The Hijacker's Guide to the Community

or
How I Hacked Existing Organizations for My Vision
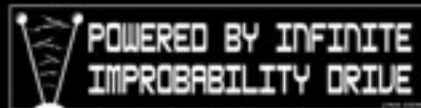
C++

My Vision

- Modern C++
    - Pushing / pushed by the Standard
    - Exploiting Boost
    - Generic programming
    - Value semantics
    - Adapting to new hardware / environment

My Vision

- Development Community
    - Broadly C++ focused
    - Educating ourselves
    - Pushing and challenging each other
- Informed by Computer Science
- Developing Software Engineering Best Practices

Timing: C++ is Hot!

- Cloud and Mobile:

    Performance is a priority

- C++11

- The Committee is on fire!

POWERED BY INFINITE
IMPROBABILITY DRIVE

Key Observation

In a volunteer organization, decisions are made by the ones doing the work.

"Showing up is eighty percent of success"

Showing up == willing to do the work

Three Institutions

- Silicon Valley Code Camp
- Silicon Valley ACCU
- BoostCon

Code Camp

- An un-conference
- Promoting Software Development
- Originally Microsoft-slanted
- On the weekend
- Free to attendees
- Sponsor supported (contact info private)

Code Camp

- Boise
- Boston
- Charleston
- Columbus
- Cowtown (Ft. Worth)
- Desert (Arizona)
- RDU (Raleigh Durham)
- SoCal
- South Florida
- Tampa
- # Silicon Valley

Silicon Valley Code Camp

- Nine sessions
  - Five on Saturday
  - Four on Sunday
- Sponsors provide free lunch both days
- Has Community Sponsorships

Silicon Valley Code Camp

- 2013: The eighth SVCC
- 2012: 2443 people attended 218 sessions
- 2011: 2247 people attended 208 sessions
  - including my first one
  - the only one on C++ that year

Silicon Valley Code Camp

- 2012: The first C++ Track at SVCC
- Eleven sessions (two doubled up)
- Sessions included:
  - Two given by BoostCon keynotes
  - Five given by C++Now "Best Session" Award Winners

Silicon Valley Code Camp

- 2012:   The first C++ Track at SVCC
- No corporate sponsor
- Community Sponsor:
  ## Silicon Valley ACCU

ACCU

- In 1987, founded as "C Users' Group (UK)"
- In 1993, "Association of C and C++ Users"
- In 2006, "ACCU"

ACCU

- Publishes CVu and Overload
- Actively supports Standardization
- Important annual conference
- UK Python Conference was a track

ACCU Chapters

- Has local affiliate chapters
- Open to new chapters

ACCU Chapters

- Someone to organize it
- Somewhere to meet
- Sufficient membership
- Speakers
- Advertising and Communications

ACCU Chapters

- Someone to organize it
  - ACCU members
  - You! DON'T PANIC
- Somewhere to meet
- Sufficient membership
- Speakers
- Advertising and Communications

ACCU Chapters

- Someone to organize it
- Somewhere to meet
  - Open to the public
  - Employer
  - Pub / Cafe / Restaurant
  - School
- Sufficient membership
- Speakers
- Advertising and Communications

ACCU Chapters

- Someone to organize it
- Somewhere to meet
- Sufficient membership
  - Splinter off an existing group
  - Meeting frequency
  - Social building
- Speakers
- Advertising and Communications

ACCU Chapters

- Someone to organize it

- Somewhere to meet

- Sufficient membership

- Speakers
  - Get the best you can, but…
  - They don't have to be professionals
  - Encourage your members to present

- Advertising and Communications

ACCU Chapters

- Someone to organize it

- Somewhere to meet

- Sufficient membership

- Speakers
  - Lightening talks
  - Workshops
  - Coding Dojos
  - Show and Tell
  - Conference/Training Reports
  - Pub meets
- Advertising and Communications

ACCU Chapters

- Someone to organize it

- Somewhere to meet

- Sufficient membership

- Speakers

- Advertising and Communications
  - Twitter / blogs / Google+ / Meetup

  - Mailing lists

  - Back issues of CVu and Overload

ACCU Chapters

- Several local groups in the UK

- Also groups in Zurich, Stockholm, and
  Silicon Valley

Silicon Valley ACCU

- Not focused on C++
- Schedule conflict
- Started attending last summer

Silicon Valley ACCU

- One formal presentation a month
- Started second, informal, monthly meetup
  - Workshop / Reading group – "C++ Coding Standards"
- Created Meetup Group, Google+ community

Silicon Valley ACCU

- Arranged for Community Sponsorship of SVCC C++ Track
- Informal meetings
  - Engaged in discussions
  - Presented Coding Standards
- Formal meetings
  - Made presentations
  - Other speakers: SVCC and **BoostCon**

BoostCon

- Too Boost focused?
- Attending since 2009
- Felt a need for a general C++ conference
- BoostCon had the potential to be a great general C++ conference

BoostCon

- In 2011, proposed:
    - New C++ name
    - Three tracks (a new tutorial track)
    - More attendees (85 in 2011)
    - Focus on "Intro to C++11"

- Dave and the planning committee:

    "Challenge accepted!"

BoostCon: C++Now

- In 2012:
    - New name "C++ Now!"
    - Three tracks (a new tutorial track)
    - More attendees (85 in 2011)
    - Focus on "Intro to C++11"

BoostCon: C++Now

- In 2012:
  - New name "C++ Now!"
  - Three tracks and three keynotes
  - More attendees (85 in 2011)
  - Focus on "Intro to C++11"

BoostCon: C++Now

- In 2012:
  - New name "C++ Now!"
  - Three tracks and three keynotes
  - 135 attendees
  - Focus on "Intro to C++11"

BoostCon: C++Now

- In 2012:
  - New name "C++ Now!"
  - Three tracks and three keynotes
  - 135 attendees
  - Best C++11 content of any conference

- In 2013:
  - 150 attendees: *Sold Out!*

Lessons Learned

You have the answer:

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Lessons Learned

In a volunteer organization, decisions are made by the ones doing the work.

Lessons Learned

"Showing up is eighty percent of success"

Lessons Learned

Two heads are better…

Find the people that share your vision.

Lessons Learned

DON'T

PANIC

SO LONG...
AND THANKS
FOR ALL THE FISH.