

# A Day in the Life of Adam Byczkowski

# Agenda

- Quick background on me
- Prior Projects in NTC
- Koch
- Current Projects
- Day in the life
- Project Asks and Tips
- Questions

# My Background

- I come from a pure network engineering background. Some roles I've held prior to my time at NTC include:
  - Metro Systems Integrator (MSI) - Whole Foods Market - Denver, CO
    - Access layer, general tech and store level support
  - Network Analyst - Muskogee Creek Nation - Tulsa, OK
    - Large scope of work including DataCenter, Wireless, Unified Communications, ISE, Firepower, DNA Center, etc

# Prior Projects

- A list of projects I've been on while at NTC:
  - Cisco PyATS - NTC was tasked with creating parsers for given Cisco CLI commands
  - Arista/Nautobot Integration - This was a 3 month project from which the Arista Cloudvision SSOT was created
  - Roche - A Professional Service (PS) engagement that I was put on midway through the project



# Koch

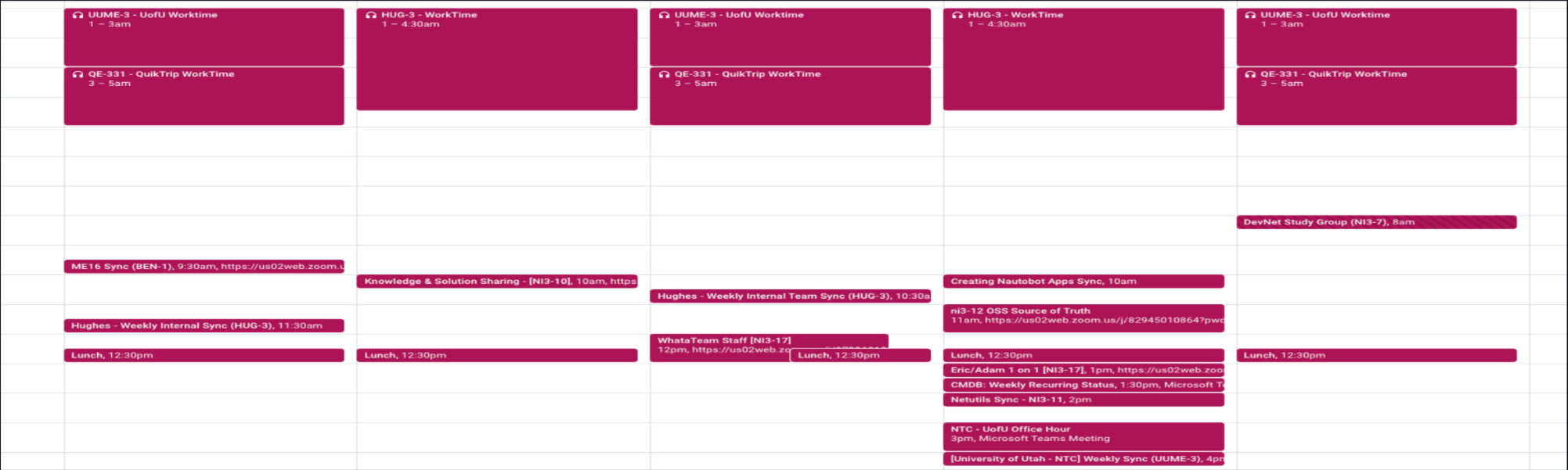
- 18 month long project that I was on from beginning to end. Some areas of work that I explored during the Koch engagement:
  - Mentorship - We hired a new person to join the NTC team at Koch. I was his go to guy during the engagement and I was glad I had that opportunity
  - SADA work - I did multiple SADA interviews with Ken. I did quite a bit of work in taking the information from those interviews and adding it to the SADA documents
  - "Big Picture Thinking" - I was no longer doing just "tasks". I had to voice my opinion on architecture, features and coding decisions with the big picture in mind
  - Agile - The Koch project fully adopted the Agile Methodology. Backlog Grooming, PI Planning and daily stand ups were new to me at this level

# Current Projects

- I am currently on 3 billable projects.
  - **University of Utah - NAaaS (ME-16)**
  - **QuikTrip - NAaaS (ME-16)**
  - **Hughes Network Systems - Professional Services (PS) Half Time**
- There are also internal projects I am a part of
  - **Nautobot Apps Course** - I teach and help maintain our Nautobot Apps training course
  - **Netutils** - I help maintain our Netutils library
  - **Open-Source Source of Truth** - I am part of the Source-of-Truth group which deals with maintaining the (mainly) the SSoT projects and things related to "source of truth"

# Day in the life

- Here is how my calendar looks on Monday morning



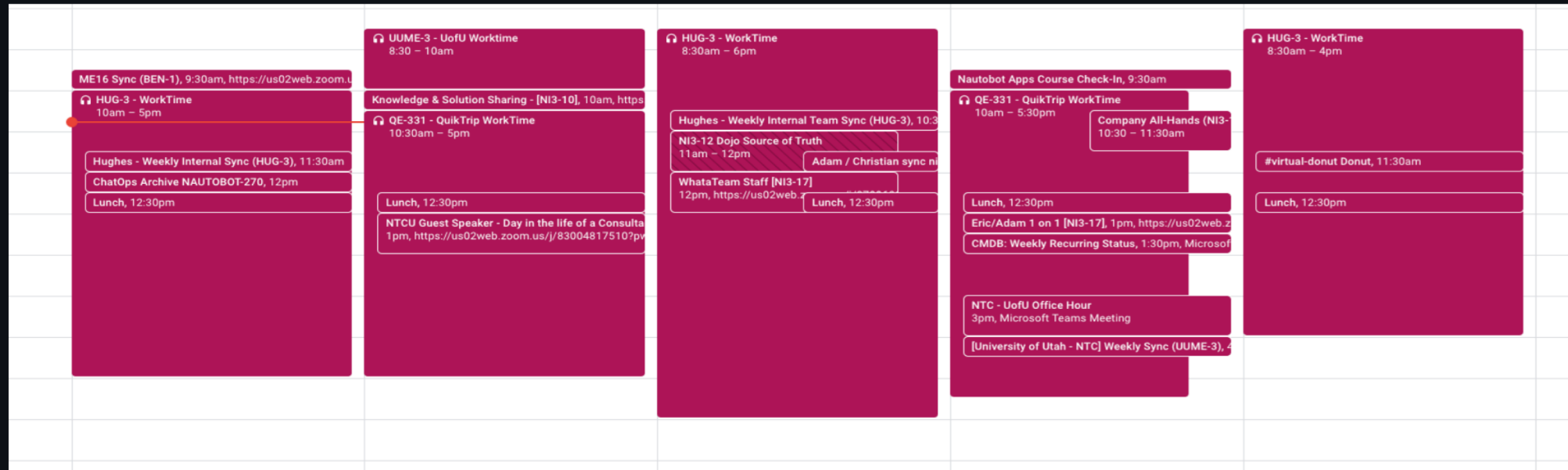
- I take the already allocated time slots and move them to timeslots during the workday.

# Day in the life cont.

- When deciding where to put these blocks of "focus time" there are few things I consider:
  - Do I have to meet any deadlines that week? For example, I may have a demo for Hughes on Wednesday and a PR into QuikTrip by Tuesday. I'd probably push my UofU work off until the end of the week
  - Do I need help with my work on a certain project? If I need to meet with Stephen to help me with a JavaScript bit I'll align that time block with some time openings he has
  - If a certain block of time will 100% need my devoted attention, I'll be mindful of which block I choose to lessen the chance of it getting disrupted
  - Personal appointments - Doctor, vet, car work, etc.

# Day in the life cont.

- Updated Calendar



- These are by no means set in stone, but having a gameplan going into each day means one less thing I have to think about when that day arrives
- Try to keep the blocks to a minimum of 4 hours

# Project Asks

- NAaaS (ME-16) Characteristics
  - Work is driven by Kanban board with communication mostly via chat
  - Typically has syncs with the customer either weekly, bi-weekly or monthly
- University of Utah
  - Weekly Office Hours
  - Transferring home grown app to Ansible
  - Surprisingly, no Nautobot work
- QuikTrip
  - Improvements and bug fixes in their existing Nautobot instances
  - Monthly sync to prioritize backlog
  - Work mostly in an already established Nautobot ecosystem

# Project Asks Cont.

- PS Engagement
  - Agile approach is typically applied to these engagements which may include daily stand ups and backlog grooming sessions
  - There are typically goals for the project defined when the Statement-of-work (SOW) is signed
- Hughes Network Systems
  - Work has included deploying Nautobot, building custom plugin, incorporating existing plugins, configuring SSO and other various Nautobot related tasks
  - With this type of engagement, you have some responsibility for the direction and timing of work that needs to be done. This also varies on the size of the PS engagement



# Focus Block Tips

- The majority of work done in these focus blocks is coding. However, they can include things like research on a technology I'm not familiar with etc.
- Keep your code organized! I use a VS Code Workspace for each client
- Keep your internet tabs organized! I use tab groups in Edge
- Have a local docker instance of Nautobot always available
- Don't forget about the demo instance
- Utilize the `#ask-{topic}` channels and utilize the search function in Slack. A question you have has probably been asked before
- Tackle low hanging fruit first. For me, having small wins helps with my motivation and excitement when coding



## Focus Block Tips cont.

- Utilize the `#ask-{topic}` channels and utilize the search function in Slack. A question you have has probably been asked before
- Take things one at a time and set goals for your blocks. For example, I'm developing an SSoT for Hughes. I'll break down what I need to do prior to my coding block and make them as "atomic" as possible. `Example: Define needed GraphQL query`
- Take time for yourself. There are weeks where I'll set a focus block just to do some personal development
- Take breaks. I'll usually only sit at my computer for 50-55 minutes and take the last 5/10 to either walk around or just hang out with my dogs

# Engagement Level Tips

- As consultants we have more responsibility than just delivering code
- Developing your people skills is just as important as your technical skills
- Keep things moving within an engagement. Clients like to see progress
- Don't be afraid to reach out in an engagement. There have been a few times where I'll reach out to someone within the clients organization to set up a meeting or just procure feedback
- Just because the customer says they need something doesn't mean that is what they need. It is our job as consultants to decide the best solution based on their needs
- Make use of the kanban board and update your tasks. This helps everyone on the team as they get to know where you are on tasks and helps keep you organized
- Utilize the Engagement Managers and Project Managers to offload certain tasks

## General NTC Tips

- Watch Matt Vitale's presentation on Imposter Syndrome
- Don't be afraid to be uncomfortable
- Set your work environment up effeciently. There is a great blog by Joe Wesch that goes into awesome extensions in VS Code

# Questions

Thanks for listening about my day and my tips! Any and all questions welcome.