

USER GUIDE

POWERPOINT EXTREME!

PURPOSE

The purpose of this user guide is to explain the steps necessary to facilitate and host PowerPoint Extreme! Through a loose set of instructions and anecdotal commentary, we intend that users in diverse locations with varied resources be able to organize and execute this event (or series of events). Though this guide attempts to provide a logical framework for realizing PowerPoint Extreme! the components and ideas presented can be expanded and modified to fit individual user needs.

WHAT IS PowerPoint Extreme!?

PowerPoint Extreme! is an evening of performances that brings PowerPoint out of the office and into the art space, addressing the weirdness, tedium, and sheer ubiquity of this medium. What the hell do we need to know that needs to be explained by a PowerPoint slideshow? - OR - What isn't PowerPoint good for?

PowerPoint Extreme! celebrates amateurship, for everyone is passionate about some topic, imagined or real. It asks how and why PowerPoint has become the default corporate and academic medium for the presentation of ideas and instruction. It encourages tenuous (and often humorous) connections between a variety of media and subject matters. It exploits the technical tools of the application (embedded imagery, animation, sound files, etc.) to create slideshows that are visually interesting and playfully cluttered.

HOW TO ORGANIZE PowerPoint Extreme!

Find a space for people to gather. This could be someone's apartment, a public building or a city park. People will be giving presentations, so you will need to obtain some seating, a television, stereo, computer or projector. It's also nice to provide refreshments.

Once you've secured a space and supplies you'll need to promote the event. This could be as simple as calling or emailing some friends and family. Social networking sites can be an effective means of publicizing events. If you are a bit more daring (and your venue has the capacity) put up flyers in your neighborhood or at work.

PowerPoint Extreme! is an event that benefits from a workshop. Holding a workshop prior to the event will generate creative presentations with guidance. Solicit friends who have made PowerPoint presentations and ask if they will come teach a workshop. See our Workshop section for more resources.

It's important to know the needs of your presenters. To create consistency and less lag time between presenters, try to have participants format for Microsoft PowerPoint slideshow. Presenters should be encouraged that artwork and performances otherwise inspired by PowerPoint are more than welcome. Limit the length of the presentations to 10-15 minutes.

Document your PowerPoint Extreme! through video, photographs or any other means. Share your experiences with others through a group web log.

WORKSHOP AND RESOURCES

In recent years there has been a wave of alternatives to using Microsoft PowerPoint. A workshop is the perfect time to demonstrate the options available. Enlist people to help with presenting the breadth of substitutes. Find those in your community who have an interest in Web 2.0*, Open source software*, and Microsoft PowerPoint.

Here is a short list of places to start:

Software/Applications

PowerPoint (Mac + PC)

Keynote (Mac)

NeoOffice (Mac + PC | Open Source)

<http://www.neooffice.org>

Web-based Presentation Software*

Google Docs

Voice Thread

<http://voicethread.com/#home>

Slide Rocket

<http://www.sliderocket.com/how.html>

For a model of a similar event, check out

<http://www.pecha-kucha.org/>

*Web 2.0 is a term describing the trend in the use of World Wide Web technology and web design that aims to enhance creativity, information sharing, and, most notably, collaboration among users.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_2

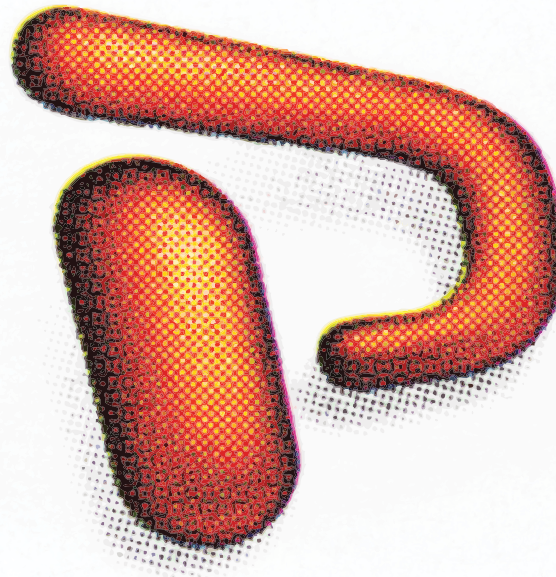
*Open source is a development methodology, which offers practical accessibility to a product's source (goods and knowledge).
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source

*Check out this blog for a good review
<http://artjunction.org/blog/?p=156>

EXTENDED PURPOSE

In "The Cognitive Style of PowerPoint," Edward Tufte laments:

"Alas, slideware often reduces the analytical quality of presentations. In particular, the popular PowerPoint templates (ready-made designs) usually weaken verbal and spatial reasoning, and almost always corrupt statistical analysis. What is the problem with PowerPoint?"



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- It exploits the technical tools of the application (embedded imagery, animation, sound files, etc.) to create slideshows that are visually interesting and playfully cluttered.

PowerPoint Extreme! was originally produced in 2005 at OPEN-SOURCE Art (Champaign-Urbana, IL). Much of the text in this manual is from the original call for submissions.

CONTACT US

This manual was originally produced by Hideous Beast may be freely copied and distributed by anyone.

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