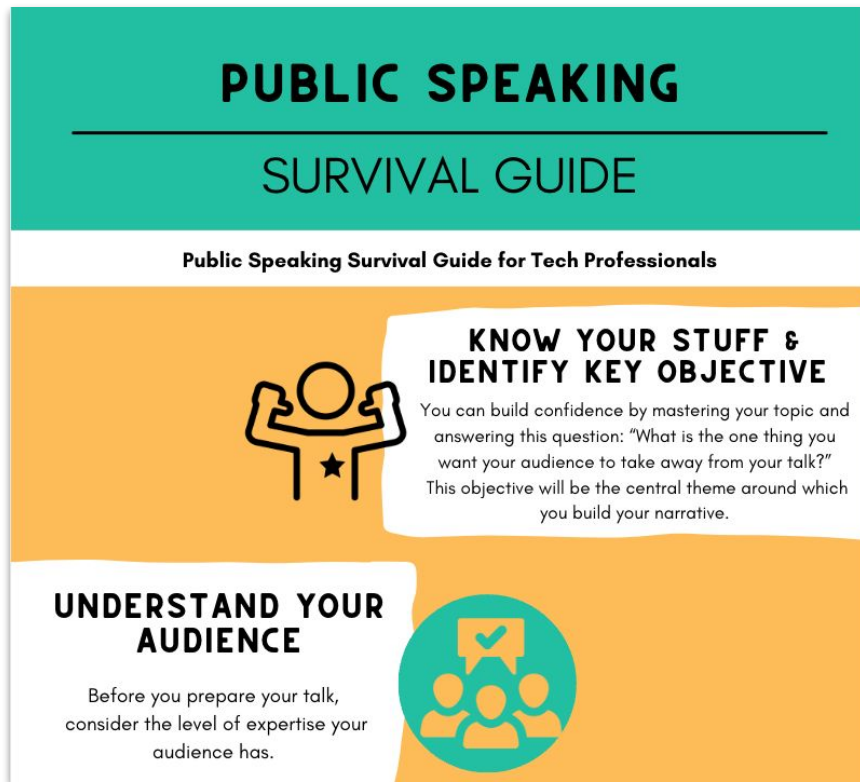
This month I challenge you all to practice your public speaking!

- Lead a meeting or contribute an idea within the meeting.
- Present or demo a project, idea, task, or whatever you'd like with your team or a colleague.
- Sign up and volunteer for an internal show n' tell or company-wide meeting.
- Sign up for an industry conference and submit a talk proposal.



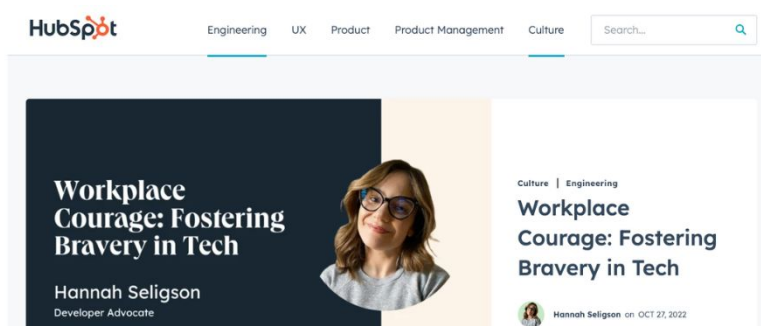
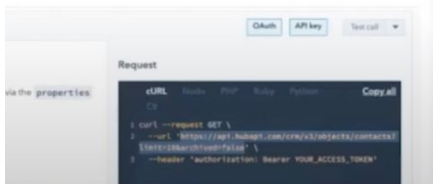
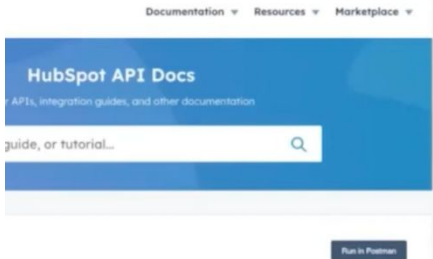
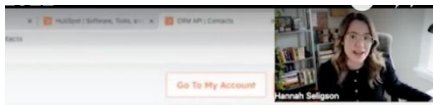
YOU GOT THIS!

I created a handy-dandy survival guide to leverage for your public speaking challenge!

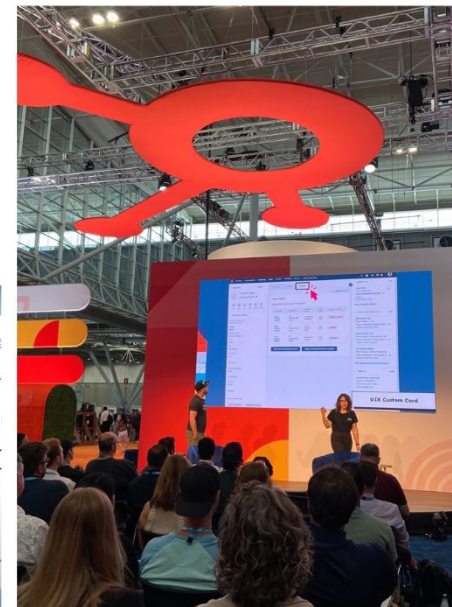
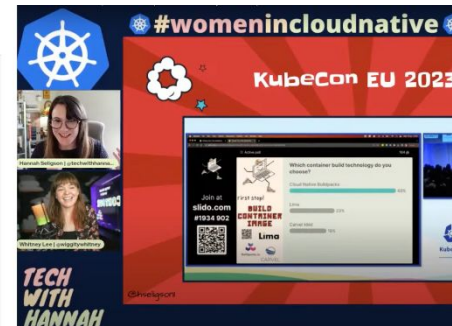
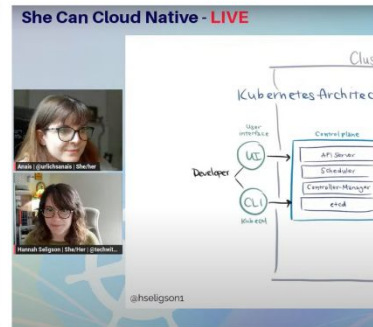
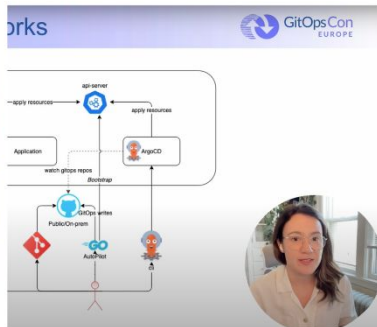


Final note:
It's okay if you mess up!





I was terrified each time!





GitOps Guide to the Galaxy | Episode 34

Autopilot with Codefresh



Nothin' like a failed live demo to keep us humble!



Last tip: always have a backup recording of a demo

If you plan to do a LIVE demo, make sure to have a recording of the demo as a backup in case anything goes wrong or unexpected!



Thank You!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns!

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