



2020 PITTSBURGH TECHFEST AGENDA

Thursday, August 13th

9:30 AM	Networking & Expo Booths Open
9:55 AM	Welcome by the PTC
10:00 AM	Breakout Sessions
	Scott Ford, Corgibytes
	Lorien Rensing, Making Everlasting Memories
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Networking & Expo Booths Open
11:00 – 11:45 AM	Breakout Sessions
	Max Mihro, EntrepreNerd
	Sarah Withee
	Tom Medvitz, Tech Elevator PGH
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Networking & Expo Booths Open

Friday, August 14th,

9:30 AM	Networking & Expo Booths Open
9:55 AM	Welcome by the PTC
10:00 AM	Breakout Sessions
	Aaron Kopel, Project Brilliant
	Thomas Haver, Designer Brands
	Nathan Menge, Pittsburgh AWS User Group
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Networking & Expo Booths Open
11:00 – 11:45 AM	Breakout Sessions
	Sean McPherson , Niche.com
	Karan Balkar, LTI
	Aaron Ralls , Accurent/ Microsoft
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Networking & Expo Booths Open

SPEAKER TALKS WITH DESCRIPTIONS



Scott Ford – [Corgibytes](#)

“A Deep Dive into Measuring Dependency Freshness with LibYear”

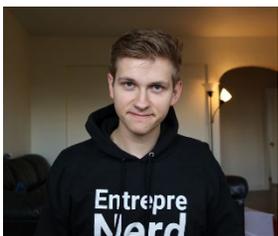
LibYear is a dependency freshness measure which helps you learn how out of date your project's dependencies are. While LibYear has considerable value when used as a "spot" metric, something that you just measure once, there is even more power that can be unlocked when you observe how the metric has trended over time. In this talk, we'll explore a tool, libmetrics, which is able to compute this metric across a project's history. The libmetrics tool supports many different dependency management tools from many different frameworks. Also, during this talk, we're going to look at graphs of LibYear over time for many different open source projects. By analyzing these graphs, we can see the long-term impacts of different decisions, such as when a team decides to start using Dependabot.



Lorien Rensing – [Making Everlasting Memories](#)

“Breaking Down the Monolith: A journey toward CI/CD”

When you're creating a brand new system, you can set it up from the beginning to work well with a Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD) pipeline. With legacy systems, this isn't so easy. You may find yourself dealing with tightly coupled code, patchy test coverage, or bloated databases. But this doesn't mean you have to give up hope for taking advantage of the CI/CD model. Join me as I take you on a journey from deploying a monolith of code every two weeks to deploying incremental changes twice a week with less risk and more value to the customer, and see where we still have room to grow.



Max Mihro – [EntrepreNerd](#)

“Live Entrepreneurship and Customer Discovery”

Tech startups end up being risky to jump into, even before you get investment. A lot of people will quit their job to get started, and that's almost never a good idea. Luckily, there are a few easy ways to test the market before you dedicate your life to creating a product!

1) You can build a fake landing page, run some ads to it, and ask for customer feedback instead of payment. If you do it right, you can find your first users before you even build your product.

2) You can interview potential customers, and find out if what you want to build solves their problem. This is well known, and called Customer Discovery, but supplemented with strategy #1, you can build a decent customer base before jumping in full time, and you might even be able to fund your idea without outside capital, using a Kickstarter strategy!



Sarah Withee

“Building an Open Source Artificial Pancreas”

Have you ever thought about what open source software or hardware could achieve? Could help improve people's lives by solving some of their health problems? Come to this talk to find out about how do-it-yourself open source artificial pancreases are doing amazing things from someone who runs one!



Tom Medvitz – [Tech Elevator PGH](#)

“How Novices Learn to Program”

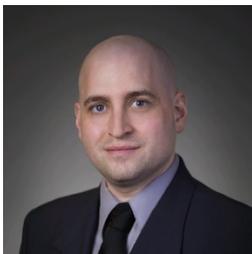
Learn about my experience transitioning from a practitioner to an instructor, and how it is not as similar to corporate training as I thought it would be.



Aaron Kopel – [Project Brilliant](#)

“Grokking Culture with CVF”

Culture is the way we do things around here. We'll play a hands-on game to understand different organizational cultures, put your finger on yours using the Competing Values Framework (CVF). Come away with a more clear way to articulate aspects of your culture, and some ideas on how to adapt it to meet the changing needs of your customers.



Thomas Haver – [Designer Brands](#)

“The Automation Firehose: Be Strategic and Tactical”

The widespread adoption of test automation has led to numerous challenges that range from development lifecycle integration to simple scripting strategy. Just because a scenario CAN be automated does not mean it SHOULD be automated. Teams that adopt automation often rush to automate everything they can -- the automation firehose. For those scenarios that should be automated, every team must adopt an implementation plan to ensure value is derived from reliable automated test execution. In this session, the audience will learn how to automate both strategically and tactically to maximize the benefits of automation. Entry criteria will be demonstrated for automation in the development lifecycle along with a set of checks to determine automation feasibility & ROI.



Nathan Menge, [Pittsburgh AWS User Group](#)

“Introduction to DynamoDB”

DynamoDB is a highly scalable managed NoSQL Database offering from Amazon Web Services. While it is an extremely powerful tool it can be challenging to transition to it from a traditional relational database.

Through this talk we aim to acquaint the listener with the basics of NoSQL and DynamoDB, demonstrating the differences between NoSQL and relational databases. Additionally, we will discuss the strengths and tradeoffs of DynamoDB compared to other database options as well demonstrating some of the tools available to help make development with DynamoDB a pleasant experience.



[Sean McPherson](#) – Niche.com

“Accessibility for the rest of us”

The objective of this talk is to understand accessibility, its importance, and learn some practical steps for creating more accessible applications. We'll get an overview of accessibility, and look at definitions and broad categories of disabilities. Then we'll dive into W3's accessibility standards, and how they help

us think about accessible applications. We'll wrap up with some common accessibility tasks, useful tools, and attainable steps to help us create accessible products.



Karan Balkar – LTI

“Integrating Google Assistant for Continuous Integration (CI)”

This talk will basically explain how one can create a simple Google Assistant Bot that can be integrated with Jenkins CI to automate the build process. Here, from a technical standpoint, the following technologies / frameworks have been used:

- NodeJS
- heroku
- DialogFlow
- Google Actions

We need to have an existing Jenkins CI deployed on premise or locally in order to view the output. This talk assumes that the audience will have a basic idea of what is meant by Continuous Integration and DevOps.



[Aaron Ralls](#) – Accruent/ Microsoft

“The Fast Track to Microsoft Certifications in 30 days”

Do you want to learn how to improve your study habits and capabilities? Come learn about how I passed 7 exams in 21 days and how to build a personal learning

road map. I will share study shortcuts and tips that you can use beyond certifications.

- Microsoft Certification Overview
- Exam Process
- Understand What is on an exam
- Training & Practice Tests
- Study & Note taking Tips
- Discovering Your Preferred Learning Methods