

# Advice on Preparing a Poster Presentation for the Research Student Symposium

Uli Sattler, October 2016

## Purpose

Poster sessions are classical parts of workshops and conferences, and a great means to present work in progress. The purpose of this session is to give you some practice in presenting posters. You should aim at

- attracting an audience: make your poster aesthetically pleasing
- explaining, at a suitable level, the goal and progress of your research.

## The audience

Of course “suitable” depends on the audience. Here, we will have a general Computer Science (CS) audience, some from academia, others from industry. They will understand *common* terms in CS, but probably not the terminology from your research area – so you will have to present your research at an abstract level, and make sure that the specialist terms that you need (and you may want to use as few as possible) are illustrated or defined.

During the presentation of your poster, you talk to members of the audience – and they are likely to appreciate an example, in particular when it is a good example! So, to avoid having to make one up on the fly/in the air, have a good example on your poster.

## Preparing your poster

Follow good practice, see e.g., <http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign> for a lot of advice - or find your own, favourite advice.

Discuss your poster with your supervisors.

Make it pretty, readable, and suitable for you to explain your research to a general audience: a poster isn't a “big paper”, but a collection of keywords, bullet list, and mainly graphics arranged in a way that helps you to explain your

research. In particular, it will contain suitable examples to explain/discuss your project.

The reading order and general message should be clear.

Make your poster A1, and give it to Chris Calland in SSO by Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## Best poster prize

Two small prizes, sponsored by IBM, will be awarded for the “Best” Poster (Two categories: CDT-2, and CDT-3 + PhD). The criterion for judging the best poster will be the clarity of the presentation of the research idea.