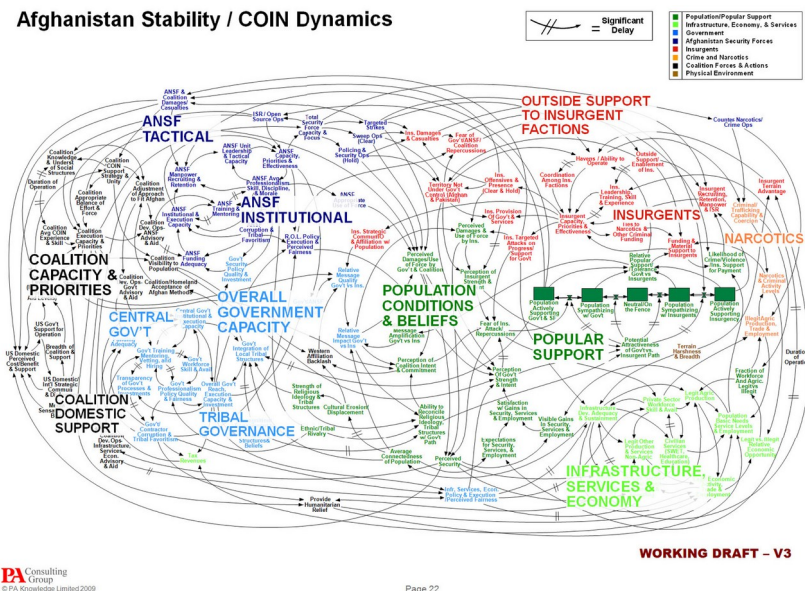


Death by PowerPoint

Train the Trainers Workshop



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Pay attention...

Wait for it...

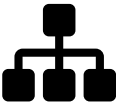
That was 8 seconds

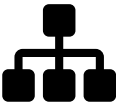


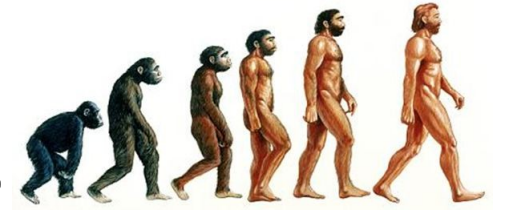
Our Attention Spans

The amount of concentrated time on a transient task without becoming distracted

Humans

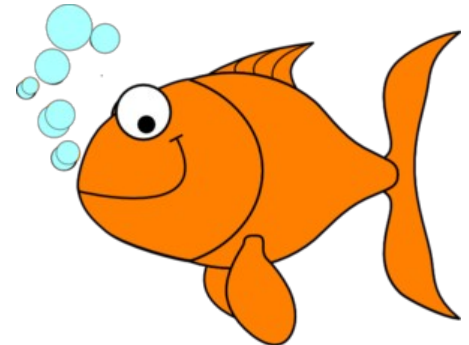
2000  12 seconds

2026  ~8* seconds



Goldfish

 9 seconds



Attention Spans Presentations

“Your typical presentation...”

If interested

 7 to 10 minutes

If not interested

 ??

”Highly interactive presentations...”

TED



Walls of information



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Long, Important, Detailed Slide

With an important subtitle

By 1984 many people believed that we would be living in a dystopian future as George Orwell had predicted in his seminal novel written in 1948.

Some believe the tone and and negative view of life were driven by the severe tuberculosis from which Mr. Orwell suffered while he completed the book in the remote Scottish island of Jura. Others disagree with this interpretation.

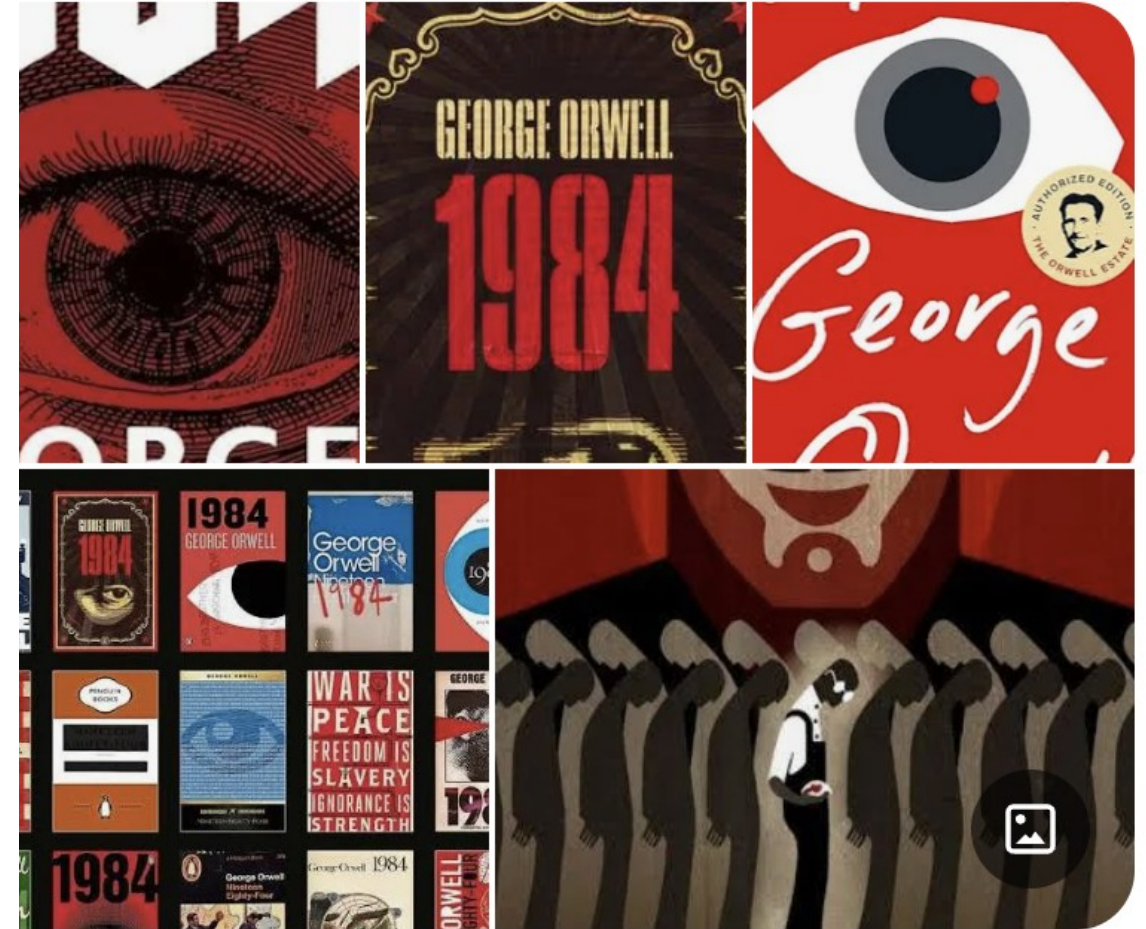
While writing the novel Mr. Orwell developed a new form of English used throughout the novel called Newspeak. Some of the better-known terms are in the list on this page →

Summary

Winston Smith lives in a dystopian, heavily surveilled Oceania controlled by Big Brother and the Thought Police, where he works in the Ministry of Truth altering historical records. Seeking liberation from this oppressive regime, he initiates a forbidden affair with Julia, a fellow worker, and attempts to join an underground resistance movement. The romance and rebellion are exposed as a trap set by O'Brien, leading to Winston's brutal interrogation in the Ministry of Love and eventual total submission to Party doctrine.

NEWSPEAK

- *Bellyfeel*
- *Blackwhite*
- *Crimethink*
- *Doubleplusgood*
- *Doubleplusungood*
- *Doublethink*
- *Duckspeak*
- *Goodthink*
- *Miniluv*
- *Minitrue*
- *Oldspeak*
- *Thinkpol*
- *Ungood*
- *Unperson*



Dealing with Lots of Information

We know loooooong PowerPoint slide decks have all sorts of problems:

- People lose concentration
- People do not retain information without reinforcement of the concepts taught
- Slide decks can be a reference, but maybe a reference document would be better?
- But, sometimes you just need to present...



Can I do something about that last slide?

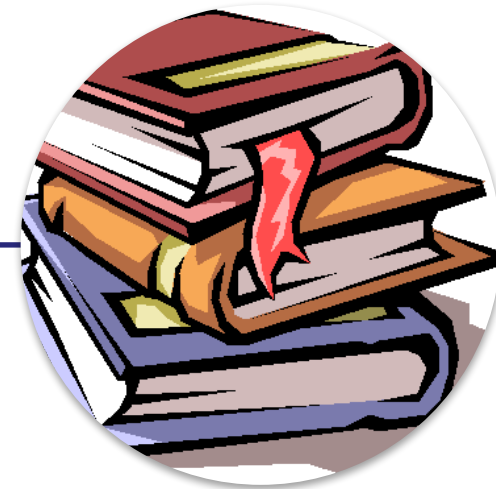
Length

- Loss of interest
- Information not retained



Concepts

Reinforce
with other
methods



References

- Slide deck?
- Document?
- Web page?

Coping with Presentations

Long slide decks have issues...

Loss of concentration

Information not retained

Requires reinforcement

Reference documents instead?

Sometimes you just gotta present...

Coping with Presentations

Long slide decks have issues...

Loss of concentration

Information not retained

Requires reinforcement

Reference documents instead?

Sometimes you just gotta present...

And so on...



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Diagrams

Can be worth a thousand words, but...



Significant Delay

- Population/Popular Support
- Infrastructure, Economy, & Services
- Government
- Afghanistan Security Forces
- Insurgents
- Crime and Narcotics
- Coalition Forces & Actions
- Physical Environment



“When we understand that slide, we’ll have won the war”

General Stanley A. McChrystal, 2009:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/world/27powerpoint.html>



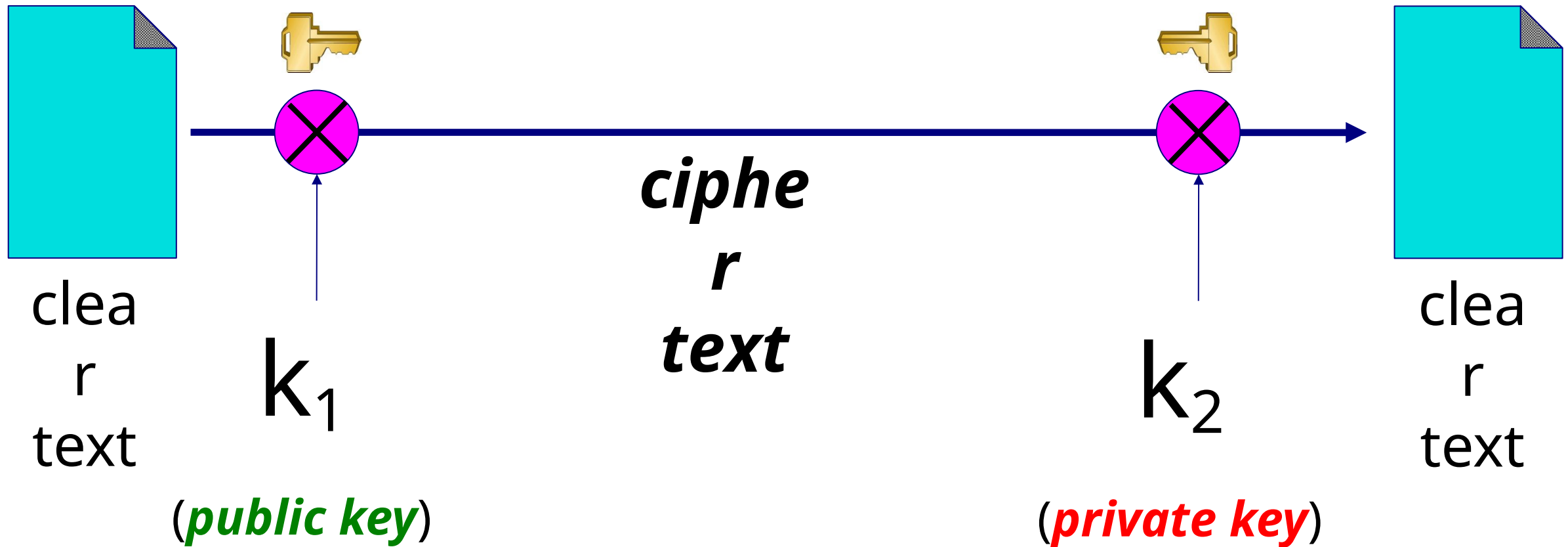
Try something simpler?



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Diagram for Concept



One key is used to encrypt the document,
a different key is used to decrypt it.

This is a big deal!

Preparing for the Presentation

Practical tips

All these points in Agenda under References in the *Presentations Preparation* guide:

- Practice out loud for length
- 20 min max*
- Stay out of the picture
- Watch out for color washing!
- Projector, white board, markers, etc.
- Clicker
- Microphone needed?



A Slide Deck

How many slides?

- That's relative
- Less text == better
- Images!
 - ✓ Logos of items
 - ✓ Topic in action
- Consider “SmartArt”, but...
- Clean and simple not bad
- Serif vs. Sans Serif



A Slide

What's on a single slide?

- One point, critical concept
- *Long explanatory sentences that are read by the presenter are boring and belong in a document*
- Short sentences
- Presenter has the information
 - ✓ That's captivating!
- Lots and lots of colors...



Maintaining interaction

What can we do?

- Pause
- Look around
- Avoid connector words
 - ✓ *Um, er, ah, well, because, it's uh...*
 - ✓ Depends on native language
- Ask questions / opinions
- Stop and discuss
- Use props
- Contests? Games?



A few
examples...

Imagery

...to
maintain
interest





Hervey Allen



The NSRC

NSRC
Network Startup Resource Center

Formed as a non-profit organization by Randy Bush and John Klensin in 1990.

Located at the University of Oregon starting in 1996

1992

1990

1996

First National Science Foundation (NSF) grant formalized by the NSRC in 1992 at MIT.

O
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MIT Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

- United States (15)
- Denmark (4)
- New Zealand (4)
- Australia (3)
- Canada (3)
- Senegal (2)
- Bhutan (1)
- China (1)
- Ecuador (1)
- Guam (1)
- Holland (1)
- Netherlands (1)
- Tanzania (1)
- The Gambia (1)
- Togo (1)
- UK (1)
- Uganda (1)





Eugene



Haiti Earthquake of 2010





The Human Network

References

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 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attention_span
- ***Top 20 User Attention Span Statistics 2026***
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 - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/20140313205730-5711504-the-science-behind-ted-s-18-minute-rule>
- ***The choice between serif or sans serif fonts***
 - <https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/design/discover/serif-vs-sans-serif.html>
- ***We Have Met the Enemy and He Is PowerPoint****
 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/world/27powerpoint.html> (paywall)
 - <https://www.betheink.com/blog/2010/04/the-enemy-in-powerpoint>

