DEVCONF.cz

Tips on submitting your proposal for DevConf.CZ

Lenka Bočincová
Dorota Volavková
Marta Lewandowska

What you can find in this presentation

- Things to know about DevConf.CZ

- Tips to choose the right session type for DevConf.CZ

- Tips on how to write an abstract

- Debunking the first time presenter myths about speaking at the conferences in general

Good to know about DevConf.CZ

- **Date:** June 12-14, 2025 in Brno, Czech Republic + Virtual

- **Audience:** Developers, admins, DevOps engineers, testers, documentation writers and other contributors to open source technologies. At DevConf.CZ, FLOSS communities sync, share, and hack on upstream projects together.

- **CFP:** Submit your topic by March 2, 2025 on the CFP page
    - More information about CFP in this blog post

Finding the right session type for your content

Is there a topic that you don't know a lot about, but have had some success with?

- Lightning talk (15 minutes)

Is there a topic you may not know much about but you would have good questions for?

- Moderate a discussion (35 minutes)

Is there a topic that you are confident about and you could do a demo about?

- Talk (35 minutes)

Is there a topic that you are confident about and could teach others or help them practice a skill?

- Facilitate a workshop (80 minutes)

Are you contributing to an open source project and you would like to share the latest project developments, interact with contributors?

- Organize a meetup (80 minutes)

DEV CONF .CZ

Before you start writing your proposal

1. Check the DevConf.CZ website to learn what the conference is about and what organizers are looking for

2. Check talks from last year to get inspiration for your proposal for DevConf.CZ

3. Keep in mind the audience of the event: developers, admins, DevOps engineers, testers, documentation writers and other open source contributors

4. Brainstorm with your colleagues / team / community members and don't be afraid to have a co-speaker

5. Keep in mind that the abstract and title will be used for promotion of your talk, so they should be interesting to attract attendees

6. The reviewing committee will work only with information that you provide in your proposal during CFP

7. If you are not sure about your proposal, join us on Matrix where CfP office hours will be announced

Tips: Writing an abstract

The abstract should include the following information

- Who is your talk for?

- Why should they be interested?

- What information will be covered and what will the audience learn from the session?

- How will it be explained/demonstrated?

- Any background information/knowledge the audience needs in order to participate or understand your presentation?

- Consider including a call-to-action or next steps for your audience

Keep in mind

Dos

- Make sure the submission is relevant for the DevConf.CZ audience
- Use plain English without jargon or unnecessary detail
- Include the question your talk will answer
- Include live demos, examples, stories, implementation tools, etc.
- Have your proposal reviewed by someone with experience

Don'ts

- Don't use the same abstract for all conferences
- Don't be too wordy or share a link as a replacement for your abstract
- Avoid abbreviations or cliche
- Avoid overview sessions: Focus on technical, community project-oriented content
- Avoid all marketing and sales presentations, product pitches are received poorly

DEV
CONF
.CZ

Example of a good abstract and title

DEV
CONF
.CZ

- **Title:** Formula 1 telemetry processing using Kafka Streams

- **Abstract:**

  Apache Kafka is the de facto data streaming platform used for ingesting vast amounts of data and processing them in real-time. Low latency analytics are vital if users are to react to events as fast as possible and to effectively shape future decision making. The Apache Kafka upstream community provides the Kafka Streams library for simplifying the development of highly scalable applications for filtering, mapping, transforming, and enriching these data.

  During this session, we will explore how we can use Kafka Streams to help a Formula 1 team gain insights during a race. The 'real' data will come from a well-known racing game and will be processed by our application in real-time, making us feel like real track-side F1 engineers!

Source: https://devconfcz2021.sched.com/event/gmKr/formula-1-telemetry-processing-using-kafka-streams

Debunking the myths about speaking at the conferences

Myth 1: I'm not an expert!

You might not feel like an expert, but you are!

- Everyone has a different idea of what "expert" means

- Keep in mind that there are people who know nothing about your topic and for them you are the expert

- Even if your audience has knowledge about the same topic, each of you might look at the topic from different perspectives

Myth 2: People will ask questions I can't answer, and I'll look like a fool.

No one knows everything.

- Saying "I am sorry, I don't know the answer" is totally ok.

- In case you don't know the answer, there are several things you can do:

  - Ask the audience if some of them have the answer.

  - Tell them you will look up the answer and get back to them.

  - Tell them you'll post the answer on your blog

  - If the question is off topic, feel free to tell them that and say you would be happy to discuss it with them later

  - It is always better to say "I don't know" rather than to make up an answer

DEV
CONF
.CZ

Myth 3: I'm too nervous to speak!

Everyone is nervous in front of an audience, even experienced speakers

- Practice makes perfect - the more you practice, the more confident and less nervous you will be.

- Do a dry run in front of your friends, colleagues, community members and get feedback from them.

- Don't forget that as a speaker at DevConf.CZ you will be able to join our Coaching program and get advice from more experienced speakers.

DEV CONF .CZ

Myth 4: A talk followed by a Q&A is the only format I can use to share my knowledge.

There are also other ways to tell your story other than giving a talk

These are the session types that you can choose from at DevConf.CZ:

- Talk (35 minutes)
- Lightning talk (15 minutes)
- Discussion (35 minutes)
- Workshop (80 minutes)
- Meetup (80 minutes)
- Activity (80 minutes)
- Booths (2-3 days)

More info about the DevConf.CZ session types: https://www.devconf.info/cz/blog/submitting-a-proposal-for-devconf-cz-2025/

Good luck with your submission!

Lenka Bočincová
Dorota Volavková
Marta Lewandowska