Farewell to Death by PowerPoint

Presentation Summit

Everything you need to know to start creating winning presentations

Sep 13: 8:00am - 10:00am PT • Sunday Crash Course

Led by Rick Altman

You learned PowerPoint years ago and think you have decent instincts for building presentations. But something inevitably derails you. The story gets changed, the boss wants an extra chart, the client has second thoughts, and it all needs to be done by tomorrow. Your PowerPoint skills will be challenged by all these extras, so you go on auto-pilot and do what most do: you stuff it all onto the slide and hope for the best.

You can stop this madness! This two-hour crash course is the perfect jumpstart to the conference, guaranteed to get you off on the right foot by helping you craft, design, and strategize through the process of creating first-rate presentations.

Highlights to include:

-- Recognize what ruins presentations

-- Identify the three tenets of good presentations

-- Accommodate clean imagery and heavy data

-- Develop and articulate core beliefs about effective presentation strategy

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This optional workshop is for you if you need to learn, or want a refresher on, the core principles of presentation design, and hope to find more fulfilling ways to go about your work.

Rick Altman has been hosting end-user conferences since 1989. He is the author of 15 books on presentations and graphics, including his newly released Crush Your Next Virtual Presentation. This is his 24th season hosting the Presentation Summit. He spends the rest of the year visiting organizations and offering customized workshops on presentation design, PowerPoint technique, and delivery skills.

Template Creation Workshop

Presentation Summit

Building a PowerPoint template that works

Sep 13: 10:30am - 12:30pm PT • Sunday Crash Course

Led by Echo Swinford

A comprehensive template can be a huge timesaver for those who don't use PowerPoint every day, who aren't designers, and for those who must create presentations to reflect a brand. It takes less time to develop a presentation with a template because there is less manual formatting to do.

The key is having a template that is built right in the first place. In this workshop, we'll build the same starter template together. During the process, we'll address common template fails and teach you how to avoid them when you apply the lessons to your own templates.

Highlights to include:

-- Making your color theme work for you

-- The relationship between masters and layouts

-- When to use custom layouts

-- Best practices when adding and removing placeholders

-- Formatting "no bullet" text levels

-- Gotchas and other issues that aren't so easily resolved

Whether a rookie or a repeat attender, you're sure to learn something new in this workshop. Note: you should be familiar and comfortable with working in PowerPoint, even if you are new to building templates.

A Microsoft PowerPoint MVP since 2000, Echo holds a Master's degree in New Media and is the owner of Echosvoice, a PowerPoint consulting firm specializing in custom template development, presentation creation, makeovers and cleanup, and training for large and small corporate clients. With co-author Julie Terberg, she recently released the definitive guide to PowerPoint template development: Building PowerPoint Templates v2.

Design Doctor

Presentation Summit

Quick Fixes and Deep Dives for Stunning Slides

Sep 13: 1:00pm - 3:00pm PT • Sunday Crash Course

Led by Mike Parkinson

Transform your presentations from boring to brilliant in this dynamic workshop designed for busy professionals. Discover how to quickly identify and resolve common slide issues with our two-tiered approach.

First, tackle surface-level problems with triage techniques, using quick fixes to improve design, aesthetics, and visual clarity. Then, dive deeper with surgery, where you'll learn how to refine content and messaging for maximum impact.

Packed with practical tips, real-world examples, and interactive exercises, this session equips you with the tools to quickly repair and elevate any presentation. Leave confident, empowered, and ready to impress your audience with every slide.

Highlights to include:

-- Learn quick techniques to instantly improve visuals

-- Perform "design surgery" to enhance messaging

-- Explore real-world before-and-after transformations

-- Discover fixes to boost audience engagement

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Mike Parkinson is a geek. He is 1 of 36 Microsoft PowerPoint MVPs in the world, is an internationally recognized communication and presentation expert, bestselling author, and professional trainer. Mike's keynotes, training, books ("Billion Dollar Graphics" and "A Trainer's Guide to PowerPoint: Best Practices for Master Presenters."), and tools (www.Build-a-Graphic.com) help companies succeed while saving money and time. He owns Billion Dollar Graphics (www.BillionDollarGraphics.com) and is a partner at 24 Hour Company (www.24hrco.com), a premier creative services firm.