Do we still need to have virtual events?

Ray Paik
Head of Community at @rspaik
What we’ll discuss today

● Why do we do events in open source communities?
● Our experience with virtual events early in the pandemic
● Events that work well in virtual settings
● Complementing in-person events
● Dos and don’ts
What do we do at events?
Why we look forward to events 🎉
Virtual events early in the pandemic 🤦‍♂️
We were doing things in virtual/hybrid settings even before the pandemic.
Some of the pro’s of virtual events

- Easier to spin up an event
- Less logistical hurdles for community members
- (Almost) immediate availability of content
- Opportunities for experimentation
- ...
Some things work well in virtual settings
Complementing in-person events
Dos and don’ts for virtual events

- Doing the same things you’d do for in-person events
  - e.g., a full day of presentations
- Put a wall around your content
  - e.g., after the event
- Force synchronous participation from everyone

- Publish materials (incl. slides, technical prep guide, etc.) ahead of time
- Asynchronous Q&A sessions
- Provide access to speakers/presenters after sessions
● Shouldn’t be an either/or between in-person & virtual events
● Virtual events is another tool that can broaden your reach and help build your community in a more inclusive way
● We now have better tools for and more experience with virtual events