Keynotes and Talks

Keynotes and talks will be streamed through Crowdcast.

You have now received links to each day’s sessions in your pre-conference email. If you didn’t receive an email with these links, please let us know immediately at rubyconf@rubycentral.org. For each session’s link, you may be asked to log in with your email address. Please use the email address listed when you booked your ticket, or the system will ask you to purchase a ticket again. If you encounter any issues, just let us know!

Once you are “in” for a session, there are a few parts of the interface to pay special attention to, which may or may not be in use for a given session:
1. Chat

The Chat on the right side is where you can, for live talks, chat with other attendees. The Speaker will largely not be looking at this chat, but it is visible to every person in the room with you. If you have questions for the Speaker, do not put them here, but in the Ask a Question section. For pre-recorded talks, we ask that you not use the Chat for talking, but instead take conversation to the Slack channel, which we will post a link to in the Chat.

Please note, the Chat is being closely monitored by an admin who is a member of the RubyConf 2020 organizing team.

2. Ask a Question

Q&A is covered on page 4!
3. **Call to Action**
The call to action is a linked button below the video that the Speaker or Organizers think is key for attendees to see or click on.

4. **Polls**
Polls are where you can answer polls that the Speaker set up -- only the aggregate results are shown.

5. **Schedule**
The schedule for Crowdcast talks that day is accessible in the upper-left above the video. Click into this to see other talks going on either now or at other times throughout the day. You can use this to easily switch between simultaneous talks or to go to the next one! When viewing the Schedule link, the only way to close it if you want to stay in the current talk is to click on the "(less)" option.

A few more tips
- Use Google Chrome browser, or at least, do not use Safari, as there are many known issues with Crowdcast video not working with Safari.
- Whatever browser you’re using, make sure you’re upgraded to the latest version of it.
- For any audio or video problems in Crowdcast, if the browser change doesn’t help, you may also want to try the Compatibility Mode (accessible via the Help link at the top), which slightly delays the live video and is better for slower internet speeds.
- If you have other questions or tips, check out this Crowdcast Attendee Guide.
Talks Q&A

Talks may include a Q&A period, depending on the talk and Speaker preference. Whether or not they will have time for Q&A during their timeslot, most Speakers have agreed to run a Q&A in the Slack channel for their talk or session as well. The time and location for this Q&A will be noted in the session’s Chat.

If the Speaker has enabled live Q&A, you will see the Ask a Question section available at the bottom of your screen. Put questions here throughout the talk, but first: check if your question has already been asked and listed here! All attendees have the ability to upvote questions too, so if you really want the Speaker to answer a specific question, be sure to upvote it, which will move it higher in the list. The session’s Admin will also be taking any questions meant for Q&A that were asked in the Chat and moving them to this area.

When a Speaker answers a question live in Crowdcast, the Admin will mark it as answered, which time-stamps the question and answer. This means that when anyone watches the session’s replay later on, they can click on the question and it will take them right to the point in the video where it was asked and answered.

Additionally, the Speaker or attendees may also choose to answer the question in this section with a text reply. If you know the answer to a posted question, feel free to answer it via text.

When asking questions, remember: make a question, not a comment.
Engagement Sessions and Workshops

What are Engagement Sessions?
Engagement Sessions (aka Hallway Track) are new for RubyConf 2020. These sessions are meant to be interactive experiences, mimicking the type of fun stuff that happens during the “hallway track” of a conference.

How are Workshops different from Engagement Sessions?
Workshops are longer, more structured around a particular theme, and are technical in nature. Engagement Sessions are shorter in length, and are not necessarily technical. Engagement Sessions range from making a zine to learning how to make DIY snacks.

Participating in Engagement Sessions / Workshops
Engagement Sessions and Workshops will happen via Zoom. We recommend downloading Zoom ahead of time so you can be ready to attend these sessions on-time from day one.

Additionally, the pre-conference email you received contained links to use to register for Engagement Sessions and Workshops. Please register ahead of time if you can, as Workshops in particular have space limitations, and to give our Engagement Session and Workshop leaders a good sense of how many attendees to expect.

If a Workshop fills up before you’re able to register, we will be keeping a short waitlist. If we end up with open spots in a Workshop, we will start contacting our waitlist.

If you sign up for a Workshop, it is crucial that you show up for it on time, so that we don’t give your spot away. If you are not present for your Workshop within its first five minutes, you will have waived your spot to the waitlist. If you are having technical issues entering the Workshop, please contact us in the Workshop’s Slack channel.

If you are on the waitlist for a Workshop, it is crucial that you pay attention to your email in the first 10 minutes after a Workshop has started, so that you don’t miss the notice from us that a spot has opened up for you. Workshop leaders are prepared to not substantively begin their content until the Workshop is full, so don’t worry about missing anything!
Getting the most out of Engagement Sessions / Workshops

As these sessions are highly interactive, you may be required to speak or participate in discussions. We highly recommend the use of a headset and mic (or headset mic combo) so you can hear and be heard clearly.

Headsets will help reduce noise so you can hear better, and microphones will help you be heard. Here’s a list of some headset recommendations if you need to get one before the conference.

Code of Conduct

RubyConf adheres to the following Anti-Harassment Policy.

If you or someone you know experiences any sort of harassment, please don’t hesitate to raise these concerns to the conference organizer team. Members of this team will be identified in Slack, and are always open to receiving DMs regarding this.

Networking

We understand networking is an important part of why people attend conferences, and this year, RubyConf aims to provide a way to network virtually.

You may want to check out the following Slack channels:

- #_rc_first-time-attendees
- #_rc_jobs
- #_rc_junior-devs
- #_rc_open-chat
- #_rc_social-media
- #_rc_sponsors
Social Media

As always, we encourage conference attendees to share their experiences on social media!

Live tweet using hashtag #RubyConf2020.

If Sketchnotes are your thing, make sure to use #RubyConf2020 or tag us using the handles below!

Accounts you may want to follow:

- @rubyconf on Twitter
- rubyconf on Instagram
- rubyconf2020 on Facebook