

**YAPC::Europe 2009
Lisbon, Portugal
Feedback & Suggestions**



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**a joint production by
the YAPC::Europe 2009 organisers
& YAPC Conference Surveys**

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An Introduction

This document includes fragments from comments in the conference survey, that were submitted by attendees of the 2009 YAPC::Europe Perl Conference. Each survey provided the attendee with the ability to provide a snapshot of the Perl community, together with their opinions, feedback and suggestions, which could be used for future events.

One thing to bear in mind while reading this report, is that everyone's time and effort in putting on the conference was given freely. The organisers put on these events because they enjoy programming Perl and want to have the chance to give something back to the community. All the organisers have full time jobs and were fortunate enough to have partners and family who were willing to put up with losing them for several nights over the last year prior to the event, in order to bring the conference to Lisbon. So a big thank you both to the organisers and to everyone who supported them.

Not everything goes according to plan, and the trials of hosting a conference for several hundred people are not without frustration on the part of the organisers. What follows might be considered negative in some parts, but while they might highlight issues with the event, they can hopefully be used by future organisers to avoid some previously unexpected problems, or even include tasks not previously considered. Not all the feedback is negative, and there are positive comments too, and it is worth bearing in mind that you can't please everyone. It will be a rare occasion when something doesn't go wrong, outside of the organisers control.

To those who submitted their feedback, many thanks for doing so, as it really is very much appreciated. This was the 10th YAPC::Europe, with the first YAPC::Europe in 2000 and this feedback has help to improve the event every year. Long may it continue.

Barbie

Conference Survey Administrator

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Rating The Conference

After asking attendees to rate the conference, the survey then asked the attendee whether there were any strong views.

- Joana did a great job with the food during the breaks.
 - There were only regular (sugar containing) soft drinks, which some of us can't (or shouldn't) drink. It would have been great if there had been a supply of diet soft drinks as well.
 - Breaks between the talks allowing people to move, and having all the sessions start and end at the same time is wonderful.
 - Thanks to the organizing team they did a hell of a job !!!
 - Great Food service and thanx for the fruits apples (after all the sweet stuff a real pleasure)
 - Detail Map on the exact location could have been been, a simple diagram would have been by far better than the Google Maps link
 - it was very hard to figure out the location for EPO workshop, it was not mentioned anywhere
 - Perfect venue, with all rooms next to each other!
 - Very nice conference dinner!
 - A wiki is something democratic, but it tends to get confusing when the basic and fundamentally important information (where, when, why, what) drowns in the flood of less important information (who is accommodated in which hotel etc). The food _service_ itself was good, but the food was terrible. Too fat, too much meat, nothing sensible to eat. The conference dinner was MUCH better of course ;-)
 - As I'm sure others have already said, the Wifi was excellent once you were on it, but the instructions for getting online (on a Mac at least) were anything but clear.
 - buying yapc ticket 100€, being at yapc::eu, priceless.
 - Cons:
 - The wifi required a protocol that my system didn't support (ok, I'm still running on Tiger, but I can't afford a new computer for now).
 - The auction went a bit too fast, or at least, Damian's video was a bit too long.
 - The directions and maps for the social events were confusing and spread in too many places (see also my suggestions later in this survey).
- Pros:
- The food. Ice creams FTW!
 - The conference dinner and quizz show were excellent.
 - The speakers dinner was good.
 - Excellent organizers!
 - Good there was a vegetarian option at the conference dinner, but they didn't know how to cook vegetarian :-/
 - I found the wiki/newsletter combo to be very unclear. I think the registration process was ok, but can't remember for sure anymore so it must have been good I guess =).
 - I like it, if a speaker gives a good show, but there should be at least as much content as

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show. One of my reasons to come was to learn something. To my surprise it was just about impossible to learn something out of the talks of many 'famous' people. They proved to be able to speak and cuss fast but mostly did a poor job as teachers. Hardly anyone seemed to realize that not all of the audience was raised with English as their mother language.

- What does 'BOFs' mean? Can't comment on something I don't know
- I marked some topics as N/A because they did not apply to me directly, so I could not evaluate them fairly.
- I regret having had a Brazilian dinner in the conference dinner opposed to a typical Portuguese meal.
- I tried to use online payment for the conference fee, but the transaction did not get through. I think the problem is with my bank, not with YEF's bank nor the conference website.
- Directions / maps : there were no signs within the university to lead to the conference venue.
- Lunch: I prefer eating sandwiches in the venue like on tuesday and wednesday rather than going outside to eat in a restaurant on monday: less time wasted, which counterbalances the fact that the food is (understandably) not great (yet, the pastries were great).
- I would have liked more power plugs available and better internet access (maybe even a spot with a few switches for wired access, but definitely unfiltered protocols like vpn or git).
- It took me a while to find the link to the wiki.
- It was a wonderful conference
- It was extremely clever to have so much drinkable water available in a city where the weather was 'use constant HOT => ">= 28";'
- It was ways better than I expected
- Jose, Joana, and Alberto are awesome.
- My only issue was the lack of printed schedule except on the conference rooms' doors; this combined with the initial problems to get wifi running forced me to keep consulting the doors to see what was next. Fortunately both problems were soon fixed.
- On the catering. There are some of us who are on a diet and also some who don't drink coffee, only decaf.
- Only one "somewhat" regarding the web site: Javascript menu doesn't work on iPhone.
- pizza was cold, juices had chemical sweetener, but rest of food was good
- Q: Whats the point of making WIFI ultra secure, when the credentials are public? I had a real hard time connecting, under vista and linux.
- 1) Registration should have been at 08:30 and time scheduled.
2) There should have been a printed schedule in the pack.
3) My biggest disappointment was the dinner - 21:30 is far too late for me to eat, so I gave up and went back to the hotel. And why were we not told the start time on the schedule earlier, we were left hanging around for over an hour miles from the hotel.
Sorry, I know you guys put a lot of work into it, but I'm being honest so that it can be improved next time.
- Registration: would have been nice to know how it was going to work in advance.
- Some of the talks weren't that great, either due to speaker experience and/or language barrier - but that could be expected. The social events were a lot of fun and the accommodations were good. The food was, in comparison to my first yapc last year, not that great (greasy

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pizza 2 out of 3) but I understand the environment for this choice. Other than that, great yapc.

- Some small signs on lamp posts outside the venue would have done wonders on the first day. And bigger copies of the schedule for the day, for instance projected in the lobby or blown up to A2 size.
- Food was good. I hear good things about the conference dinner (though I didn't attend any of the social things this year.)
- The timing is critical - making sure talks start on time (the speakers I spoke to commented they weren't really sure when to begin) and end on time (aaaaargh, overrun.) I'd make sure someone was in charge in each room; This doesn't have to be a staff member, but can just be someone who attends regularly to be deputised for a morning / afternoon.
- I totally didn't get the "partner program" was for your girlfriend / boyfriend / spouse. That name to me suggested something like "partnership program", i.e. something corporate. Maybe I'd have made use of it if I'd know about it.
- The directions (to venue location, pre-conference meeting, attendees dinner, training on 5th and 6th August) were vague! Street name and address are necessary to tell taxi driver where to go, or to setup car navigation system, or to look up venue on internet.
- Staff: not enough staff! No people helping out the speakers and the attendees in the rooms.
- The food provision was a stroke of genius - not the quality (which was absolutely fine) but the fact that the food was available *all the time*, which meant there was no stress about talks overrunning and missing a coffee break.
- The maps provided weren't excellent (but hey, we have google maps) and schedule changes weren't really communicated (I miss Vienna's very clear projectors with schedule / newsfeed). Not biggies, but the only things I put "somewhat unsatisfied" for.
- The food was great, although the pizza was cold :(The good thing is that there was tea available, not just coffe - but in just one obscure place :)
- The food was quite rich on any occasion.
- I like the croissants, but the cold pizza on Monday was not ok and the chicken sandwich could have been made better and the pizza on wednesday was warmer, but still much too rich.
- The conference dinner again was more of the rich variety - a nice fish would have been more appreciated.
- The lunch was not very good and also not very healthy. But this is the only negative thing I have to say. It was a great event :)
- The normal google maps are more useful than satellite IMHO
- Sandwiches would have been nicer than the pizza, less greasy and longer lasting
- the CFP was confusing, the deadline was before the one for YAPC::NA even though YAPC::NA a month earlier
- The schedule with multiple tracks worked very well, but this was largely due to self-discipline of the speakers. Sometimes speakers were unsure if to start etc.. A stronger concept of a chairman for each room would be helpful.
- The start time of the conference dinner was frustrating.
- (And actually, the speakers' dinner, which whilst I wasn't a speaker, I was explicitly invited

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- to attend)
- I appreciate that it is Portuguese custom to start late, but it's frustrating when one attempts to reconcile it with a busy and tiring conference schedule that starts at 9am the next morning.
 - I would have hoped that with a large group that had booked the entire restaurant, it would have been possible to bend the start time earlier.
 - I believe that Italy has a similar culture of starting late. Whilst it might seem rude and disrespectful to ignore local customs, for the practical purpose of conference attendee comfort, it would be good not to start so late in future.
 - The conference badge, containing the map and other information, was really cool. Several of us wondered if the same idea could be used again, possibly expanded to contain one's personal schedule.
 - The way we were looked after and the catering was outstanding -- ridiculously good value for money.
 - Was not clear about the BOFs meeting and I lost them.
 - Well done! :D
 - Yes - Perl is great! so is the community!

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For The Lisbon Organisers

In the final section of the survey, we first asked "Do you have any feedback you would like to give specifically to this year's organisers?"

- Conference bag was missing its most important item: the schedule. Having to resort to the wiki (not everyone likes to carry a laptop around all day) or the few places it was hanging was very inconvenient.
- Venue of the conference dinner could have been better. Low ceilings made it hard to have a conversation, and the setting didn't make mingling easier. Food at the conference dinner was below par as well.
- *Applause*
- Thanks to the organizing team they did a hell of a job !!!
- Great food service and thanx for the fruits apples (after all the sweet stuff a real pleasure)
- Lisbon is a really great city !!!
- ...
 1. WiFi! A conference with a (working) network is worth 2-3 times as much as one without. I'd be glad (i.e. my employer would) to pay double entrance fees to get something that works. It's better *not* to have WiFi than spending time trying to get it to work while missing half of the talks (also, you don't have to carry a laptop).
 2. Not including a schedule in the registration bag was a bummer. Yes, it's on the web, but didn't have WiFi. The printouts on the doors were crowded and didn't include the intro text which makes it hard to decide. Maybe it's possible to make a booklet generator in Act some day.
 3. Website was good, but unless you printed out the map it was hard to find the venue due to lack of signposting on the metro station.
 4. The queues at the registration desk were horrendously long, and the registration process needs rethinking (e.g. split up the lines for personal things from the ones for t-shirts and other non-essential stuff). Didn't get a badge, almost didn't get a t-shirt. How about printing out the badge yourself at home ?
 5. Food was good if you eat pizza (I don't), and Joana made a heroic effort. But do we really need 90 min lunch breaks? People were seen sleeping outside while waiting.
 6. The talks were mostly good to excellent; however a few of the 20 min talks really suffered from lack of time (coupled with setup delays and people shuffling in and out). Suggestion: Keep all talks to 45 mins except for one single track, and insist that people stay for both 20-min talks (lock the doors if necessary).
 7. Finally, the party was fantastic. Huge thanks to booking.com... shame we couldn't get in and start earlier.
- A great conference in an 'awesome' city!
- A really enjoyable conference - great work.
- Awesome job, thanks.
- Congrats on the great work! Everything was so nice for a first YAPC!
- Congrats!!

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- Congratulations for a job well done. You rock!
- Congratulations for the conference.
- Great job.
- Congratulations! Well Done!
- Congratulations. It was a real success once again (Braga 2005).
- Ensure network access is straight forward and that major OS can access easily (Ubuntu, windows XP and Vista, Mac OS, iPhone OS, Windows Mobile, Symbian, Fedora)
- Everything was great and I'd like to thank and congratulate the organizers.
- Everything was well organized. Thank you.
- Excellent, great job!
- Excellent job, as to be expected. Some hiccups along the way, but overall a great conference
- Excellent job, folks!
- Excellent overall
- Food was plenty and good (I gained 1.5 kg), weather was brilliant
- Air condition was a bit too low (inside freezing, outside cooking)
- Good Organisation
- Good work :)
- Great coffee
- Great conference!
- Great conference, thanks for all your efforts.
- In particular I appreciated the regular updates (newsletters) and all of the many Twitter posts.
- Only a couple of points for improvement. Firstly the organisers were not very visible, in previous years they have worn distinctive T-shirts on each day of the conference (i.e. bright colour with a large back-print). Secondly (and only a very minor issue), while the Quizz Show was a great idea, it should have been scheduled *before* the dinner, or alternatively server the meal earlier, say at 19:30.
- Great effort - thanks a lot!
- Only thing is that the power supplies kept dying in the conference rooms and there was no where to plugin for power - small point.
- Great job guys. You took care of the attendees in a good way. It was very convenient to be able to find coffee, drinks and snacks in the venue.
- Great job to finally have offered a nice partner program!
- Great job! Organisation was good, food was great, wireless access worked, talks were well arranged.
- Great job, guys!
- Great time there :)
- Great work!
- Great YAPC. Excellent food (the flexible rolling coffee/lunch provided, as well as the conference meal), lots of great innovations (like the Quizz show). Well done!
- I attended EuroPython2009 a few weeks ago and YAPC::Eu::2009 was MUCH better organised!

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- I liked the event after all, but didn't expect some obstacles like absence of clear minimal description of cards you use in metro and busses (threw away my first card) and some other tiny bits. Where are after event news describing when to expect video? There is no newsletter on the site describing some results.
- I really liked the conference! Thank you very much!
- I regret having had a Brazilian dinner in the conference dinner opposed to a typical Portuguese meal.
- I regret not having received my badge with my name. But it was a great conference nevertheless, I enjoyed it very much.
- I think the conference was very impressive! Not sure how you pulled it off, with so few people. Good work :)
- I would like to thank the 2 guys who took me and my colleague to Bairro Alto on Tuesday night :)
- I'm impressed with the job you've done, how much you managed to get right - I know it's really hard work!
- It is a bit of a shame that you were only with 3 people organizing this event. You should have had people in every room to help the speakers (explain how the microphone works, help to attach the notebook to the beamer, put water on the table, etc), to keep track of time, to make video's of each presentation, to be there for introductions of the speakers and for questions by the attendees.
- When you give directions to venue or other locations, always include street name and house number. The "Irish pub" was called "Irish & Co", which would have been more helpful to find it, since Lisbon has at least 5 Irish pubs! The entrance to the venue and the extra training location were hard to find: put paper with arrows (and the word Perl) on street lanterns, walls and other places, telling people where to go (and check every day whether these papers are still there).
- Duct tape for taping cables to the ground so people will not stumble over them.
- The food was rather nice, but next time indicate what is what. Chicken, ham, egg, whatever: add a piece of paper on a box or on the table on which is written what it is.
- The network was difficult to use. This could have been explained better.
- There were not enough power blocks.
- For the most part, the conference was very good. The above points are things that should have been taken care of, on top of all the things that you did take care of.
- It was great in every way.
- It was my first YAPC, and really love it.
- It was totally fantastic.
- It would have been much better to have one timekeeper/orga per room. Otherwise great work!!!
- José e Alberto, obrigado! Façam mais :)
- Just a huge thank you, everything was awesome! :)
- Keep the good work
- Lisbon is great !

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- Most organization was fine.
- Missing : a) pre-registration on sunday; b) printed schedules distributed to participants; c) better information infrastructure (white board / screen at registration desk)
- Many congratulations and thanks for a great event! :)
- More Power Plugs, please.
- My congratulations to the organizers. You did it wonderfully
- My wife was on the Partner program. Overall it was great, thanks for organising it. I've given a few suggestions to the "future organisers" for improvements.
- Obrigado! Great job.
- Outstanding job, you guys were great!
- Overall it was a good conference, but some things could be improved. For example, the schedule had to be changed after some speakers pulled out at the last minute. Obviously this isn't the organisers' fault, but the schedule on the conference web site wasn't updated, which isn't helpful.
- Overall, a great conference!
- I note that Portugal now is the second country to have hosted YAPC::Europe more than once ;-)
- As a speaker (and experienced attendee), the one thing that was missing in some rooms was someone to tell you how much time left you have. When helping Franck Cuny for his talk (he had a computer FAIL, so he used mine), we went a bit overtime on Brian McCauley's, who had to warn me about this.
- The directions/maps for the social events were too much confusing and spread in several places: the name of the place is in the newsletter, not on the corresponding wiki page; the full address is never given, even on Google Maps. For the speakers dinner, it was probably even more confusing for me because I wasn't at the pre-conference social, so I really had to find the place by myself.
- Parabéns, carago!!!! :)
- Perfectly organized!
- Perhaps a nicer hotel, although the location of the hotel was good my room was very aged/tired (worn out carpets etc) and the bathroom was horrible(unclean/damp/old), even the shower handle came off in my hand!. Plus the breakfast wasn't the best I've ever had abroad. But most importantly the wireless connectivity was unuseable most of the time ...
- As for the Uni and the conference, it was great, thanks for organising a great event. Big plus was the ease of getting there using the Underground.
- Thank you
- Thank you -- it was an excellent conference, far above the typical techie conference standard.
- Thank you for this awesome conference!
- Thank you so much!!!!
- Thank you very much for a nice and really efficient organization!!
- Only one suggestion, though... next time try to have some milk around the coffe machines, since I had to shave off all body hair again after so much coffee "for real men".

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- Thank you very much for all the work you did. :-)
- Thank you very much for your hard work, helpfulness and cheerfulness. I hope you get plenty of sleep afterwards. :)
- Thank you very much for your incredible effort.
- Thank you Zé and Joana for pointing me in the YAPC direction, it really changed something in my life.
- THANK YOU!
- Thank you! Obrigado! In fact I'm loving Perl because of it's community. I can't find any movement similar in any other computer language.
- Thank you, thank you, thank you so much for such a great and enjoyable time. A big hug to you all from Barcelona by alexm.
- Thanks - it was fantastic :)
- Thanks for a fabulous conference. Good talks, good company... custard tarts.
- Thanks for the food, Joana!
- Thanks for the last minute food. It was great, and saved us all a lot of money and time.
- Thanks guys, you did another wonderful job.
- Thanks!
- The above questions on how I paid didn't quite have any options that'd apply to me, so I'll put a more elaborate answer here. Sorry for the inconvenience.

The only reason I was able to attend is the generous funding from someone in the community, who happens to like the things i do in the perl world and agreed to cover my travel and accomodation expenses.

Nevertheless, I'm sure a student rate would've been helpful, if I would've been able to cover the other expenses myself.

Now, to actually answer the question this space is intended for: You Kick Arse!

It was an outstanding conference in sooo many ways. If you guys will ever be stupid enough or drunk enough or whatever, to pull this off again, I'm already looking forward to be there. Thank You.

- The conference badge, containing the map and other information, was really cool. The phrase book worked: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/acme/3887507596/>
- The food was a particularly nice touch, both at the venue and at the conference dinner.
- The management of the speakers was poor: generally no introduction, no time guarding, no support for speakers at all. That could have been much better!
- The only thing I really missed were clear signs pointing to the venue when I arrived in the place!
- The orga team should be visually distinguishable from regular attendees.
- The organisation of the first day was a bit poor - they should have had schedules up at the beginning of the day. Also, while the wifi appeared to work very well for those with WPA2, I couldn't connect with my little eee (WPA only)

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- The organization was very well done. The WIFI connectivity was not well tested under all major OSes that we see at the conference (Windows XP, Linux and OS X).
- The organizers worked hard, and it showed. The conference ran very smoothly. I appreciated little details like being able to print the boarding pass after online check-in on Wednesday. Having printed proceedings was very nice; I wish more people would have written papers (but I know it's hard).
- There was only one thing, I was not very happy with: I think the social event started too late. We had food then the quizz show and after the show the event ended due to the fact that the last metro leaves at 1.00 am. There was not that much time to chat with other geeks ;-)
- Beside that it was a great YAPC! Thanks @ all the organizers!
- There was too much food. Yes seriously. It was good for there to be unlimited food in the breaks but we probably would still have had all we could eat with 40%.
- They should all have had tshirts with the same strong color. Like pink :)
- The short breaks should have been a little longer, and the long break should have been a little shorter.
- This was a great conference, but my personal feeling is that Braga was even better. ;-)
Excellent work nonetheless.
- Very nice people organising the conference
- Good hospitality
- I felt very much welcome
- Very well done. thank you!
- Was very good,
- Well done and thanks!
- Well done! The included lunches were a nice surprise. Joanna++
- You deserve a hug x3
- You did a grand job! :) Thanks for organizing the conference!
- You did a very good job! Be proud of yourself.
- You did an excellent work. Superb. You guys rock :)
- You did not collect enough thanks for your hard work.
- I hope you do not feel burned out too much. It was great.
- *Thank you*
- You guys did a Grand job. You were always there, ready and with a smile, trying your best to solve whatever issues that appeared.
- The only thing I can think of as a suggestion, is that there could have been some banner or big sign saying YAPC::EU::2009 visible from outside.
- You made my travel to europe amazing! Really. I'm very glad to participate and in future will talk about with my children.

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For Future Organisers

For the final question of the survey, we asked attendees "Do you have any suggestions for improvement (please give examples where possible)?"

- Have people ("session chairs") introduce speakers. Not everyone is an experienced speaker, and even experienced speakers aren't always comfortable introducing themselves.
- Make a better wiki and web-site
- Tell people that some of the hotels are in the direct landing area of airplanes
- Make best use of the money spent on food - choose good quality over volume.
- Always have a 'worth getting out of bed for' item in the first slot of the day, particularly the morning after the conference dinner. I used to like it when lightning talks were in this slot.

Talking of lightning talks, the sessions weren't long enough -- most of the slots were filled in advance, meaning they were disproportionately taken up by 'regulars', rather than new people who perhaps wouldn't've thought of speaking in advance. In particular it would be good if newcomers who see the first lightning talks session and feel inspired were able to volunteer a talk for the second session.

- Silent auction running at the info desk freeing up the 'live' auction from lots of T-shirts and books was great, though maybe it (and some of its lots) could be advertised a bit more.
- Having 2 auctioneers doing alternating items would give them time to study each item (while t'other person is selling the previous one), hopefully leading to better descriptions and a swifter auction. Any lots which require 'imagination', such as thinking up a theme/colour/whatever, should be mentioned at least a day in advance, so folks can ponder it, form teams at the conference dinner, etc.
- If you have enough volunteers it'd be great to have a session chair responsible in each room for leading the applause for the speaker and then quickly reminding folks where they can go next. This should avoid Damian inadvertently inventing a coffee break and sending crowds of people away from the following talks, and also help getting speakers trapped in Q&As to finish on time.
- If lunch is provided then lunch breaks don't need to be so long. I'm sure everybody would be happier starting half an hour later in the morning instead!
- It'd be good if somehow the printed timetables pinned up around the place included talk synopses -- on many of them the titles aren't enough to work out whether you want to see them (and there are a few I missed because I didn't realize what they were about). Possibly not the full multi-paragraph synopses from the website, but an extra line or so about them.
- As well as "beer" it'd be great if the mini-phrasebook included the local words for "orange juice" (my attempts sometimes yielded delicious freshly-squeezed-on-site juice, and sometimes the yuckiest orange squash) and either "tap water" or an explanation that local restaurants don't serve tap water (it was getting embarrassing watching so many Americans attempting to order tap water, with little success).
- Good luck!
- Better organized information in terms of maps and addresses would be a plus, it was a bit all

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- over the place on the web pages/wiki.
- Cold drinks - not a fan of roomtemp coke!
 - Don't serve cold pizza... ;-)
 - Flights on the weekend are a bit of a problem. Maybe the next conferences could be Tuesday to Thursday.
 - Fruit and cold beverages please :)
 - Give the same amount of pastries and talks ;)
 - Good luck, I'm sure you'll do an excellent job
 - Hard stops so people can stand up from seats without interrupting anyone. Better schedule => better experience. The schedule MUST be printed and available anytime offline. Don't buy those cheap power blocks that shortcut whole power network, ask people to bring extenders if it's a problem. It's impossible to avoid clashes and missed talks, work harder on video and audio recordings.
 - Having the rooms so close from each other was great and not having to wander around looking for a place to lunch was definitely a plus.
 - Hope that they keep the good work of these year's organisers
 - I lacked power supply for my notebook quite often. if possible improve on that.
 - I would like to see a poster presentation session. The posters would be available in the hallways all the time, and there is a timeslot where all the poster owners are supposed to be near their poster. This would have a much lower barrier to present something / promote your project, compared to normal presentations. You also will get more feedback, because people can immediately ask questions, make suggestions, etc. It also makes it much easier to sell to your employer to go to the conference, because your presenting something (and of course the poster has the company logo, which will make your boss extremely happy).
 - I would like to see the scheduling change so that early morning is for things like training which generally have fewer and more motivated or obligated attendees and having the normal track start at 10-11 instead of 8 or so, that makes the socials less damaging ;-)
 - Ideally, would be great if you could video-tape all talks and publish them online later. Unfortunately, I have noticed that not all talks have been recorded.
 - If possible try to put signs from nearest public transportation point to the venue. Maybe plan "optional socials" for the 'empty' evenings, DO keep up the partner program, it was a great idea.
 - Improve the partner's program. ;) I would love if my girlfriend join me at Piza Italy
 - Improving the lounge area.
 - Working zones (because there are always some need to work during the day in a quiet place)
 - Best food.
 - Info for first time attenders: how and where registration is. Have the conference dinner on the first night, so people can get to know each other.
 - It could be good to have some screens / monitors, showing the titles / speakers / times of the following sessions (and the rooms where they will take place).
 - it was distracting to have people constantly and loudly enter the auditoriums whilst the talk was going on - this could be mentioned at the beginning, that people be more considerate?

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Feedback & Suggestions



- It would be great to suggest a location for a social event for the first day.
- It would be nice to have a monitor/projector show an updated schedule in the hallway. Also, show the schedule in auditoriums in the breaks.
- Please provide GPS coordinates for all important places (e.g. venue, conference dinner).
- Keep the good work done, please.
- Keep the partner track, it's important and fun!
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up with the "standard" ;-)
- Keep with the good work
- Make sure that you test the WIFI with all major OSes used by the attendees (Linux, Windows XP (and vista?) and OS X).
- Providing a catering service during the track days is a great idea as we don't need to seek for restaurants and we can still have a social talk with the Perl Mongers.
- Maybe it would be reasonable to make the short breaks a little bit longer - like 10 minutes instead of 5. My brain was just boiling.
- maybe some more hostels to choose from where better because there get full fast in main season, test if/how wifi works before and make the howto easier available,
- More beer^Wcafeinated drinks :)
- Eventually some form of lockers where people could store their coats, backpacks, books... instead of having to lug them around. Not terribly important... just a suggestion
- Much clearer maps, and directions
- Need volunteers for timekeeping. Need signs and/or volunteers to direct people to the venue (especially on first day).
- Plan ahead and fix the events (eg. training, pre-conf dinner) earlier.
- Please supply printed schedules in the participant's pack.
- Do real pre-registration on the day before the conference.
- Think about information infrastructure at registration desk (white board / screen / etc.; online wiki is not enough)
- Please follow the example of this year's organisers and set up a regular Twitter feed, this was a great way of keeping a "buzz" around the conference.
- Please have clear schedules outside each room and have one staff member in each room to keep speakers on time and fix technical issues.
- Please keep in mind that Perl must be shouted out in several ways.
- All governments bet in education for the improvement of the country.
- I suggest for improvement of Perl please put the student fee for a minimum or even for free. The more students you get the more Perl you'll have in future companies.
- Please organise a Partner Program.
- Here's a few suggestions based on this year's Partner Program:
 1. enable a way to register the name of the partner, and make it visible to others - just like registrations for the conference (or maybe just a wiki page). This way partners would be able to see who else was going and the organisers of the partner program would have a list.

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2. Try and make a real schedule with meeting times, this way you would be able to join the others, if you had other plans that day.
 3. Try not to make whole day events. Instead the first half of the day could be guided / sightseeing (maybe by bus), the other half is on you own (although suggestions for what to do would be welcome).
 4. There's no need for the partners to meet as early as we do (they're on holiday). Instead meeting for brunch (at or close to the venue, if possible) would be a good start. If they wanted they could still be able to see the opening of the conference.
- If you're not able to organise a real Partner Program, please just created a "meeting point" at the venue (could just be a sign saying "Partners"). Then our partners could just meet and go sightseeing on their own.
 - Please provide better food at the conference venue.
 - Please provide plenty of fruit and cold drinks.
 - Consider staggering the conference start times on the second and third days, as unfortunately many attendees get more and more hungover as the conference goes on. Starting at (say) 10 AM on the last day of the conference would probably boost attendance in the morning sessions, and be fairer on speakers assigned early times.
 - Prepacked bags of goodies and preprinted badges would help the reg process go faster. Maybe the badges were preprinted, not sure. I know there were some technical glitches that held it up. That seemed like the only disorganized thing about the whole conference.
 - My wife was in the spouses program, and said that it was great for the size of the conference that it was (she used to run the spouses program for a 2500+ person conference, so that's a big thumbs up). I highly recommend having such a program at future events.
 - Printed program in conference bag.
 - Make better us of the rooms by moving talk around.
 - Printed schedules would be very helpfull at the beginning of each day.
 - Put directional signs at nearby street corners, stations etc.
 - Remember to have tee availalbe in coffe breaks. Remember to provide much power (electricity) cables, so people with laptops can charge them while at conference or break.
 - Schedules: put on screens in rooms when no talk, project in lobby or failing that have large print outs up somewhere.
 - Directions stuck up on lamp posts from the hotels to the venue would be nice
 - See my Lisbon comment about the hotel. Ask to see a few rooms before you choose a hotel and ensure wireless works. Having stayed in Italy on a number of occasions they can charge a lot for crap accomodation so it's well worth checking.
 - As for Italy, ensure that people don't get ripped off at the airport by the taxi's when they land to go to the airport. Looking forward to it already.
 - Make a checklist with everything that has to be done. Ask previous organisers for their checklists. Make sure enough people are in the team to perform all the things on the checklist.
 - Be clear in instructions, directions, network explanation, venue location rooms, etc.
 - Start registering at the pre-conf meeting and try to get as many parallel queues for registration day

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- Start the talks slots at 10:00 instead of 9:00 especially after attendees diner...
- Thank you
- The "hallway" area was a bit cramped, and the air in there was stale - would have been good to be able to open windows.
- The handling of the wavelan should be much simpler than it was in Lisbon !!!
- The most important information, especially on how to get to the venue should be available at least one week before conference start. Some people might arrive early and have no internet connection.
- The most important information during the conference, especially the conference schedule should be available in printed form, at least as a hangout. Not everybody will bring a laptop. This was (at least after half a day) well done by this year's organizers.
- The natural place for the social events is in the schedule, with their address noted as plain text, and eventually a link to the wiki with Google Maps. But Google Maps should be a bonus, not the main source of information. If the event is put in the schedule, it means can import it in their mobile device(s) through the iCal export, and then even if they get lost, they can use the good old way to find the place: paper maps and asking people. You can't do that with Google Maps and, no, not everybody, even in a geek conference like YAPC, has a GPS-enabled mobile device with cheap 3G connection allowing for real-time Google Maps or other überkewl features. Franck Cuny (the guy who brought the CPAN maps) was this close to not make it to the speakers dinner because of that. I lost myself twice on the way.
- Summing up: always write down the full address of the social events.
- The partners program needs to be planned in itself, and the people in charge must now about the details (number of people, children, etc). It's also important to plan the conference main events so that the partners can attend.
- The security guard on duty in the hallway was a great idea. Made it possible for people to leave their stuff lying around which in turn made it feel as if we were inhabiting the venue rather than just passing through.
- Personally I'd prefer the conference to run from Wednesday to Friday, and to be around the end of August/start of September, but I may not be the majority, and I realise that venues constrain things.
- Could there be a crèche?
- There is a running problem YAPC that the managers of bars never believe the organisers when we tell them just how much beer they will sell when YAPC descends uoon them. The YEF "how to run a YAPC book" should contain a section of case studies recounting how often YAPC has drunk a bar dry or completely overwhelmed the staff. Future organisers should be encouraged to present these studies to managers of establishments where YAPC social events are to take place. (I'm only half joking).
- There should have been a registration on the eve of the conference, like some other years. It cuts the length of the queue on the conference first morning.
- Things (I think) should be constantly checked out:
 - WC status (clean, paper, and so on)
 - Power supplies (laptop's bat doesn't last forever :))
 - IRC Channel for people at the conference - live feedback ;

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- Try and get more trade stands. EuroPython had several book publishers, not just O'Reilly.
- Offer several hotels, graded by price and by distance from the venue.
- Try to address not just mainly the 'geek'-group but also the 'intermediate' developers. For these it may be harder to catch on, if there is too much joking and cussing going on. And English is not everybody's mother language either. Many speakers did not seem to realize this.
- An attempt to make perl more popular also has to make perl conventions a bit more serious, try to do it better or at least at the same level
- Try to foresee that not all eat and drink the same type of food.
- Try to have printed schedules aplenty or make sure attendees have some easy access to them.
- What does the corporate rate get me? How can I "sell" it to my manager as something they should be paying? What tangible benefit can I leverage to extract more money from them?
- The associated training sessions around the conference if any: Need to be better advertised (i.e. before I book my flights please!); Ideally should be organised for the weekend before (so I can still justify those extra two days of holiday at the end.)
- Reiterate what I said above about timing. Get someone to introduce and thank the speaker for each talk (thus ensuring the timing, and allowing the speaker to know when to start.) Doesn't have to be an organiser, by now we can deputise any long standing conference attendee to do this role.
- Require each speaker to provide a photo that you print out and pin them up. Don't tell them this until you've accepted their talk (so you don't scare anyone off.) Don't use the ones from ACT which are too small or are icons rather than something I can recognise someone with.
- Print updated schedules and stick them to the doors of each rooms.
- Kill the auction. Takes too long, and saps my will to live. I never attend anymore (I now go 'home' after lunch on the final day because of it). Make all the trivial stuff sold via silent auction throughout the day, and have the person introducing each talk remind people about the cool thing that they can get.
- More dead tree (non-wiki) fun and games would be fun too; How about a couple of whiteboards / flipboards with quotes to complete "I wish someone would write a Perl Module called ". A poster each day with a JAPH that we get to decode (Note: If you get Book to write them, I'll print them and get them delivered) Basically TALKING POINTS for the hallway track for the newbies. Some of this stuff can be silent auctioned too...
- Is this pseudo anonymous? I am Mark Fowler / Trelane if you have questions.
- When accepting items for the auction, make sure to select what's going to be auctioned in front of everyone EARLY, and put the rest up for an "offline" auction (where everyone can bid on items, but we don't spend time on stage telling about the items.)
- Have a separate auction table for this?
- Wifi should be easier (Test with several operating systems ...).
- Schedule could be communicated better (on site).
- Women's cut T-shirts!

YAPC::Europe 2009 Lisbon, Portugal Feedback & Suggestions



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