

So You Want to be a Podcaster

Distributed Work on a Budget

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Overview

Topics we'll cover today.

- Why should we optimize?
- How you can enjoy podcast-quality audio on a budget.
- Do your distractions spark joy?
- Taking responsible breaks.
- Paying the screen share tax *before* your meeting.
- Good old-fashioned demonstration.

Why do we optimize?

Good distraction, bad distraction.

<https://kachur.me/presentations.html>

Distractions

Bane of all existence or useful motivator?

Good distractions...

- Provide useful and timely knowledge.
- Prompt worthwhile action.
- Build situational awareness.

Distractions

Bane of all existence or useful motivator?

Bad distractions...

- Steal your focus.
- Drain your energy.
- Disrupt your self-awareness.

Optimizing

We optimize to...

- Limit bad distractions.
- Promote good distractions.

Optimizing

Audience Participation Time!

For example, can you all send me a message in chat saying how this talk is going? (Private messages are fine.)

Notice anything?

I should hope not! My chat notifications are all off-screen from this window.

Optimizing

Developing the theme.

Chat notifications are a simple example, but consider how many there are for just email!

- Notifications on receipt
- Unread badges in your taskbar and on folders themselves
- The sheer amount of auto-generated emails, not to mention spam newsletters

Optimizing

Takeaways

Aggressively tend your notification garden.

If a notification doesn't spark joy and isn't actionable, then send it to distraction jail.

If you don't miss that notification after thirty days, why not just delete that email on arrival?

Video conferencing on a Budget

This is where the fun begins. (For me, at least.)

<https://kachur.me/presentations.html>

Video Conferencing

Motivations

High quality video conferencing is another means of limiting distraction.

Even if you're distracted by other notifications coming in, you won't be distracted by potato quality audio and video.

My Setup

What you see.

<https://kachur.me/presentations.html>



My Setup

What I see.

<https://kachur.me/presentations.html>

*Photo of Nicholas
Kachur's desk.*

Video Conferencing

Introducing a good setup

You basically need four things:

- Microphone
- Video Camera
- Capture Device (e.g. Laptop or Phone)
- Monitoring Device (e.g. Computer Speakers or Headphones)

Video Conferencing

Microphone Choices

- Fair: built-in to your capture device
- Better: built-in to your monitoring device, e.g. a headset
- Best: separate, purpose-built microphone

Video Conferencing

Microphone Digression: Wireless vs. Wired

Wireless has some distinct advantages to wired, but also disadvantages.

- Wireless headsets let you walk around the room at will.
- Wired headsets will not die on you during a meeting, like, ever.
- Wired headsets also *sound* better, because Bluetooth is just not that good at real-time audio yet.

The End

So long, and thanks for all the fish!

<https://kachur.me/presentations.html>

Attributions

Fonts

- Recursive Sans by ArrowType in both Casual & Linear Styles
 - Available at <https://www.recursive.design/>