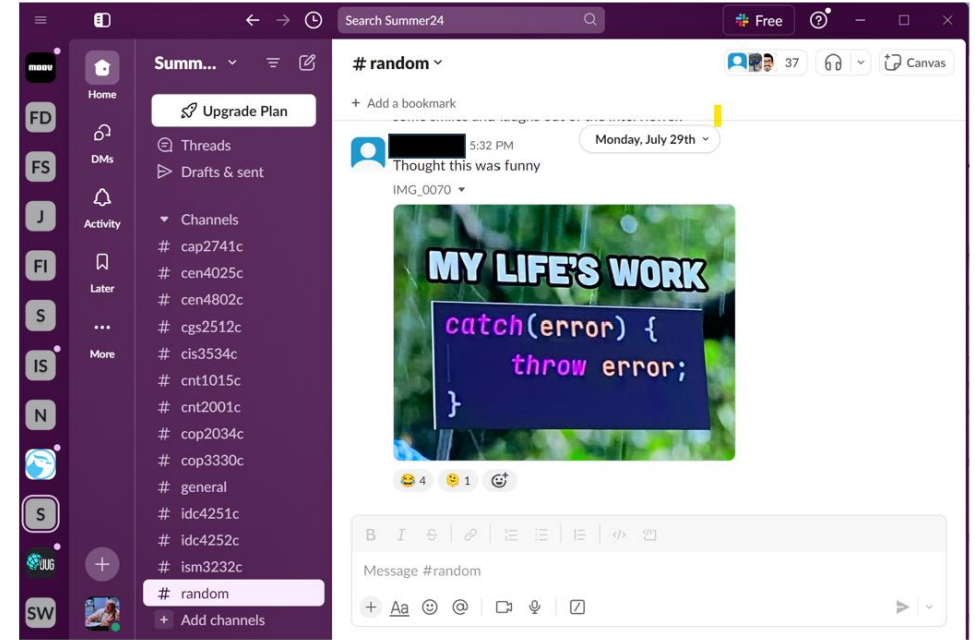


Leveraging Slack for Student Collaboration

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Pamela Brauda

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Pamela.Brauda@fscj.edu



Student Presenters:

Kathryn Arraya
Steven Gsell

(A.S. Data Science Technology)
(B.A.S. Information Systems Technology,
Application Development Concentration)

Where to Find These Slides



Why Slack

- Gartner: "Social Software in the Workplace"
<https://www.gartner.com/reviews/market/workplace-social-software>
 - Positives: "Slack - Superior Messaging Platform"
 - Negatives: "A mix between efficient communication and interface overload"
- Top Slack Alternatives
 - Office 365 (Microsoft Teams, SharePoint)
 - Adobe Acrobat (Document Cloud)
 - Google Workspace
 - WebEx
- "Non-business" alternatives
 - Discord
 - Reddit

Anecdotal Evidence for Popularity in Tech

- Many developer communities use Slack for communication.
- Numerous tech companies adopt Slack as their primary communication tool.
- Tech conferences and meetups often use Slack

Slack for Software Development Courses

- Integration with development tools like GitHub, CI/CD pipelines.
- Integrations streamline workflows, reducing context switching and improving efficiency.
- Features like channel organization, search functionality, and customizability
- Real-time collaboration (huddles)

Slack as a Shared Undergraduate Workspace

- Centralized communications
- Collaboration opportunities
- Networking
- Resource sharing
- Real-Time interaction
- Community building

Creating a Workspace

- <https://slack.com>



Where **work** happens

GET STARTED

Slack is free to try for as long as you'd like

Creating a Workspace




First, enter your email

We suggest using the email address you use at work.

Continue

OR

 Continue With Google

 Continue With Apple

Creating a Workspace



Check your email for a code

We've sent a 6-character code to david.singletery.fscj@gmail.com. The code expires shortly, so please enter it soon.

			-			
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Creating a Workspace

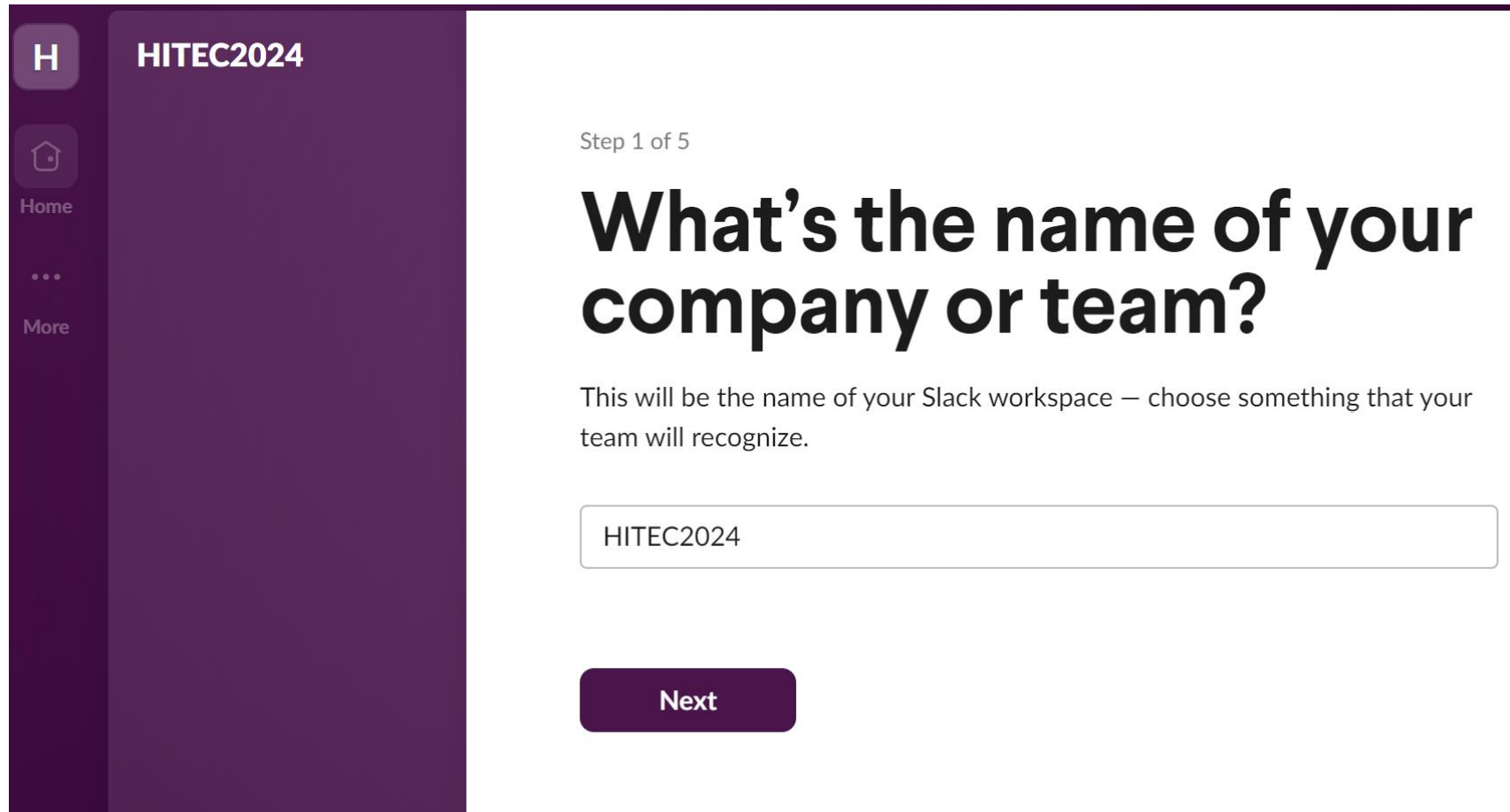
Get started on Slack

It's a new way to communicate with everyone you work with. It's faster, better organized, and more secure than email – and it's free to try.

[Create a Workspace](#)

By continuing, you're agreeing to our Main Services Agreement, User Terms of Service, and Slack Supplemental Terms. Additional disclosures are available in our Privacy Policy and Cookie Policy.

Creating a Workspace



The screenshot shows the Slack workspace creation interface. On the left is a dark purple sidebar with a home icon and the text 'HITEC2024'. The main content area is white and contains the following text:

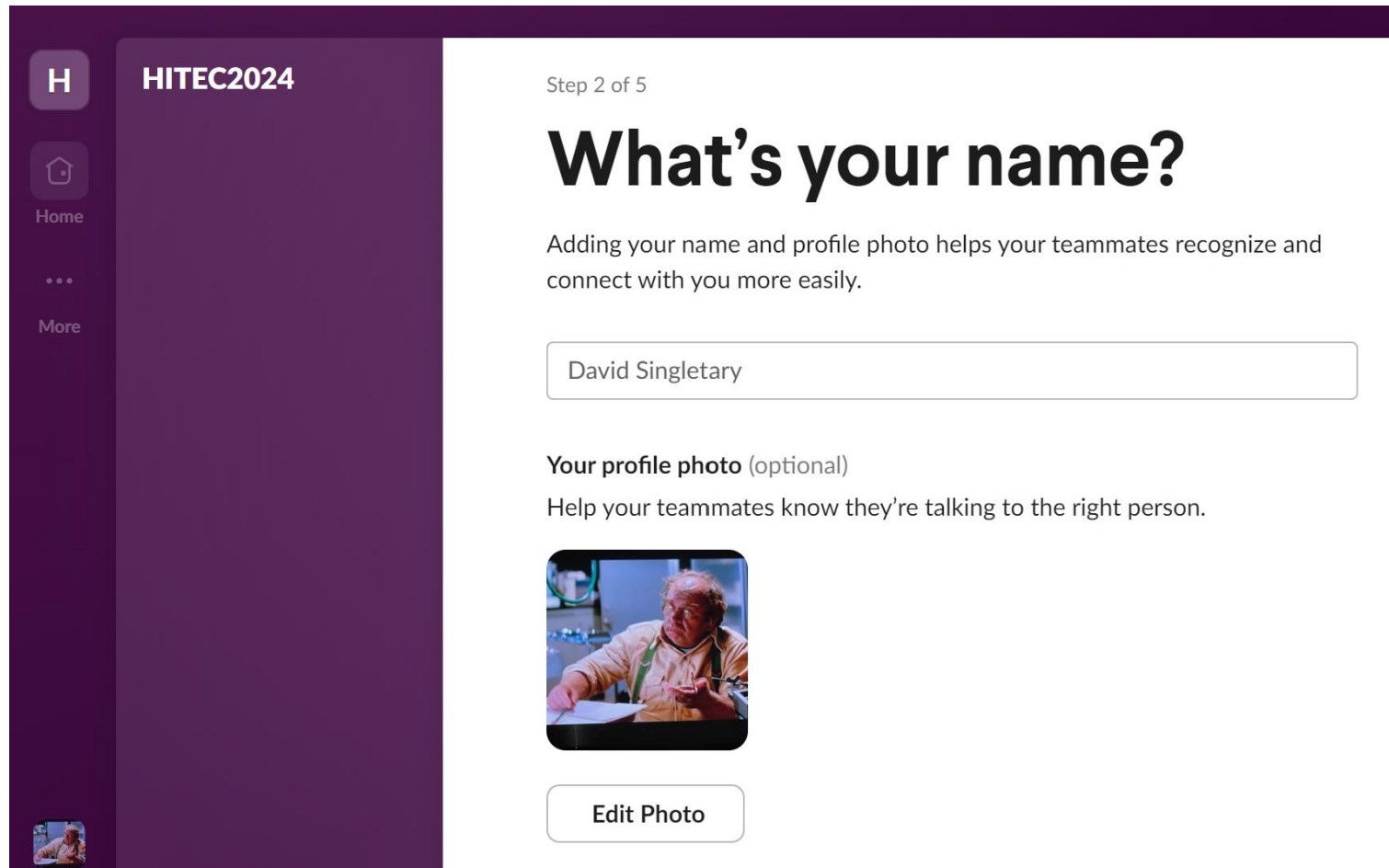
Step 1 of 5

What's the name of your company or team?

This will be the name of your Slack workspace – choose something that your team will recognize.

Next

Creating a Workspace

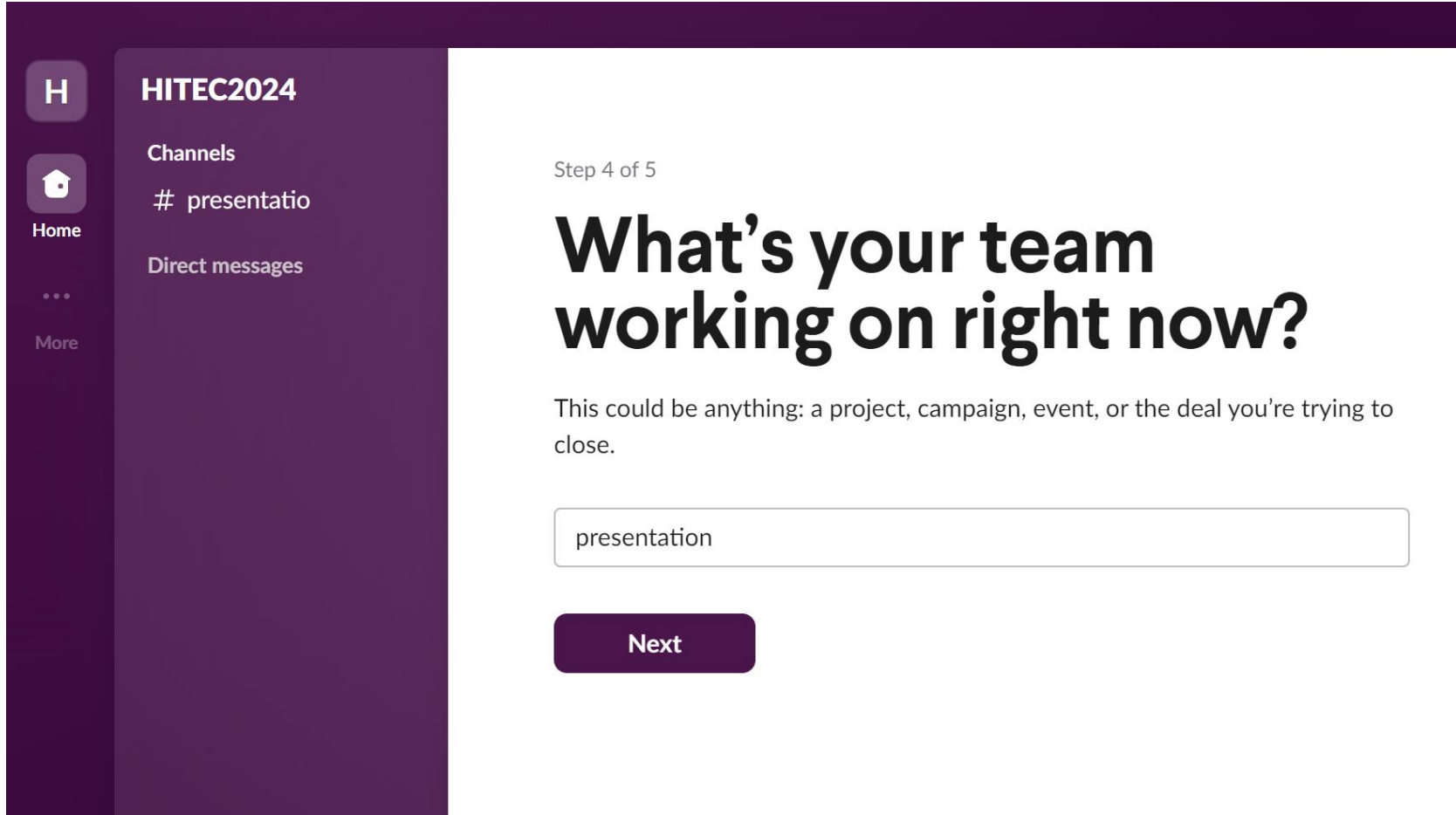


The screenshot shows a web interface for creating a workspace. On the left is a dark purple sidebar with a navigation menu containing a home icon, a three-dot menu, and a 'More' link. The main content area is white and displays 'Step 2 of 5' at the top. The primary heading is 'What's your name?' in a large, bold, black font. Below this, a paragraph explains that adding a name and profile photo helps teammates recognize and connect with you more easily. A text input field contains the name 'David Singletary'. Underneath, there is a section for 'Your profile photo (optional)' with a sub-heading that says 'Help your teammates know they're talking to the right person.' This section includes a square placeholder image of a man in a lab coat and a button labeled 'Edit Photo'.

Creating a Workspace

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for creating a workspace. On the left is a dark purple sidebar with navigation icons: a home icon labeled 'Home', a 'More' icon with three dots, and a workspace icon labeled 'HITEC2024' with 'Direct messages' below it. The main content area is white and displays 'Step 3 of 5' at the top. Below this is the heading 'Who else is on the HITEC2024 team?' in large, bold black text. Underneath the heading are two options: 'Add coworker by email' and 'Add from Google Contacts' (with a Google 'G' icon). A text input field is provided with the placeholder text 'Ex. ellis@gmail.com, maria@gmail.com'. At the bottom of the screen are three buttons: 'Next' (disabled), 'Copy Invite Link' (active), and 'Skip this step'.

Creating a Workspace



The screenshot shows a workspace creation interface for 'HITEC2024'. On the left is a dark purple sidebar with navigation options: 'H' (workspace name), 'Channels', '# presentatio', 'Direct messages', and 'More'. The main content area is white and displays 'Step 4 of 5' at the top. Below this is a large heading: 'What's your team working on right now?'. Underneath the heading is a descriptive text: 'This could be anything: a project, campaign, event, or the deal you're trying to close.' A text input field contains the word 'presentation'. At the bottom of the main area is a dark purple button labeled 'Next'.

Creating a Workspace

The screenshot shows the Slack workspace creation interface. On the left is a dark purple sidebar with a home icon and the workspace name 'HITEC2024'. Below the name are sections for 'Channels' (with a '# presentation' channel), 'Direct messages', and 'More'. The main content area is white and displays 'Step 5 of 5' at the top. The heading 'Choose a plan to get started:' is centered. Two plan cards are shown: a purple 'Pro' plan and a white 'Free' plan. The Pro plan features a '50% Off*' badge, indicating a price of \$4.38 USD per person/month (down from \$8.75). It lists highlights such as unlimited message history, audio/video conversations, and apps/integrations, and includes an option to 'Add Slack AI' for an additional \$10 USD per person/month. A green 'Start with Pro' button is at the bottom of the Pro plan card. The Free plan shows a price of '\$0 USD per person/month' and lists included features like 90 days of message history, 1:1 audio/video conversations, and 10 apps/integrations. A white 'Start with Free' button is at the bottom of the Free plan card. At the bottom of the main area, there is a question mark icon and the text 'Unsure of which plan to choose? Compare plans >'. A small asterisk note at the bottom of the Pro plan card states '*Slack AI excluded from discount'.

Step 5 of 5

Choose a plan to get started:

Pro

50% Off* your first 3 months
~~\$8.75~~ \$4.38 USD per person/month

Pro plan highlights:

- ✓ Unlimited message history
- ✓ Unlimited audio/video conversations
- ✓ Unlimited apps and integrations

Add Slack AI (+\$10 USD per person/month)

[Start with Pro](#)

*Slack AI excluded from discount

Free

\$0 USD
per person/month

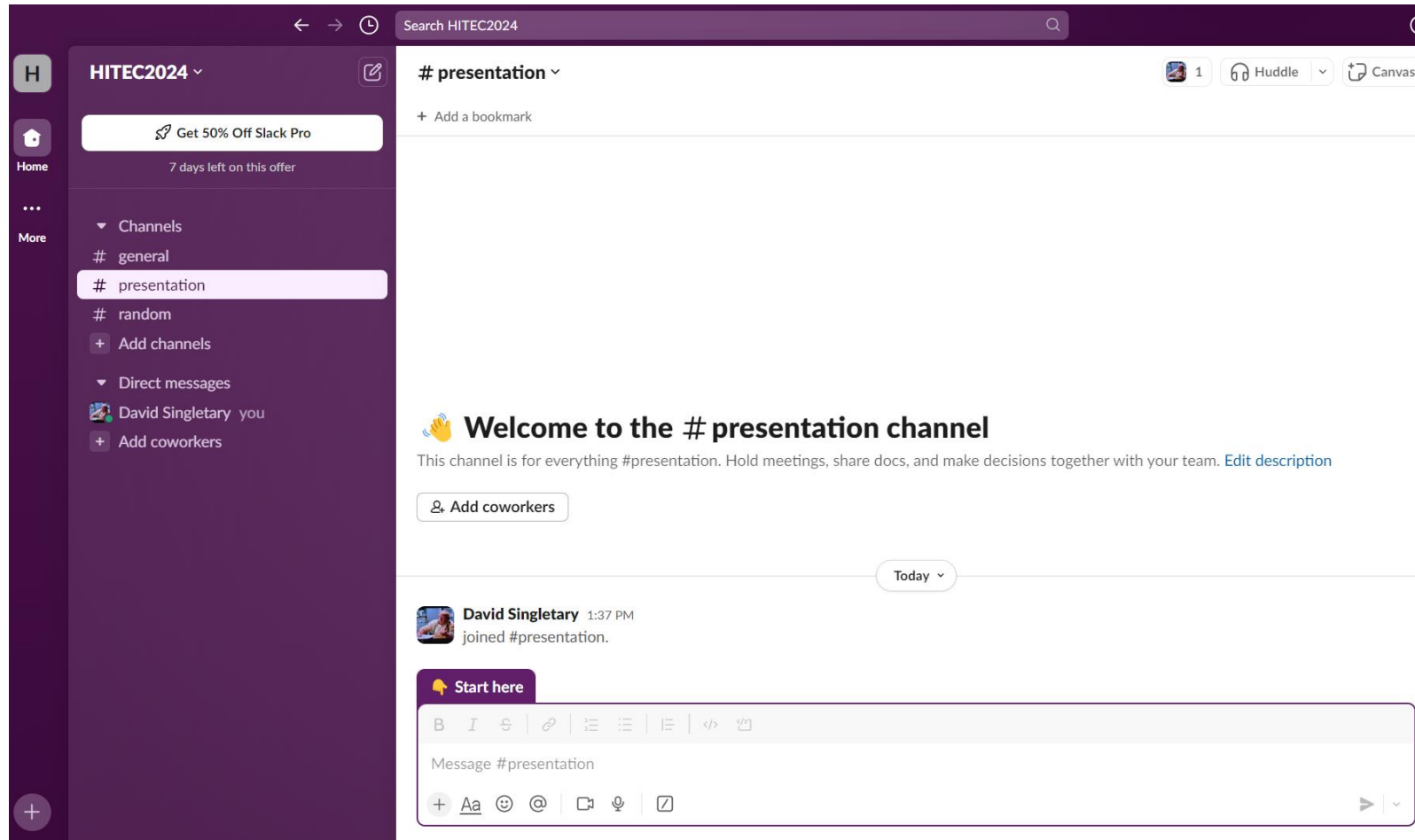
Included with Free:

- ✓ 90 days of message history
- ✓ 1:1 audio/video conversations
- ✓ 10 apps or integrations

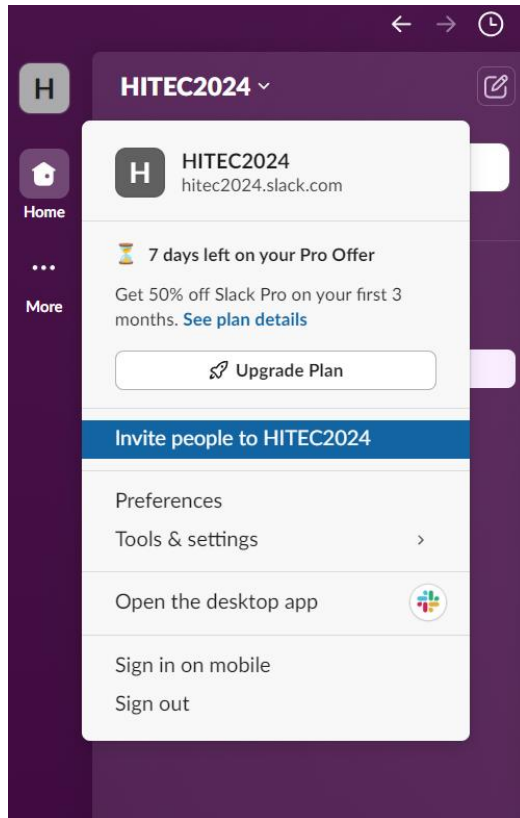
[Start with Free](#)

🤖 Unsure of which plan to choose? [Compare plans](#) >

Creating a Workspace



Creating a Workspace



Invite people to HITEC2024



To:

Or add from: [Google Workspace](#)

name@gmail.com

[Copy invite link](#) - [Edit link settings](#)

Send

https://join.slack.com/t/hitec2024/shared_invite/zt-2nt8u278z-PgyS8xPO8rDexvKdbFtAXQ

Organizing the Workspace

- Dedicated workspaces for individual courses ("v1")
- Shared workspace per semester ("v2"), one channel per course e.g.,

Summer 2024

- # general - all students are members; shared general content
- # random - all students are members; "fun" content (memes)
- # COP2800C - course-specific channel, restricted membership
- # CEN3330C - course-specific channel, restricted membership
- # CEN4025C - course-specific channel, restricted membership

...

- NOTE: some lower-level courses are excluded from shared workspaces to avoid distractions for first-time college students

Organizing the Workspace

The screenshot displays a Discord workspace interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options: Home, DMs, Activity, Later, and More. The 'More' section lists various channels, with '# random' selected. The main content area shows a message in the '# random' channel from a user at 5:32 PM on Monday, July 29th. The message says 'Thought this was funny' and includes an image of a meme. The meme features a dark blue box with white and pink text that reads: 'MY LIFE'S WORK' followed by a code block containing 'catch(error) { throw error; }'. Below the image are reaction icons for a laughing face (4), a smiley face (1), and a thumbs up icon. At the bottom of the interface is a text input field with a rich text editor toolbar and a 'Message #random' placeholder.

Administering the Workspace

- Instructors are workspace creators w/full admin rights
- Can delete posts if necessary

Syllabus (Technology Requirements)

Slack

We will collaborate using Slack, an industry-standard collaboration tool. Slack is free (disregard their prompting to upgrade to the paid version, we do not use it).

Instructions for joining the Slack workspace and course channel will be provided in Canvas. Slack runs on Windows and Mac (<https://slack.com/downloads>)

LMS e.g., Canvas Announcement

Slack Workspace Invitation

Here is the invite link for our Slack workspace:

https://join.slack.com/t/summer24-workspace/shared_invite/...

You can download Slack for Windows here: <https://slack.com/downloads/windows>

You can download Slack for Mac here: <https://slack.com/downloads/mac>

There is also a Slack app for iOS and Android devices.

If you haven't used Slack before, each workspace contains channels for discussion topics.

- The workspace has a dedicated channel for this course: #cop3330c
- We also have a #general channel for general IT questions and discussions. This channel is shared among many other courses that are running this semester.
- The #random channel is for fun stuff: technology memes, personal/job announcements, etc. that you would like to share with the class.

All Slack posts must remain family-friendly. Be respectful. Do not DM without consent from the recipient. Do not share code solutions for course assignments before the due date, but feel free to share ideas, hints, and algorithms.

Student Experience (Kate Araya)

Survey Questions

While we conducted a survey with a total of eight questions to understand students' experiences with Slack, our primary focus was on identifying the specific benefits students feel Slack provides. Here are two key questions from the survey:

- *How has your educational experience benefited from using Slack?*
- *Do you feel Slack could continue to be beneficial to you after graduation, perhaps in a professional setting?*

1) How did you first hear of Slack?

- 1) Within the last year
- 2) More than a year ago
- 3) More than 3 years ago.
- 4) More than 5 years ago.

1) How did you communicate with your professors and fellow classmates prior to using Slack?

- 1) School email
- 2) Via Canvas
- 3) Via scheduled meetings with profs
- 4) Social media, personal emails and/ or phone numbers to contact fellow classmates
- 5) I have never communicated with professors or fellow students outside designated assignments/discussions.

3) How has your educational experience benefited from using Slack?

(Please select all that apply from the following):

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Productivity | 6) timely responses to questions |
| 2) communication skills | 7) feeling of community |
| 3) Collaborating | 8) other: _____ |
| 4) assignment experience | 9) no perceived benefits |
| 5) soft-skills | |

4) How quickly were you able to learn how to use Slack?

- 1) Within a day
- 2) Took me a while to get a hang of it
- 3) Still trying to figure it out

5) What elements of Slack are the most/least important to you?

6) What, if anything, ~~is~~ has been the most frustrating part about using Slack?

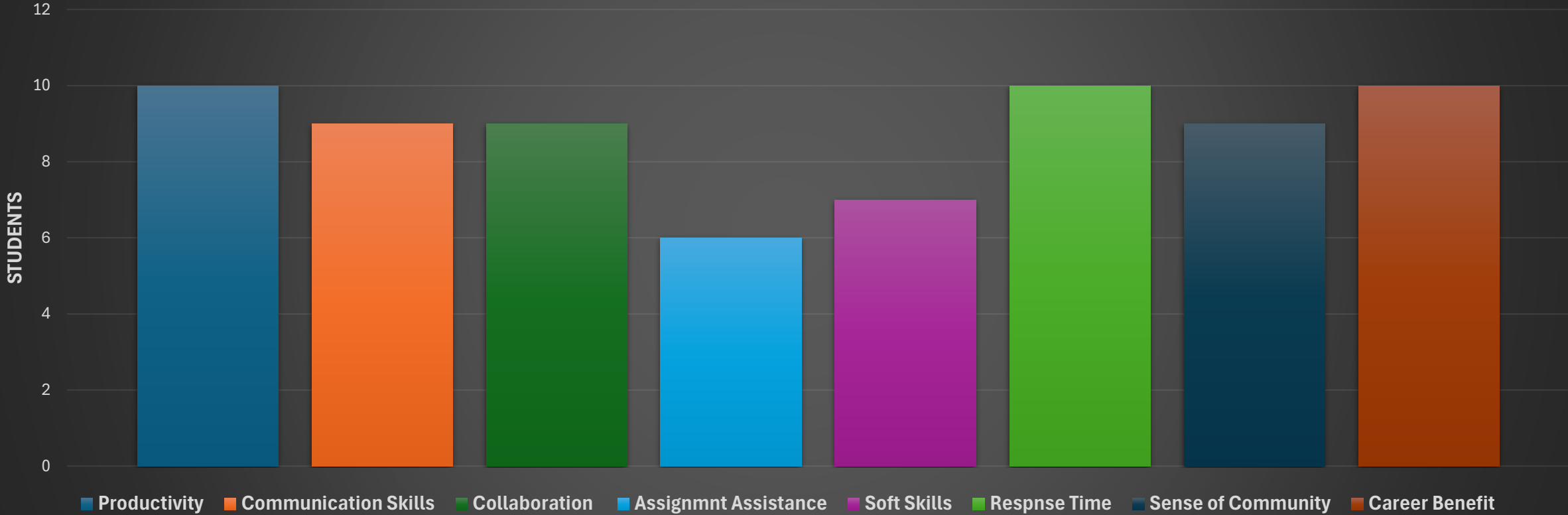
7) Did you find the navigation menu intuitive and easy to understand?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) Could be easier

8) Do you feel Slack could continue to be beneficial to you after graduation, perhaps in a professional setting?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) I already use it in my profession

Students See Benefits Using Slack



- ❖ More than half of the respondents found Slack beneficial across various value data points.
- ❖ Notably, the lowest added benefit identified was “Assistance with Assignments,” is subjective and could be interesting to explore further through a query comparing “Ask” versus “Response.”
- ❖ Regarding Collaboration, it might be valuable to conduct a more focused query to assess a student’s Slack presence, comfort in asking for help, and comfort in responding.

- ❖ Focusing on soft skills, our survey revealed that three out of ten students did not perceive soft skills as an added benefit of using Slack.
- ❖ This is an intriguing response, as many students without professional work experience may not fully understand the term “soft skills” or recognize their importance for career growth.
- ❖ By adhering to social and school constructs and codes of conduct, students are practicing these skills daily.
- ❖ As we progress in our careers, often without direct communication, hiring managers are increasingly focusing on the soft skills of potential candidates, which could significantly impact their employability.

- ❖ This brings us to why Slack can be essential for students.
- ❖ Team-building and collaboration, practicing professionalism, properly asking technical questions, or overcoming obstacles and seeking guidance are all skills that will be valuable in our careers post-graduation.
- ❖ While we and many professionals in our field may be geographically dispersed, gaining a sense of community through collaboration on various projects helps mitigate the sense of isolation often experienced by technology professionals.
- ❖ With a tool like Slack in education, we can develop more experienced students with better communication and productivity skills, leading to improved data and technology outcomes.

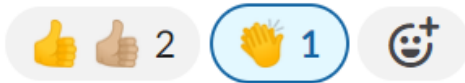
Instructor Perspective (Pamela Brauda)

- Students get to share great advice and endorsements across classes



William Money 1:00 PM

Thank you [@david.singletary](#) for the interview advice. He LOVED when I steered every question towards one of their products and if I get through the last interview, I'll be working mostly on the Mastervolt product line I wanted to work with.



William Money 3:47 PM

Oh one other thing, the mock interviews FSCJ offers are great. I did 3-4 of them casually and they really helped. You watch a video of a question, it records a video of your answer, and you can watch it afterwards. It feels a little corny while you're doing it, but it helped me a lot.

<https://fscj-csm.symplicity.com/students/>

Instructor Perspective

- Students give and get information about school from each other



██████████ 4:40 PM

That class description says it's an internship or a group project



██████████ 4:41 PM

where did you see the class description ?



██████████ 4:42 PM

<https://catalog.fscj.edu/courses/1217971> (edited)

catalog.fscj.edu

Florida State College at Jacksonville Catalog

CEN4940 Course | Florida State College at Jacksonville Catalog



1



██████████ 4:43 PM

Thanks!

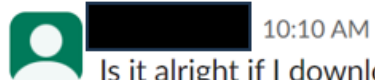
Instructor Perspective

- Students who join a class channel can see feedback and assistance for other student's questions – screenshots are easy to paste.

Date	Open
2014-01-02 00:00:00	19.845714569091797
2014-01-03 00:00:00	19.7450008392334
2014-01-06 00:00:00	19.194643020629883
2014-01-07 00:00:00	19.440000534057617
2014-01-08 00:00:00	19.243213653564453

You can paste into notepad and save as a .csv file or open Excel or Sheets and save as a .csv file.
This is the file you will use with Alteryx. (edited)

Friday, May 17th ▾



10:10 AM

Is it alright if I download directly from yahoo finance and 12 months of data and then upload the CVS file to Alteryx. I am struggling to figure out how to input code into Alteryx. I had the same issue with the code for SAS but a pre downloaded CVS worked well, if that is allowed.



Pamela Brauda 1:09 PM

Sure!! That's a great idea. Upload the csv file to Alteryx.



1:11 And you can upload a CSV to SAS Studio as well.

Instructor Perspective

- Slack is easier to use on a mobile phone or tablet
 - Lower authentication thresholds
 - Easier to add attachments, photos, screenshots
 - Lightweight feeling compared with traditional email, less formal
- Students see how professionals communicate in a work setting
- It feels good to get feedback from others, even if it's just a 😊 or 👍

Instructor Perspective

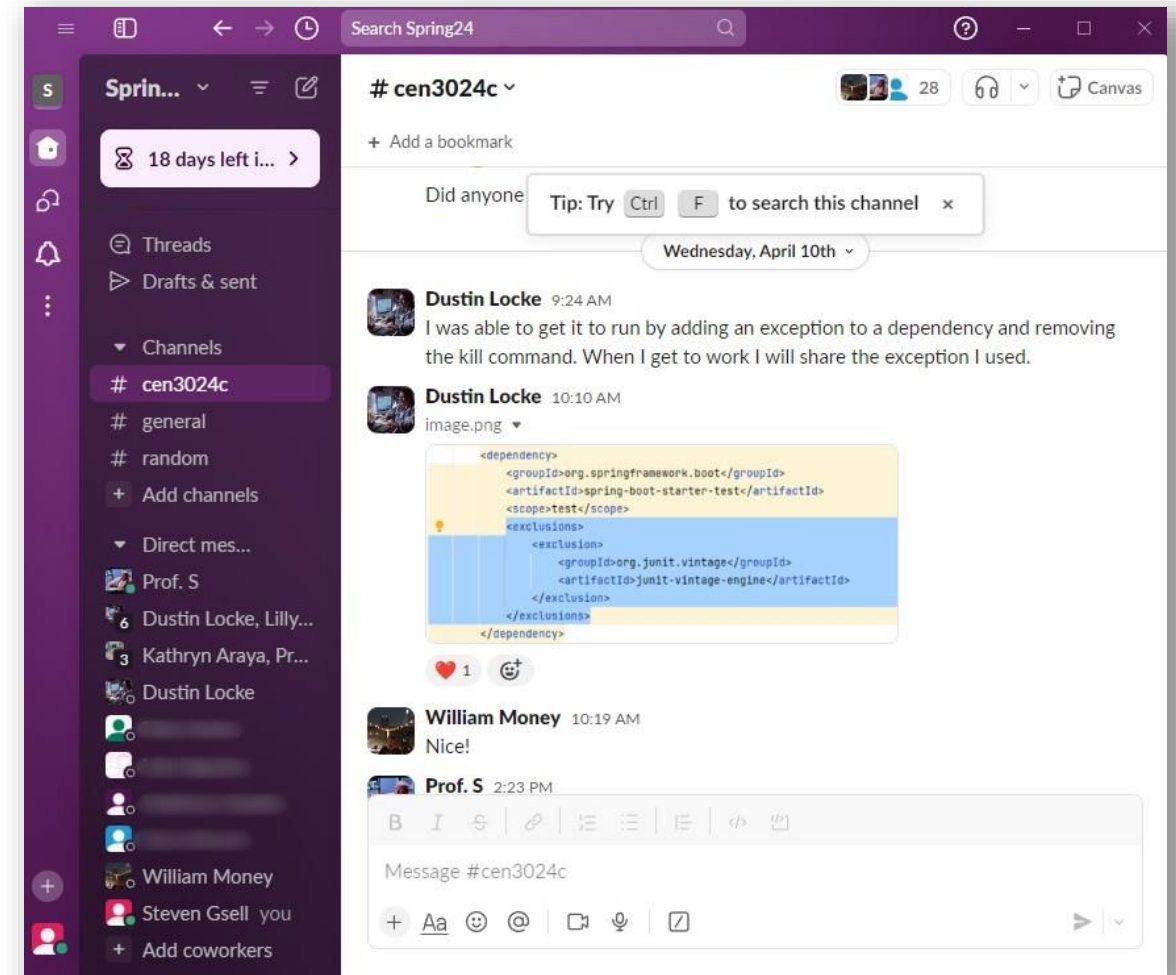
- Students encourage and support each other during difficult times

Student Experience (Steven Gsell)

- Yes, it sounds just like the animal!
- Current FSCJ student pursuing B.A.S in Computer Information Systems
- Focus on software development
- Been using Slack in multiple classes throughout education at FSCJ
- Observed how Slack can add cohesion of communication in groups

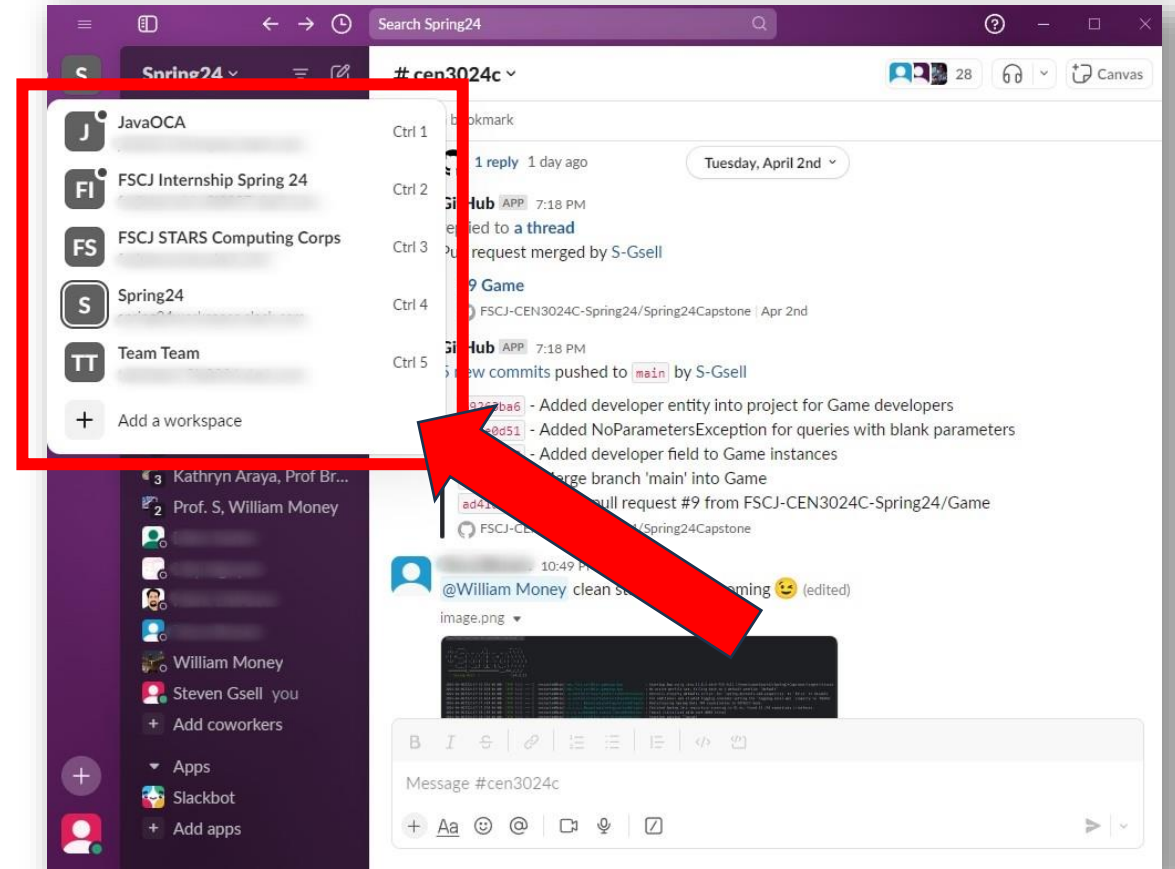
Allows for Group Problem Solving

- Software projects in a class setting can be chaotic without clear communication
- We are all learning and perhaps working with several new technologies for the first time. We are also learning HOW to learn in a fast-paced tech environment.
- When our groups run into problems, Slack allows us to pinpoint the problem as a group and see the clear solution when someone finds it!



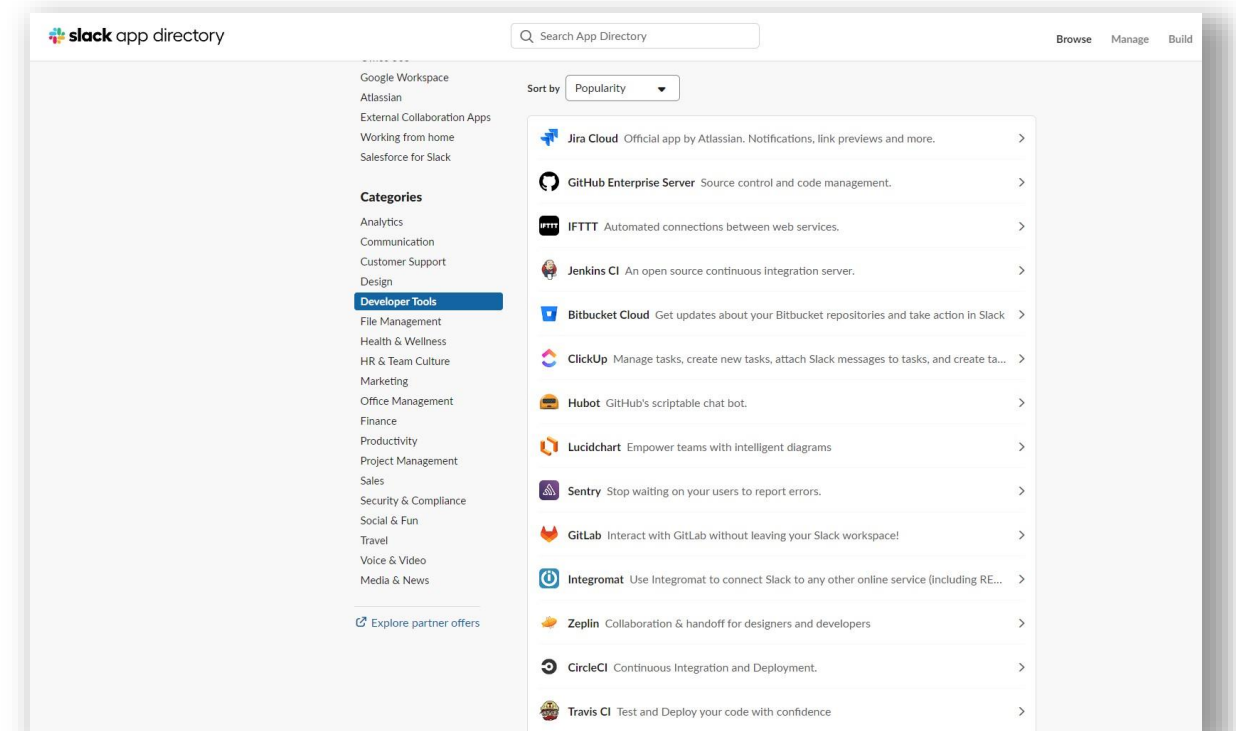
Allows Organized Group Separation

- Juggling different groups can quickly become a chore without the proper tools.
- Slack allows you to have multiple workspaces at once, with a user-friendly UI to jump between all your groups.
- Having clearly defined workspaces allows for easy transitioning from one group to another.



Allows Communication Customization

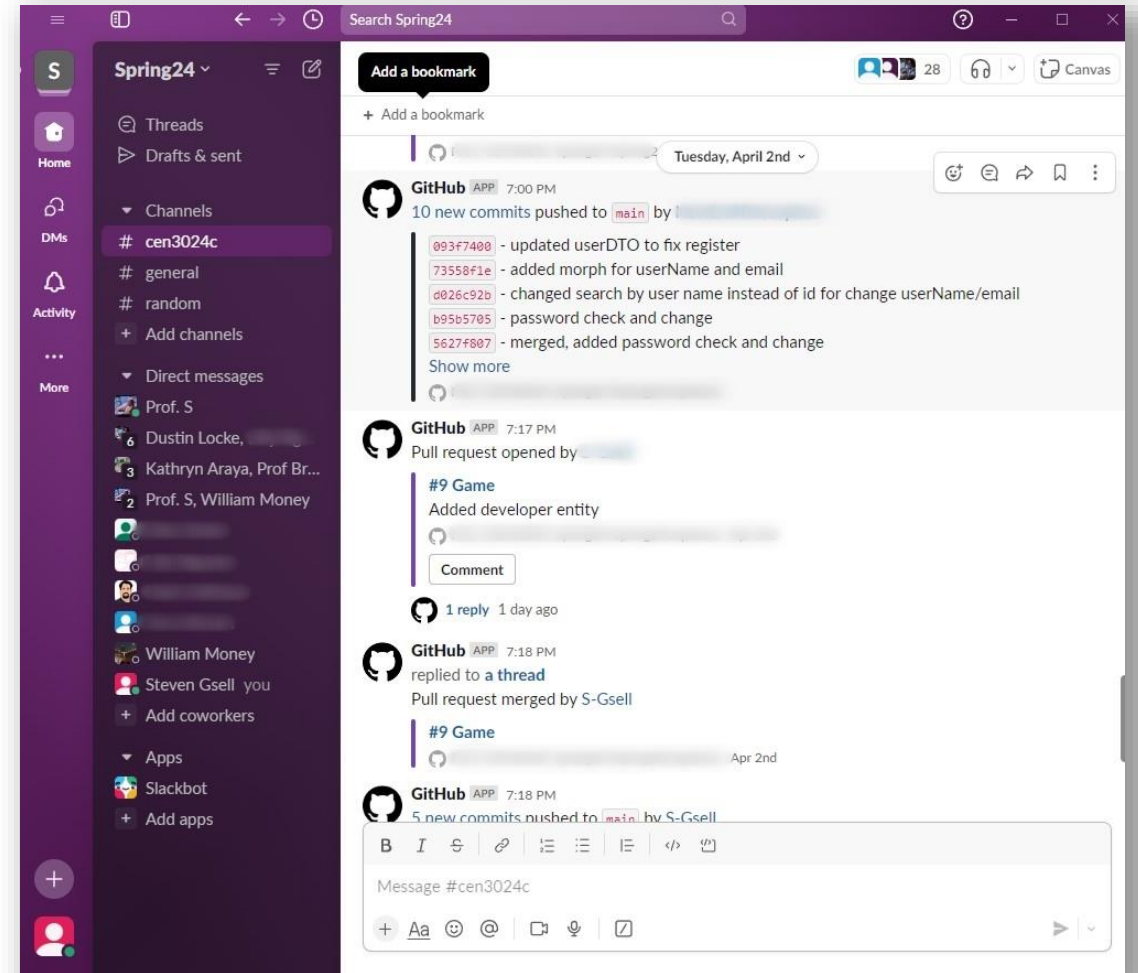
- One of the most noticeable things about Slack is the customization that is possible through their add-on apps!
- There are thousands of useful apps that can be added to a Slack workspace that supports the task your group is trying to accomplish.
- This customization allows for adaptation to different technologies and for an ever-changing Agile environment.



<https://slack.com/apps>

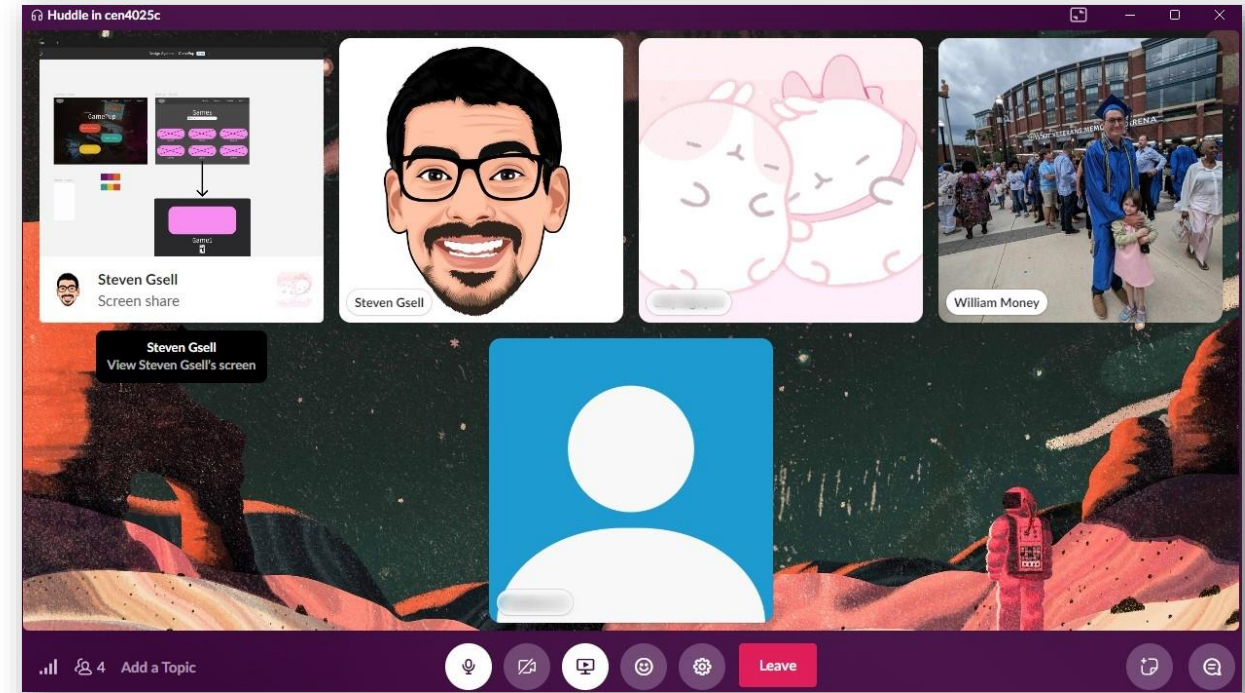
Allows Repository Transparency

- Some of our groups have utilized the GitHub plugin for Slack. This allows the group to be up to date with every update and change happening.
- This allows cohesion of progress updates when the group reconvenes to discuss the next steps!
- No matter what you are teaching, there will almost certainly be an add-on that can help your group setting.



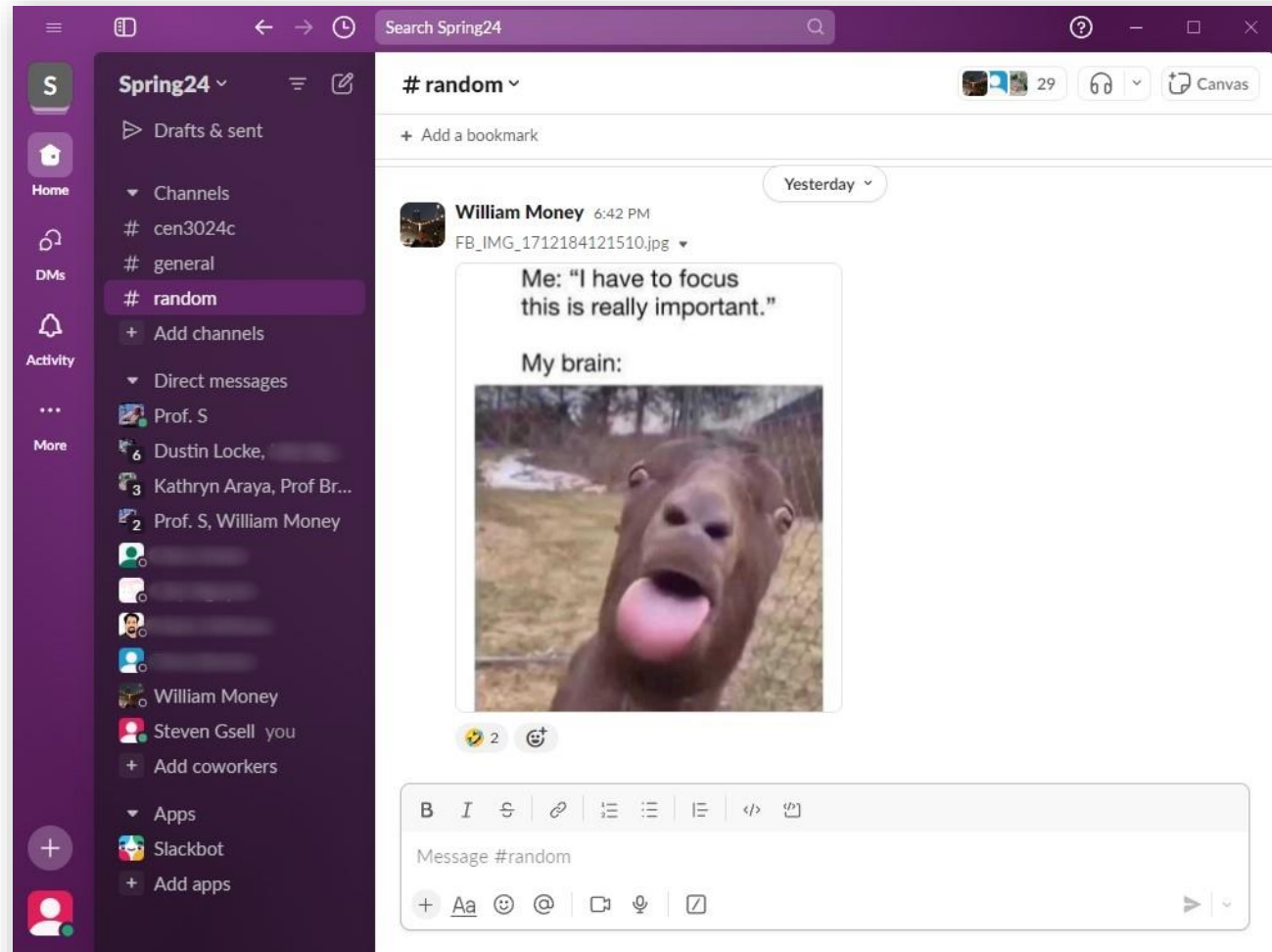
Enhances Cohesive File & Screen Sharing

- By utilizing the Slack Huddle feature our groups are able to have a live collaboration on demand.
- If there is any confusion to the project at hand there can be clarification in the matter of seconds!
- The cliché goes that a picture speaks a thousands words. So 30fps screen sharing should speak about 30,000 words per second. (pause for cheesy joke laughter)



Supports community and friendship

- Sometimes our computer notifications can cause a bit of a stressful spike in our bodies when we hear that jingle or notification noise.
- In a healthy group setting, those notifications can perk you up and bring motivation to your work-flow!
- Efficiency is always important, especially in the tech world. However, we find our group is most efficient when we are all laughing with each other.



Thank you!

David Singletary David.Singletary@fscj.edu
Pamela Brauda Pamela.Brauda@fscj.edu
Steven and Kathryn



<https://bit.ly/4drdRs7>

<https://github.com/FSCJ-FacultyDev/HITEC2024.git>



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