

Building, Growing and Sustaining ML Communities

MLOSS Workshop
NeurIPS 2018

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Overview

About us

What we have built

Enabling the community

People want to get involved

How not to shoot yourself in the foot

In-person events

What we have learned



About us

Sam & Martin ...

- Red Dragon AI
 - NLP + KBs...
- Run courses
- Do some research
- Build products

TensorFlow & Deep Learning MeetUp

- Group of 3200+ members
- Meets monthly in Singapore
- Regular attendance : 200+



RED DRAGON AI

Who is this presentation for?

Anyone who uses Open Source Software

... think about “Giving Back”

OSS project contributors / leaders

Pointers for you to help others to help you



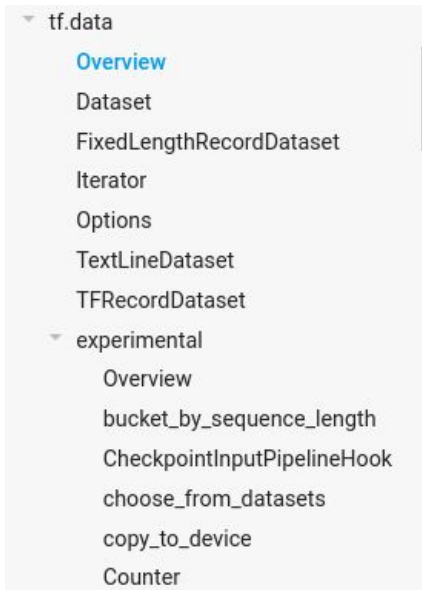
Creating champions



Don't Do This !

- Unbalanced documentation
- 5 ways to do everything
- Dead-end examples
- Being too “clever”
- Dehumanise the community

Confusing documentation



Problem :

Does not inspire confidence

Solution :

Make simple things simple

Explain the 'happy path'



Example of bad example

```
from datasets import IMDB
```

```
...
```

Problem :

This is a dead-end example

Solution :





Show how to actually manipulate text



Example of dehumanisation

See below for solution ...

Reward people for helping others - not closing tickets

	♥ Received ▼	♥ Given	Replies	Viewed	Read	Visits
 ptrblck	261	68	520	950	2.9k	30
 albanD	81	5	135	257	553	30
 smth PyTorch Dev, Facebook AI Research	67	2	16	40	174	26
 tom Thomas V	32	2	40	80	264	24

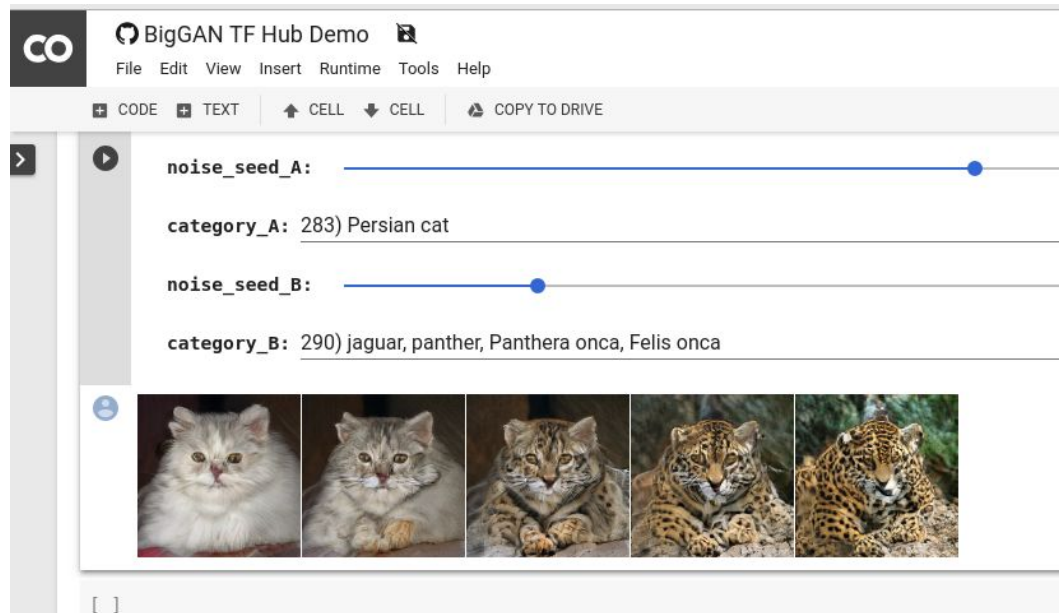




Do This !

- Make your project stand for something
- Cool working examples
- Help the community support you

Good Example



Why was that good?

Immediately accessible

Google Colab is awesome!

Awesome images

Cats FTW!

Positive impact

Halo effect of showing good content



Kickstarting your community

At the beginning


Get the word out

- Advertise to similar groups online
- Guest speaking at other events


Tie early events to framework milestones

- TensorFlow 1.0
- Launch of XLA

Events



[Start a new group](#) | [Explore](#) | [Messages](#) | [Notifications](#)



Change photo

TensorFlow and Deep Learning Singapore

Singapore, Singapore · 3,222 members · Public group


Organized by
Sam Witteveen and 1 other


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List

Calendar

[Manage group](#) 

[Create event](#) 

Making events work

Consistency

- Be predictable
- We aim for every month
- Show code

Entertainment Value & Topical

- Make it fun
- Demos
- What's in the media - BigGAN, Bert



Speakers

Seek out

- Previous NeurIPS posters
- Google Brain
- Industry examples
- Anyone with a pulse
- (We speak ourselves)

Lightning talks

- 10min , 10 slides
- Something cool and fun
- Doesn't need to be difficult
- Show code

Diversity



Diversity

Gender

- We generally get 15-25% female audience
- Encourage female speakers

Experience

- Cater to all levels
- Beginners , intermediate, cutting edge
- Be prepared to repeat beginners sessions as a new beginners come into the group





Diversity

Inclusive

- The more inclusive the group is, the more people invite others to join
- We aim to meet every month

Accessible

- Stay back to answer anyone's questions
- McDonald's after party



Scaling up





Scaling up

Going international

- Speaking around the region
- Guest at big events
- 3hr Crash courses - Cebu, NYC etc

Building a team & partners

- You can't do it all yourself
- Convert best attendees to helpers
- Sponsors



Special Events

A.I. DAY

Research - Prototype - Production



Bangkok, 21st April 2018, 1pm-6pm
Singapore, 29th April 2018, 1pm-6pm

Supported by:



8. Conclusion



Key takeaways

Projects need people

Make it easy for users to help you

Be consistent

Humans != code - humans take time

Ship ... but then find crew and passengers

Multiplier effect of community

