Persistent Operating Systems
Hauptseminar WS 2008/09

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  Consulting time: Mon, 14:00–15:30h
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What is it all About?

- Insights on interesting problems
- Literacy on system architecture
- Practice presenting scientific papers
- Practice discussing scientific papers
- Practice writing technical reports

Focus

This seminar is all about (orthogonal) persistence.

Your Expectations

?

Our Expectations

- You have high motivation for the topic
  - Preparation may include looking for support literature
- You will attend each talk
- You will participate in discussions

Formalia

- One paper each
  - $\approx$ 10 pages
- Presentation of the paper
  - 30–35 min.
- Evaluation report on the paper
  - Read and include related work if required

Organization

- Talk preparation time: $\geq$ 4 weeks
  - Prepare a vivid talk
  - Incite lively discussion
  - Hand in slides a week before your talk
- First talks: in 5 weeks (2008-12-01)
- Technical reports / summary
  - Till the end of the term (2009-02-13)

Intended Schedule

27.10.	Introduction
03.11.	—
10.11.	—
17.11.	—
24.11.	—
01.12.	1./2. talk
08.12.	3./4. talk
15.12.	5./6. talk
22.12.	*Christmas*
29.12.	*Christmas*
05.01.	*Christmas*
12.01.	7./8. talk
19.01.	9./10. talk
26.01.	11./12. talk
02.02.	—
09.02.	—

How to Prepare for a Seminar Talk?

- Prepare in time
- Study deeply
  - Consult related work if required
- Explain your topic thoroughly and *didactically*
- Restrict your talk to required aspects
  - Rely on previous talks' contents

General Approach to Giving the Talk

1. Understand the paper
2. Adapt it for presentation
3. Make slides
4. Perform dry runs

Understand the Paper

- Understand the key points
  - What are the problems?
  - What are the proposed solutions?
- Take your audience into account
- Consult additional literature
  - If required for the presented paper

Adapt the Paper

- Outline your talk in the beginning
- Summarize your paper in the end
- Give the *how*s and *why*s in between

The Audience ...

- will forget most of the talk
- should still get your message

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Restructure the Paper

- Only present the key points
  - What is the new functionality good for?
  - Why is it better now?
  - How has it been improved?
- Do not go into detail
  - Details are confusing
  - Motivate to read the paper instead

Common Pitfalls

- Do not present the paper from top to bottom
  - Paper is for the archives
  - Presentation is live
- Do not make presentation time proportional to your learning time for a given topic
  - Stress key points in the talk
  - Skip over hairy details

Warning

Do not even think about breaking these rules ...

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Own Opinion

- You will present someone else's work
- Get an opinion on your own
  - Do you agree?
  - Do you miss anything?
- Express your opinion in the talk
  - Mark it as such!

Preparing the Slides

- Use electronic slides
- We can provide a laptop if required
  - Check up front for compatibility
- Show us your slides before the talk
  - Prevents common mistakes
  - Helps to have an interesting talk
- Arrive early for the presentation
  - Make sure the setup is working

Slide Contents

- Do give slide numbers
  - Eases discussion afterwards
  - Helps audience to follow
- Use a large font size ($>$ 20pt Arial)
- Do not clutter your slides
  - Only show important text
- Use keywords rather than sentences
  - Sentences distract audience from talk

Warning

Do *not* use these slides as a template!
These are for reference purposes, yours are to support a live talk!

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Slide Contents (2)

- Only one topic per slide
  - Leave slide half-empty
- More than one slide per topic is fine

Visual Contents

- Make slides visually appealing
- Colors for emphasis are fine
  - Restrict use
  - Avoid certain colors
    - red on blue
    - pink and red
- Be consistent
  - Same color for same purpose
  - Same font for same purpose
  - Same layout for same purpose

Pictures and Figures

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- Avoid long lists

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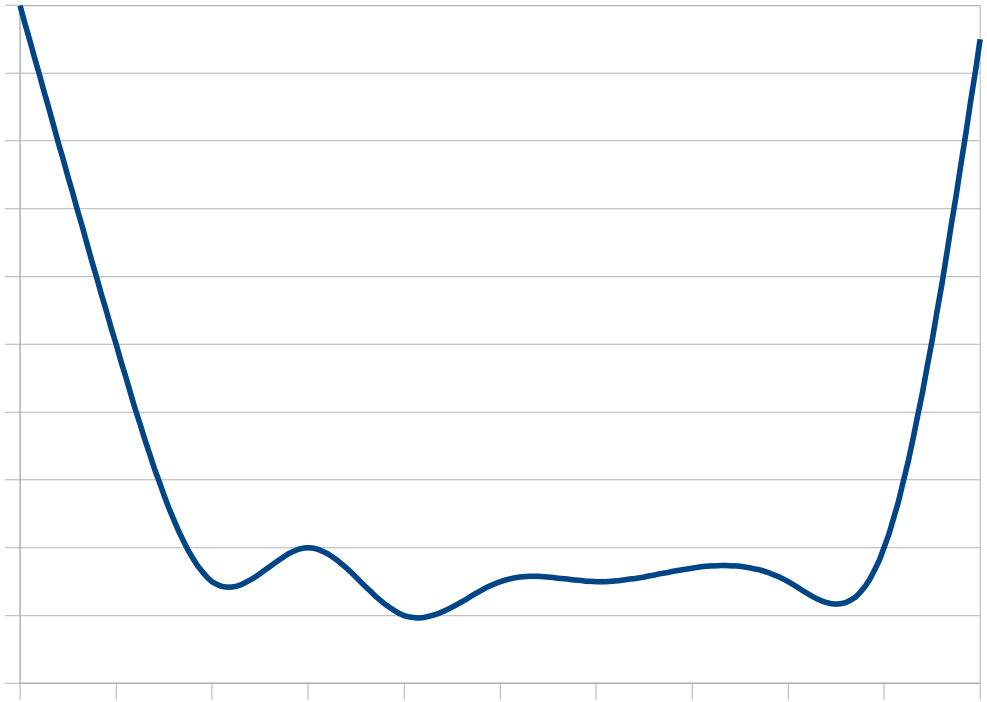
- Avoid long lists
- Use pictures
  - Make audience curious and awake
  - Good for structures
- Use animations (but scarcely!)
  - Good for algorithms/protocols/sequences
- Do not animate each and every item, please ...

Example Figure (really bad)

time [%]	alertness [%]
0	100
10	50
20	15
30	20
40	10
50	15
60	15
70	17
80	15
90	20
100	95

Example Figure (still bad)



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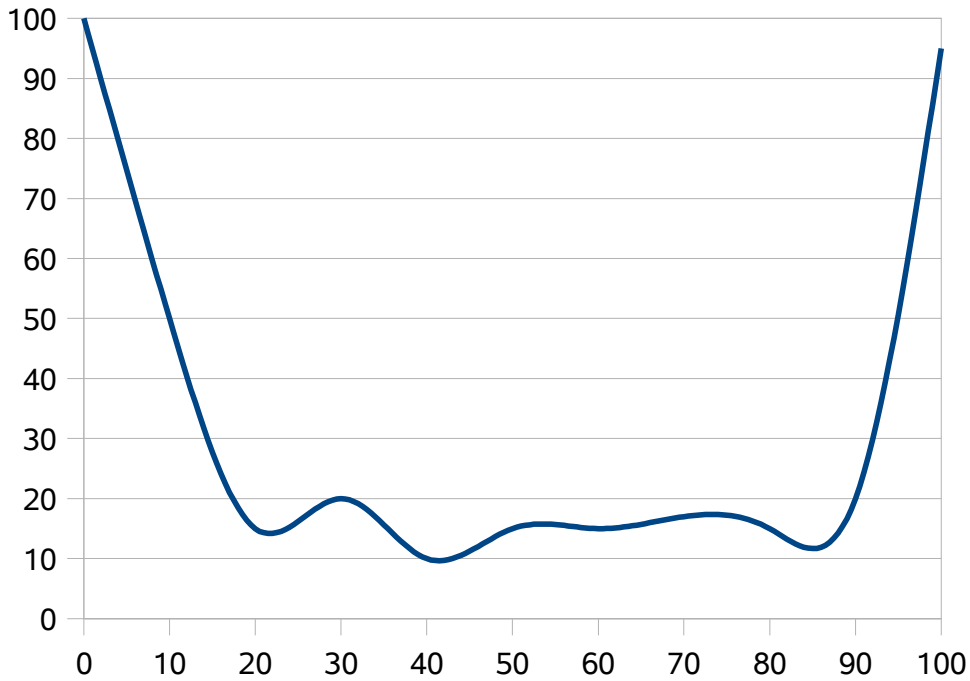
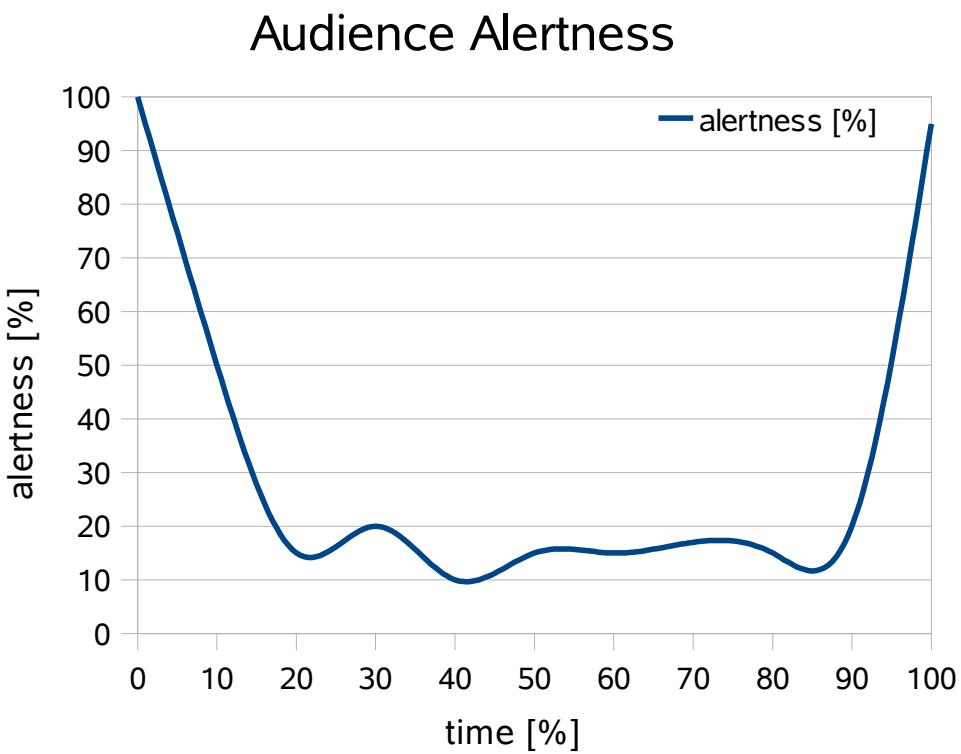


Example Figure (ok)



Dry Run

- Perform a couple of dry runs
- Make sure you time them
  - About 2–3 minutes per slide
  - About 10–15 slides (< 20!)
  - Better cut it short than going over time
- Ask friends to be the audience
  - May find that all/most slides need modifications

Memorizing

- Do not memorize the talk
- Do memorize the introduction
  - You are nervous at first
  - Allows for a smooth start
- Complicated parts are hard to explain
  - Improvising is difficult
  - Know *how* you want to convey them

Attitude

- Be excited about the subject
- Something will go wrong
  - Don't panic
  - Audience is forgiving
  - Enjoy yourself

Pointers and Pauses

- Use a pointing device
  - Avoid hiding the slides while pointing
- Let the slides sink in
  - Do not remove them too quickly
  - Do not start talking too early
- Take pauses during complicated parts

Interaction with the Audience

- Keep eye contact
- Encourage questions
  - Express the audience's interest
  - Help to follow your talk
- 'I don't know' is perfectly fine
  - Knowing is better still

Presenting Numbers

- Explain the experiments
  - What is the setup?
  - What is its purpose?
- Present only a selection of the measurements
  - Too many numbers are hard to digest
  - Prefer graphs and pictures
- Explain the numbers
  - Do they serve their purpose?
  - How?
- Draw conclusions from the experiments

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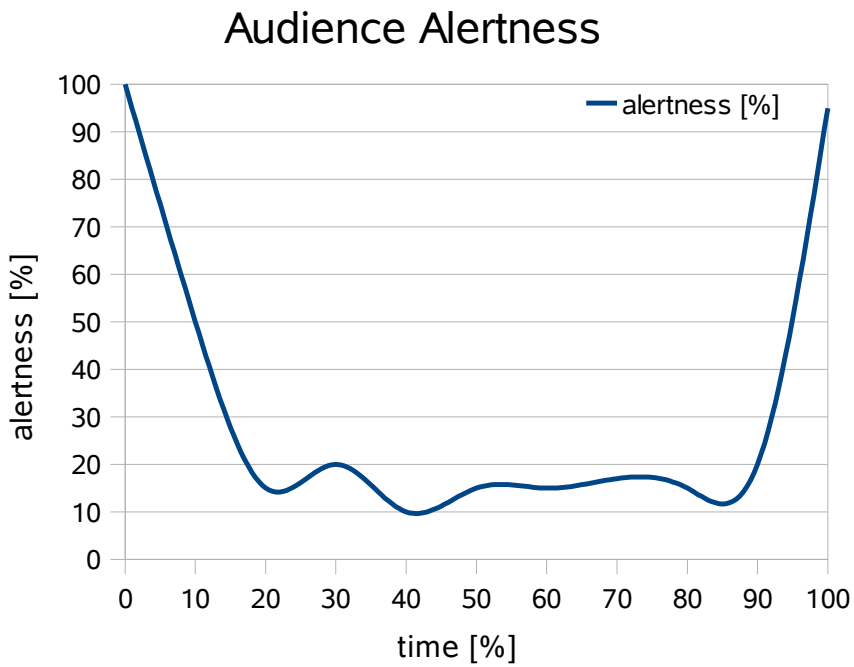

One Final Word

- Do *not* go over time
  - Puts you and your work in bad light
  - Be prepared to cut down your talk by several slides