

Communication For Technical Engineers & Developers

The Hardest Soft Skill

English Geek College Dropout Seeks Tech Work



Mark R. Takata

20+ years of programming experience

(Coldfusion, JavaScript (ES6, React, Angular, JQuery, intercooler.JS), VBS (ASP),
VBA, VB.NET, C#.NET, tSQL, pLSQL, Actionscript, PHP, Python, R)

- Currently at UC Davis Financial Aid
- Founder at Pretty Good AI/AIMLAR.com
- Founder at Takata Technology Consulting
- Completed projects for Microsoft, Avanade, HP, VISA, UC Davis, UC Merced, UC ANR, San Francisco Opera House, Silicon Image (inventors of HDMI)

Powerlifter, Ultrarunner, Pitbull Advocate, Very Bad Gamer. I mean, just awful



Ew. Dude.



Seriously.



OVERVIEW



- — —
- Managing Discovery
- Learning languages
- Mastering Documentation

Discovery (not the Star Trek one)

- How “full” is your stack?
- Becoming a BA-lite



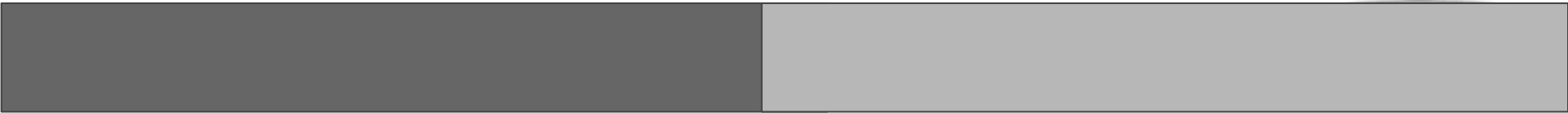
Still Discovering

- Don't solve problems
- By answering their question, you keep them from questioning your answer
- Listening to understand, not to respond



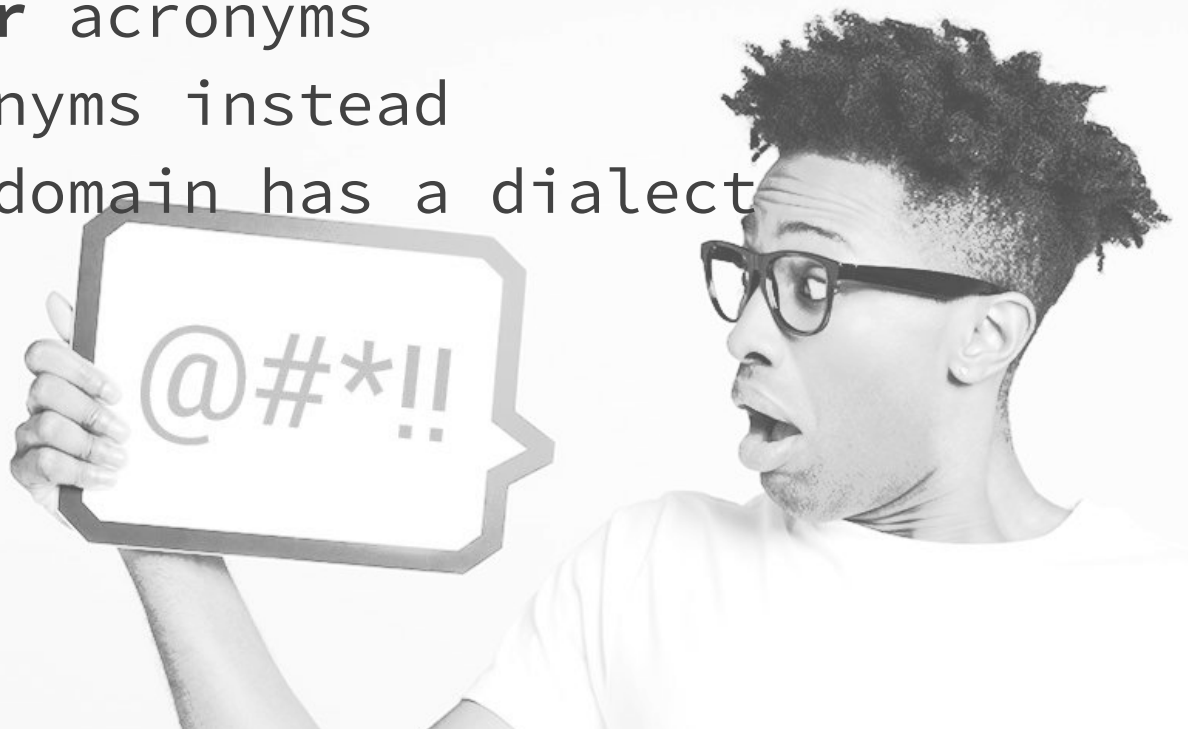
Problem Domain vs Solution Domain

- Business Analysts vs Engineers/Devs
- Reducing contrast @ edges leads to better results
- Balance your BA



Watch Your Language

- — —
- Stop using **your** acronyms
- Use **their** acronyms instead
- Every problem domain has a dialect



Speak Softly, but Carry A Big USB Stick



- — —
- You don't have to become an expert, but it helps
- Elevator convo rule
- Never assume meaning, always ask

Docusigh...

- Yes, documentation is tough. Deal with it.
- Do it end to end
- Requirements > Func Spec > Tech Spec > Product Manual

Love What You Hate

- Leverage early docs into specs
- Scope creep is the enemy
- Stay close to BA/PM team to prevent surprises
- Trust, but verify



Questions?



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