

# Conferences for Beginners

brian d foy, <[brian.d.foy@gmail.com](mailto:brian.d.foy@gmail.com)>

Jim Brandt, <[cbrandt@buffalo.edu](mailto:cbrandt@buffalo.edu)>

version 2.0, YAPC Chicago 2006

# Welcome!

Benvenuti Bienvenue Willkommen Bem-vindo  
Merhaba Velkommen Fáilte Welkom Bonvenon  
HELLO Tervetuloa Aloha-mai

Get what  
you  
need

# The Thirds

- One part of stuff...
  - you **need** to learn
  - you think is **interesting**
  - that's **new** to you

Get something  
for the  
hand that  
feeds you

- 👁️ **Justify** the conference cost
- 👁️ **Five things** your company can use
- 👁️ Talk to a **module author**
  - 👁️ **fix** a bug
  - 👁️ **explain** a feature
- 👁️ **Meet someone** who can...
  - 👁️ help you now
  - 👁️ help you later
- 👁️ Make **business** or **sales** contacts

# First Impressions

- Is everyone using a **Powerbook** (MacBook)?
- Is **anyone** actually **listening** to the talks?
- Are people really IRC-ing with **the person sitting next** to them?
- Why did everyone **laugh at the same time**?
- Did **Audrey** just add that to **Pugs** just now?
- Why are the slides in **Latin** (or Klingon)?



# Network precautions

# Insecure networks

- Use **encrypted** protocol for **passwords** (VPN...)
- Techies **sniff** just because they can
- Bonjour / Rendezvous may be **on automatically**
- Do you really want to **share** your iTunes?
- Network users may **connect to your machine**
  - May not be part of the conference

# Using the network

- Internet Relay Chat (**IRC**) – irc.perl.org
  - #perl
  - **#yapc**
- Blogs
  - <http://planet.yapcchicago.org/>
- **SubEthaEdit**
  - <http://www.codingmonkeys.de/subethaedit/>

# Hallway Track

- The **good stuff** happens outside the sessions
- **Meet new people**
- How to **Schmooze** - <http://www.onlamp.com/lpt/a/5989>

# Session etiquette

- **turn off** noisy things...
  - phones
  - laptop sounds
  - side conversations
- **tune in**
- **Don't hog** the Q & A time
  - take longer discussions to the hallway track

# Speaker etiquette

- With speakers...
  - don't hog their time
  - let them set up in peace
  - take into account sleep deprivation
  - help them remember you
  - remember they have things to do too
- [http://stephengoldin.com/pro\\_etiquette.html](http://stephengoldin.com/pro_etiquette.html)

New project

cooling off

period

# Reality Distortion Field

- ① Conferences are **exciting**
- ① **Proximity** breeds hubris
- ① People from **groups**
- ① Groups make **plans**
- ① Someone puts up a **wiki**
- ① Someone creates a **schema**
- ① Everyone goes back to reality on **Monday**



No

promises

# After the conference

- Email the people you met (but give them a **chance to recover**)
- **Blog** about what you **did**, what you **liked**, who you **met**
- Tell your boss how much **money** the conference **saved** the company

Enjoy the  
conference!