Notes From My Travels Building Effective Teams When You're in Different Places

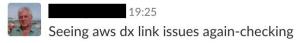
Euan Finlay @efinlay24







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⊧ E	FT Jetnexus	
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	FT Third Parties	
E	FT Voice	



●● 19:39

Methode alerts are firing

intermittent



19:40

yep we have network issues again at PR (edited)

2 1

Looks like the MPLS Verizon cct is down

So far no impact reported...

monitoring for now





We have reports of publishing not working, and problems with Methode portalpub connecting to UPP again





28 Jul 2018 at 10:13

I'm sorry, I'm on my phone, in the car - not much more investigation I can do on this!





The people fixing the incident were scattered across 4 countries.





The FT's culture of remote collaboration enabled us to fix it.







/usr/bin/whoami





/usr/bin/whodoiworkfor

No such file or directory.





= Q

FINANCIAL TIMES

HOME WORLD US COMPANIES TECH MARKETS GRAPHICS OPINION WORK & CAREERS LIFE & ARTS HOW TO SPEND IT

fast FT

https://www.ft.com/

Global stocks rally on positive trade news, pound and oil rise 34M AGO UK stocks and sterling rise sharply on new hopes for a Brexit deal 50M AGO

Sirius Minerals shares climb after deal with state-run Qatari group 1H AGO Citigroup names new global co-heads of equity capital markets 2H AGO

Brussels to embark on intensive Brexit negotiations

Sterling climbs as optimism increases over new withdrawal agreement 2 HOURS AGO

- UK stocks and sterling rise sharply on new hopes for a Brexit deal
- Frisson of excitement as possible Brexit turning point looms
- How Boris Johnson has unleashed Brexit's 'demons'



FT Series The Company of the Future: Profit and Purpose

Purpose vs profit: The Trade-off Game



We Company WeWork chases new financing as cash crunch looms



Nobel prizes Ethiopia's PM Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel Peace Prize



Oil & Gas industry Iran says tanker hit by missiles off Saudi Arabia coast



Citigroup Inc Citigroup names new global co-heads of equity capital









Ensuring the services supporting the FT are operational and available.







It's hard leading a team split across locations...





Harder across an 7 hour time difference...







TIMES

UK Ops 4500	- Mani	Normal Day	Weekend	Weekend	Christmas Eve	Bank Holiday Xmas Day	Bank Holiday Boxing Day	Normal Day	Normal Day
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How do we include the team in decision-making?





Obligatory audience interaction.





当 stack overflow

Developer Survey Results 2019

stack overflow

Overview

Key Results

Developer Profile

Technology

Work

Community

Methodology

Back to top



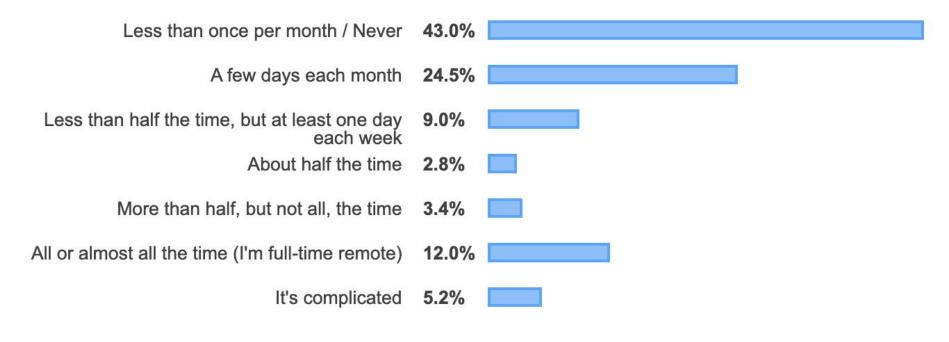
Overview

This year, nearly 90,000 developers told us how they learn and level up, which tools they're using, and what they want.

Stack Overflow's annual Developer Survey is the largest and most comprehensive survey of people who code around the world. Each year, we field a survey covering everything from developers' favorite technologies to their job preferences. This year marks the ninth year we've published our annual Developer Survey results, and nearly 90,000 developers took the 20-minute survey earlier this year.



How Often Do Developers Work Remotely?



70,284 responses



H"

Where Do Developers Want to Work?

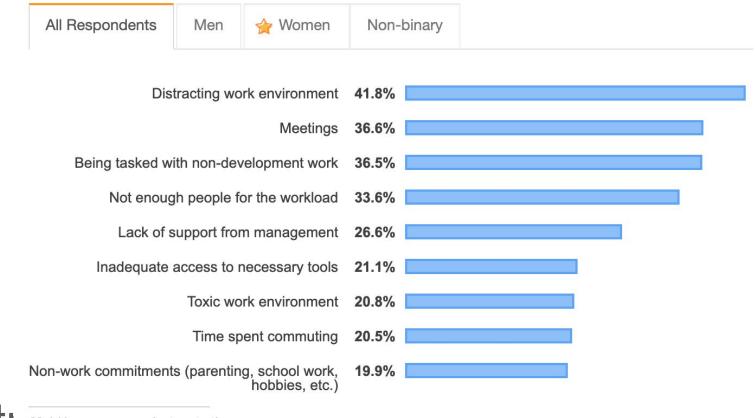
Overall	United States	India	United Kingdom	Germany	Canada	
		Offi	ce 57.9%			
		Hor	ne 33.2%			
Other place,	, such as a coworkin	g space or ca	fe 8.8%	0		

70,055 responses

https://insights.stackoverflow.com/sur



Greatest Challenges to Productivity



H

These challenges affect more of us than we might expect.





How do we enable and encourage remote collaboration?





> What even is "remoteness"?



What even is "remoteness"? > Communication challenges



What even is "remoteness"? Communication challenges > Culture challenges



What even is "remoteness"? Communication challenges Culture challenges > Why enable remote work?



> What even is "remoteness"? Communication challenges Culture challenges Why enable remote work?





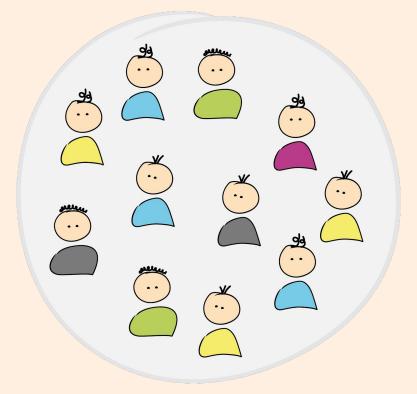
Remote versus Co-located Work

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19 October 2015



Single-site

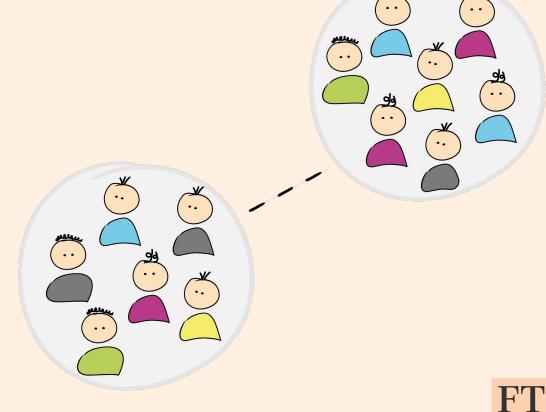




https://martinfowler.com/articles/remote-or-co-located.html



Multi-site

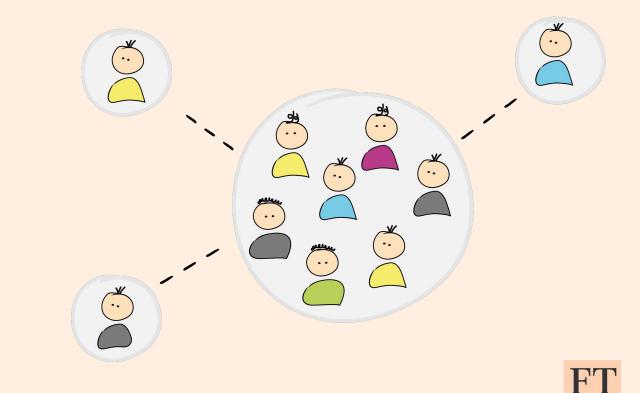






TIMES

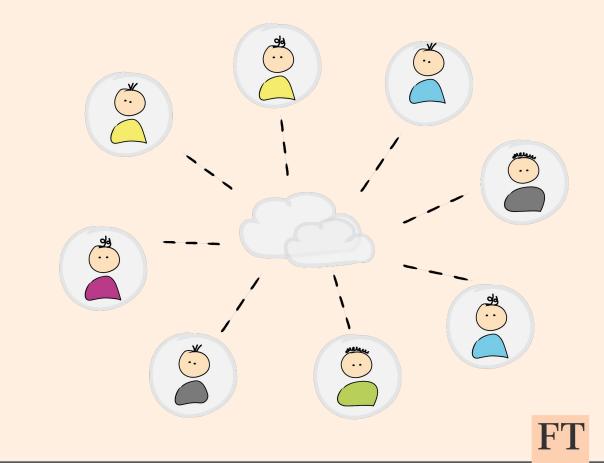
Satellite workers



https://martinfowler.com/articles/remote-or-co-located.html



Fully distributed



https://martinfowler.com/articles/remote-or-co-located.html





It's rarely black and white.





13:51

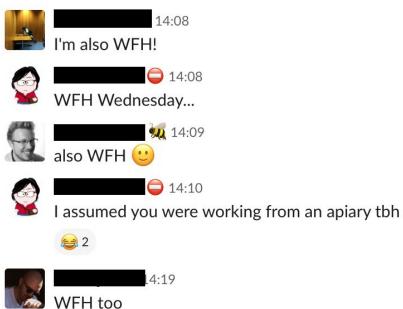
Unfortunately I'm not in the office today or I'd go and have a look

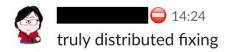


9 14:07

Anyone else able to? Sounds like the issue is that you don't get linked to the actual podcast even if you **do** have the app installed

(I'm also WFH)





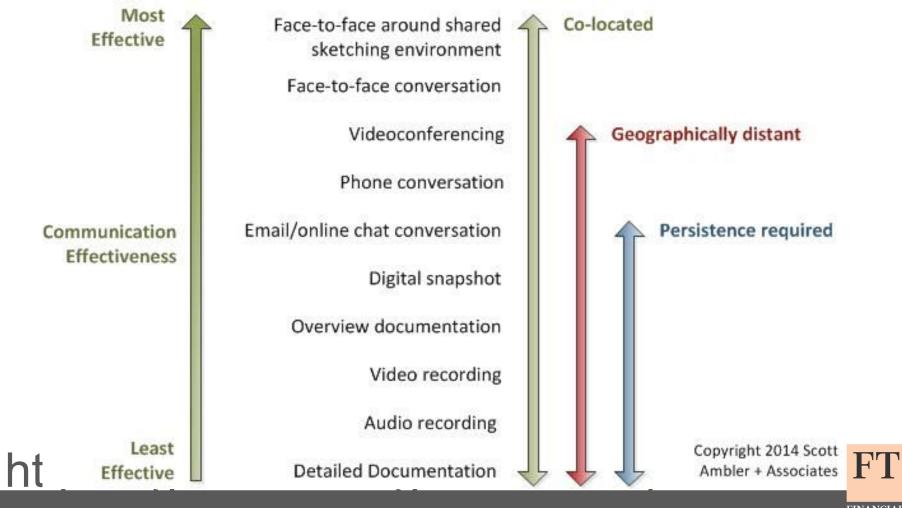


What even is remoteness? > Communication challenges Culture challenges Why enable remote work?

Communication is one of the most important factors for effective teams.







Welcome to Cloud Enablement

Enabling the FT to use cloud platforms effectively

Search docs

AWS

Accounts

Includes creation, ownership and managing user access.

Governance

Governance of AWS accounts including IAM, EC2 & tagging.

Modules

Outline of how to raise code changes within our modules.

HEROKU

Identity and Access

Includes steps to setup a Heroku user account.

Identity & Access Managing users, keys, roles & policies.

Help & Support How to get help when you need it?

Training & Certification

How to get help when you need it?

Help & Support

Improve your skills and become an AWS certified practitioner

Popular Content

Creating a Support Ticket

Cost Optimisation Tips

The Problem with Large AWS Accounts

Cost Optimisation

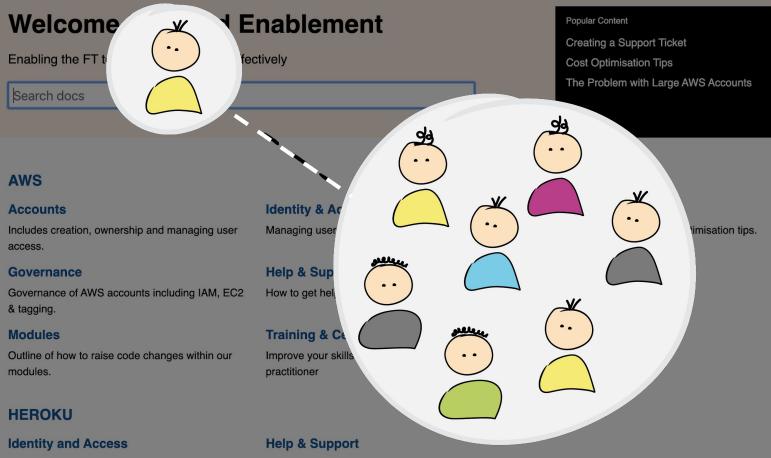
Includes cost visibility tools, and optimisation tips.

Service Guides

Guides for AWS Services



FT Cloud Enablement



FT

Includes steps to setup a Heroku user account.

How to get help when you need it?

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🗯 GOV.UK

Search

Government Digital Service

Part of Cabinet Office

Service Toolkit Digital Marketplace Introducing Verify Technology Code of Practice GOV.UK Design System

Featured





 26 September 2019 -- Press release
 Campaign
 3 September 2019 -- Blog post

 Government's streamlined
 Making online public services
 How we support service design

 messaging service to save taxpayer
 accessible
 across government

 f176m
 New regulations mean public services
 across government

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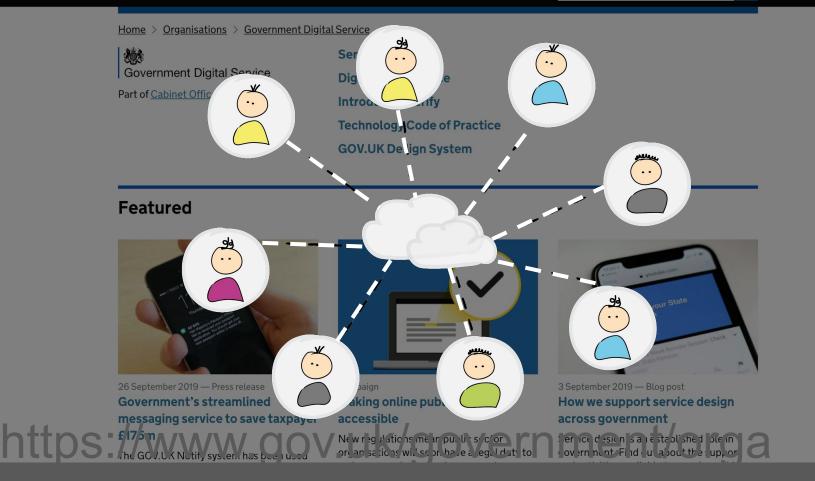


TIMES

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FINANCIAL TIMES

FT



Take the time to find the right tools for your team.





Reduce the friction of communication.





It's difficult to read intent from text.





Cultural and language differences can make it harder.







09:48

btw what is "ta"?

I've seen it few times



Euan Finlay 09:48

haha, sorry - never realised it wasn't clear 😂

basically shorthand for "thank you" 🙂





Private team channels are important for bonding.





Desk moves within an office can have an unexpected impact.





I found it hard to get my team's agreement on changes.







Type 1 decisions are difficult to reverse.



Type 2 decisions are easy to change.



Make incremental changes, then iterate.



Type 1 changes are reviewed by the Technical Governance Group.





This allows more scrutiny from more experts.





The Proposal Process

The proposal process is a standardised, simple and structured Request for Comments process in the form of a technology proposal document. A person or group of people will author a technology proposal describing a need, a proposed solution, impacts, benefits, costs and alternative options considered. The process for drafting, seeking feedback, endorsement and implementation of technology proposals is outlined below.

When should a technology proposal be raised?

It is important that proposals are submitted for appropriate changes, to ensure we only expend effort providing feedback and reviewing appropriately. The following types of change characterise what typically might warrant submission for feedback and review by the Tech Governance Group.

Changes with Broad Impact Across Technology.

• This typically means when more than one technology group will have to invest significant time or money, or make major changes to their processes or technologies used as a result of the proposal.

Technology Strategy Changes.



Run effective meetings.





And better meetings for your whole team to boot



Jennifer Johnson Follow Apr 30, 2018 · 3 min read



A couple of years ago a Deaf colleague, Ben, joined our team and was regularly accompanied in the office by an interpreter. It quickly became



And better meetings for your whole team to boot

Good: Only one person is talking at a time
 Great: A visual cue, such as as a board marker or ball is held by the person who's talking



And better meetings for your whole team to boot

Good: Meeting has a clear agenda, which is written down
 Great: Agenda is shared with attendees in advance, and reviewed at the start of the meeting

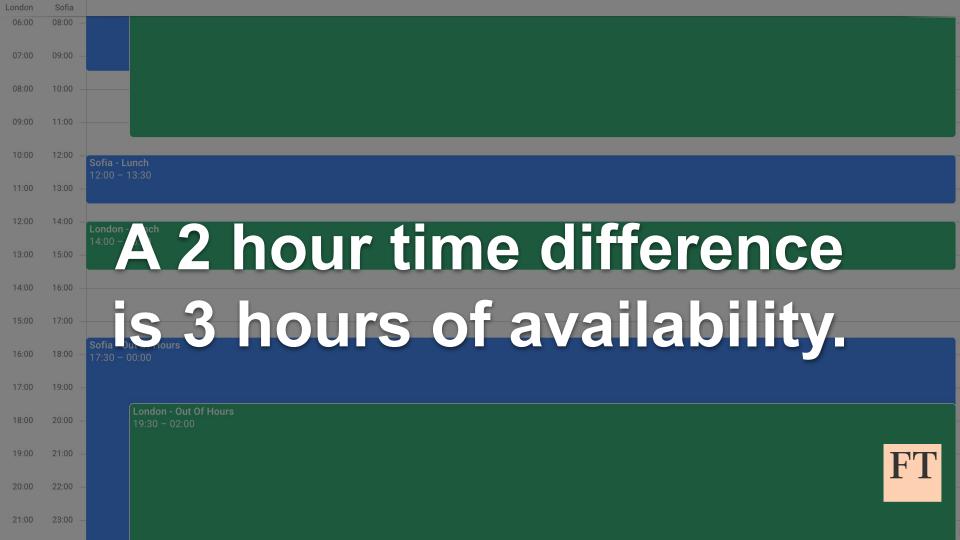


And better meetings for your whole team to boot

If three people are remote, make everyone remote.







What even is "remoteness"? Communication challenges > Culture challenges Why enable remote work?

FT



TEAMS

Guide: Understand team effectiveness

• Introduction

- Define what makes a "team"
- Define "effectiveness"
- Collect data and measure effectiveness
- Identify dynamics of effective teams
- Tool: Help teams determine their own needs
- Tool: Foster psychological safety
- Help teams take action

Introduction

Much of the work done at Google, and in many organizations, is done collaboratively by teams. The team is the molecular unit where real production happens, where innovative ideas are conceived and tested, and where employees experience most of their work. But it's also where interpersonal issues, ill-suited skill sets, and unclear group goals can hinder productivity and cause friction.

Following the success of **Google's Project Oxygen research** where the People Analytics team studied **what makes a great manager**, Google researchers applied a similar method to discover the secrets of effective teams at Google. Code-named Project Aristotle - a tribute to Aristotle's quote, "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" (as the Google researchers believed employees can do more working together than alone) - the goal was to answer the question: "What makes a team effective at Google?"

Read about the researchers behind the work in **The New York Times: What Google Learned From**Its Quest to Build the Perfect Team







Psychological Safety

Team members feel safe to take risks and be vulnerable in front of each other.

Dependability

2

3

4

5

Team members get things done on time and meet Google's high bar for excellence.

Structure & Clarity

Team members have clear roles, plans, and goals.

Meaning

Work is personally important to team members.

Impact

Team members think their work matters and creates change.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l



1) Opportunities, not failures.



Opportunities, not failures. Acknowledge our own fallibility.



Opportunities, not failures. Acknowledge our own fallibility. Model curiosity, ask questions.



FINANCIAL TIMES

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Tech Principles

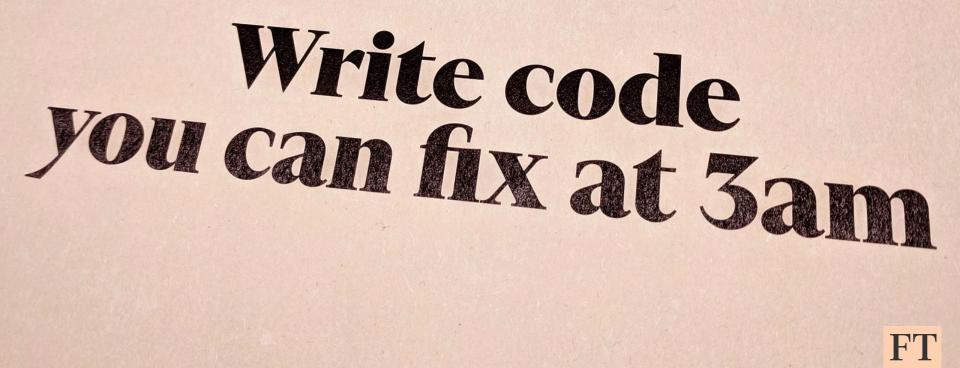
Customer products team, 2019

We have tech principles so that we can agree, as a team, what "good" looks like. These principles should help us to reinforce the kinds of behaviours that we want to encourage amongst each other. They should be a declaration of the team's intent, both to the business and to the public.

Slow down to speed up

Validating requirements, testing, writing documentation, setting up monitoring, and communicating changes are not secondary to shipping code. Before starting to code pause to evaluate whether the problem you're being asked to solve is clear and valid. When coding consider how you or someone else may interpret your work in the future and how easy it is to understand, refactor, and remove. If you're working on systems which are used by others, think about the wider impact of the changes you make and

FT

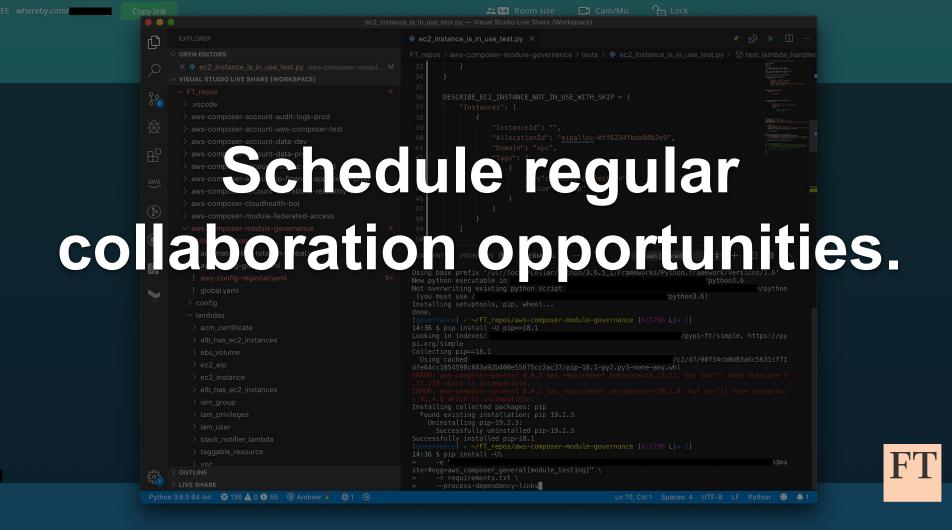




Assume good faith

Tech Principles at The Financial Times

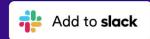






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LAST ROUND	TOTAL INTROS	TOTAL % MET
7 Oct 2019	611	21% (130)
36 participants		
7 Oct 2019	91	51% (47)
2 participants		
7 Oct 2019	1818	30% (556)
104 participants		
	7 Oct 2019 36 participants 7 Oct 2019 2 participants 7 Oct 2019 7 Oct 2019	7 Oct 2019 611 2 36 participants 611 7 Oct 2019 91 2 participants 91 7 Oct 2019 1818







Programming with yarn

Wednesday 13th December 11:00 - 12:00 3A Breakout Area



Computers can take an unexpected form; historically they started as humans. Without realising it, yarn crafters interpret their own programming language, but would not necessarily call

 Lily Madar is a developer in FT
 Tuesday

 Labs and an avid crocheter. In
 12th February

 this talk, she explores the
 15:00 - 16:00

 surprising relationship between
 3A Breakout Area

 yarn crafts and computing.
 34 Breakout Area

Audience: Anyone interested in technology and crafts.

afts.



techtalks.ft.com

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themselves programmers.

Through the origins of crochet

An Engineer's Guide to a Good Night's Sleep Nicky Wrightson

In a time of empowered teams,

systems, including out of hours

In this talk Nicky will share several

can help reduce the risk of that

dreaded 3am call from Ops.

approaches and considerations that

support.

complex tech stacks, highly distributed

systems the support model of years

ago needed to adapt. Developers now

decide how they run and operate their

Nicky is a principal engineer working at River Island. She passionately drives forward cloud native architectures and strategies that allow engineers to deliver business value quickly whilst reducing the overhead support needed for complex distributed systems.

Audience: Engineers, project managers and those new to Ops support.

techtalks.ft.com

Tuesday

11th June

15:00 - 16:00

TECH

TALKS

Bracken House - Lower

Ground Town Hall area

Mature microservices and how to operate them Sarah Wells

We built our first microservices in 2013. We like this approach, because we can deliver more value, more quickly, to our customers and we can run hundreds of experiments a year.

This approach has had a big - and you need to be working now to prevent that causing a lot of pain in to operate. And after a while, teams

Audience: For engineers dealing with or discovering microservices.

microservices? And how do we make

The next legacy systems are going to

sure we can fix any problems as

quickly as possible?

So how do we go about building stable, resilient systems from

move on to new projects.





@efinlay24





Meeting in person is still really valuable.







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Leading companies build and run their cloud-native stack with Giant Swarm. Get started on your cloud-native journey here.

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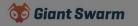
> Learn More

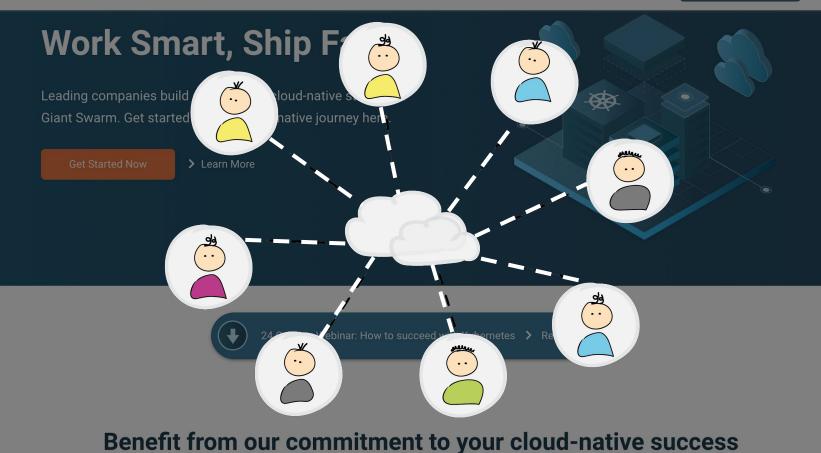


24 October Webinar: How to succeed with Kubernetes > Register Now

Benefit from our commitment to your cloud-native success













Flexibility at the FT

Here at the FT, we want to create an inclusive environment and that's why we're advocating flexibility in the way you work as an option for everyone. Regardless of your role, department, location and no matter how long you've worked at the FT, your age or your gender - working flexibly is open to you.

There are many different needs and preferences when it comes to flexible working. Maybe you want to work from home on a Wednesday as it allows you to take your children to after-school activities. Perhaps you want to extend your lunch break and work later so you can fit in a class at the local gym - whatever your reason, we will do our best to support your unique circumstances and ways in which you would like to work.

What does it mean to work flexibly?

There are a number of ways that you can work flexibly, either on an ad hoc basis where it might be helpful to flex your working pattern for a particular occasion; or on a more permanent basis when you would like a set working pattern that you repeat weekly.

It's important to note that some working patterns might not be appropriate for all roles. Having an extensive range of options will allow you and your manager to mutually agree (in advance) a working pattern that best supports your personal circumstances while allowing you to deliver your in your role.

WCIIIIay24

Your flexible working options:

- Part time working;
- Flexing your shift hours and patterns
- Job sharing
- Working a compressed week
- Working from home
- Taking time back in lieu
- Term time working.



Flexible working encourages everyone to support remote work.





What even is "remoteness"? Communication challenges Culture challenges > Why enable remote work?

Flexible staff are happier staff.





Recruit from a wider talent pool.





Improve team diversity.





Take advantage of timezones.





There is no magic solution.

If there is, we haven't found it yet.





Ensure our teams have the tools they need.

FT

Think remote first for communication.

Try things, and find what works for you.



Nearly the end.

Don't clap yet.







The end.

"Please clap." Jeb Bush, 2016



We're hiring! https://ft.com/dev/null/

@efinlay24 euan.finlay@ft.com

