

## Transcript

00:00:01 Joe

The shift show captains log episode 23. In today's episode, Dwayne and Joe Beeman from Seattle, a Microsoft product manager for word, the adventurous Ali Forelli.

00:00:12 Joe

She brings darkness upon the word while enlightening us to the passion for making document creation accessible to all species.

00:00:20 Joe

And we learn when the comms channel is on an open frequency, you capture feedback from across the Galaxy.

00:00:28 Joe

Impulse Power Cruise mode, control shift V.

00:00:50 Dewayne

Hey buddy, how how's it going?

00:00:53 Joe

Uh, doing doing pretty well it's been we've had a little bit of breather in between some conferences, so that's been that's been good actually catch up on our day job a little bit.

00:00:58 Joe

This is.

00:01:05 Dewayne

Sometimes I don't even know what that is.

00:01:10 Joe

Do some of the stuff we're supposed to be doing other than running around and helping at conferences.

00:01:16 Joe

So but yeah, it's good to get back in the in the virtual studio here and yeah, podcast recording.

00:01:24 Joe

This is going to be interesting, I think.

00:01:27 Joe

Our podcast.

00:01:30 Joe

Person that's visiting with us today.

00:01:31 Joe

This will be her first podcast that she's been on.

00:01:36 Dewayne

Podcast debut, yeah, yeah.

00:01:39 Dewayne

That's really cool.

00:01:40 Dewayne

I'm honored actually to be able to do that.

00:01:43 Dewayne

And and and worried that she trusts us.

00:01:48 Dewayne

To do that.

00:01:51 Dewayne

I think we've only had a few guests on so far.

00:01:53 Dewayne

We're still kind of figuring out how the transporter system works, so I haven't lost anybody yet, so that's good.

00:01:57 Joe

Yeah, no, no, definitely.

00:02:00 Joe

But yeah, this would be interesting.

00:02:03 Joe

We we had a.

00:02:05 Joe

One of our monthly community calls that we do internally about this product, Microsoft Word, and it was the.

00:02:15 Joe

Yeah, we're yeah, exactly what word up?

00:02:19 Joe

I think I have some of those stickers fell from a few years ago.

00:02:23 Joe

But it was one of our most attended.

00:02:28 Joe

Community events that we had on something that we think it's just, it's just word, but I mean it's just word, but no, it's.

00:02:37 Joe

We definitely dove into a lot of aspects of it that are very, very helpful to our users that have been.

00:02:46 Joe

Just like a lot of other products, they really have been taken off with respect to.

00:02:52 Joe

Their use around COVID and making them.

00:02:56 Joe

Friendly on the web and things like that, yeah.

00:03:00 Joe

I think it'll be interesting to talk to our person today and kind of dive into some of those features.

00:03:07 Dewayne

Definitely, yeah.

00:03:09 Dewayne

We we are going to have a like I said, another guest on our show and again her podcast debut.

00:03:17 Dewayne

This is going to be Ali Ferrelli and she is a product manager at Microsoft for the Microsoft Word team and.

00:03:27 Dewayne

Is kind of behind the scenes part of some really cool features and things that I think.

00:03:35 Dewayne

A lot of people on the planet will appreciate, which is really.

00:03:39 Dewayne

I mean, wow, that's that's an amazing.

00:03:42 Dewayne

It's an amazing thing to think.

00:03:43 Dewayne

Like, you know, when we had Sean on and talked about PowerPoint, he said, you know, we're stewards of this storytelling tool, you know, this iconic storytelling tool and.

00:03:54 Dewayne

Word, you know, like you were saying with our community call, we're like, hey, we're going to talk about word.

00:04:00 Dewayne

And I mean, I don't want this to sound negative, but.

00:04:03 Dewayne

Not exactly expecting a lot of excitement, but we had almost 200 people show up for that call and.

00:04:11 Dewayne

I kind of realize like.

00:04:13 Dewayne

There's probably not one day that goes by that you're doing businessy type work, that you don't interact with word in some way.

00:04:22 Dewayne

Right.

00:04:22 Dewayne

I mean, it's been around a minute.

00:04:25 Joe

Yeah, and it's been almost 39 years since we had the opportunity to interact in Word.

00:04:33 Joe

Some people are probably thinking right now in this podcast.

00:04:33

That's crazy.

00:04:36 Joe

That was way before I was born.

00:04:38 Joe

For us.

00:04:38 Joe

So yeah, it's definitely been.

00:04:39 Dewayne

Word is a little bit older.

00:04:41 Dewayne

Than me, yeah.

00:04:44 Dewayne

Just a little bit.

00:04:44 Joe

Something still really basically, basically coming up on 40 years old and it's still.

00:04:50 Joe

You know the go to, you know tool for producing so many.

00:04:56 Joe

I mean, I I can only imagine the number of.

00:04:59 Joe

Product papers that have been written.

00:05:01 Dewayne

Or books, novels, books.

00:05:03 Dewayne

You know, novels.

00:05:05 Joe

Scripts, you know, just tons and tons of amazing things that have done with it.

00:05:10 Joe

And we're going to hear today, I'm sure about just new, new features added to it, you know and taking it beyond almost just a word processor, but something you can incorporate in some of your business processes process.

00:05:23 Dewayne

We're a word processor.

00:05:25 Dewayne

Think about this.

00:05:26 Dewayne

A word processor that is older than the Internet itself.

00:05:36 Joe

And now, well, now a lot of the new, you know, features are released just on the Internet version of it.

00:05:42 Joe

You know, on on the web.

00:05:44 Dewayne

Yeah, yeah.

00:05:45 Dewayne

I hope we get into that.

00:05:46 Joe

Long way from a floppy disk.

00:05:47 Dewayne

Yeah, no sneakernet here.

00:05:53 Dewayne

Yeah, I hope we get into that. I, I know we we often tell our users when we start educating them on Office 365, we say like you want to start at office.com and that's usually an eye opening experience because they don't realize all the apps that are up there.

00:06:12 Dewayne

You know, say up there like in the cloud and word, word being one of them.

00:06:16 Dewayne

And there's definitely some differences and I think Ali is probably going to educate us a little bit on what some of those differences are.

00:06:23 Dewayne

So and there's some.

00:06:25 Dewayne

Some things that are web only, there are some things that are desktop only.

00:06:29 Dewayne

And you know, there's advantages and situations where you might want to use one versus the other.

00:06:35 Dewayne

So I'm excited to hear about it.

00:06:38 Joe

Let's let's be more on through the darkness of space.

00:06:42 Dewayne

Yep, Yep. We're getting pretty good at this transporter thing. We're 100% so far, so let's keep it that way, OK?

00:06:50 Dewayne

Alright, I'm going to go ahead and hit the button and beam on.

00:06:54 Dewayne

Allie Ferrelli, so here we go.

00:07:07 Dewayne

Hello Allie.

00:07:08 Dewayne

Welcome aboard the ship show.

00:07:11 Ali

Hey, thanks for having me.

00:07:13 Ali

And so for the listeners, I'm Ali Farrelly and I'm a product manager on the word team.

00:07:20 Ali

I have been at Microsoft for about 6 years now, with four years on the word team.

00:07:24 Ali

And originally from the East Coast, actually Boston area, and moved out to Seattle six years ago when I got the job at Microsoft and have been here ever since.

00:07:36 Dewayne

I think Joe and I are probably going to start off by giving a gigantic thank you to you for bringing us over to the dark side totally.

00:07:48 Dewayne

I I'm seeing some new stuff in Word online now that I wasn't seeing just a little while ago and and that's dark mode and I'm my eyes.

00:07:57 Dewayne

Thank you.

00:07:58 Ali

Yeah, dark red has been one of my favorite features to work on.

00:08:01 Ali

I started working on dark mode.

00:08:04 Ali

Probably two years ago.

00:08:05 Ali

Now, and originally we were working on the product for the desktop apps.

00:08:12 Ali

So we had dark mode added to Windows and Mac and then you know, it was such a great hit with users.

00:08:18 Ali

We thought, you know, we need to add this everywhere else, so you know, as you guys have noticed.

00:08:23 Ali

Word Web is now rolling out dark mode as well.

00:08:26 Ali

And you know with dark mode you get both the dark ribbon, so all of your menu controls are dark and then also your page color flips.

00:08:33 Ali

And we actually kind of flip some of the colors to make things easier on your eyes.

00:08:36 Ali

There's less.

00:08:37 Ali

Eyestrain, you know, it's easier to.

00:08:38 Ali

Work at night.



00:08:39 Ali

Potentially your battery is even being saved in your computer without producing as much.

00:08:44 Ali

White pixels and I also just think it looks really cool.

00:08:47 Ali

So I love using dark.

00:08:49 Dewayne

It is.

00:08:50 Dewayne

It is a really good.

00:08:52 Dewayne

It's a really good thing.

00:08:54 Dewayne

I run most everything I have in dark mode.

00:08:59 Dewayne

Except sometimes, oddly enough, not teams.

00:09:02 Dewayne

And the reason why I don't run teams in dark mode a lot of times is because I am taking a lot of screenshots or doing a lot of demos and I feel like.

00:09:12 Dewayne

There's not as much.

00:09:13 Dewayne

I don't have any data to prove this point, but I feel like a lot of our people aren't seeing teams in dark mode, so I try to demo it how I feel like they might be.

00:09:21

Do me again.

00:09:22 Dewayne

But I'm definitely team dark mode for sure. I'm pretty sure I mean Joe's background right now. I know our listeners can't see it, but he's in dark mode.

00:09:31 Ali

Right.

00:09:32 Ali

With the the new Windows release, we also have you know, dark mode at the operating system level and then that's something we're trying to inherit as an app as well to just make you opt into dark mode once and then everything should just.

00:09:44 Ali

Be part of that dark mode.

00:09:46 Dewayne

That's cool. Yeah. Well.

00:09:48 Joe

Dwayne will give me a hard time with being a night owl, so I'm definitely dark mode happy.

00:09:52 Joe

And having been usually on insider builds of systems and office, I've been happy with dark mode for quite a while now, taking advantage of that.

00:10:04 Joe

So it's been great.

00:10:05 Joe

I've had a uh.

00:10:06 Joe

It's funny, I had a memory coming back of a faculty member who I had to switch over from a product called Word Perfect Way back in the day.

00:10:15 Joe

And we had to get a blue background situated because that was really, really popular and happy anyways.

00:10:23 Joe

Just a really old memory of switching word and making it right for the user.

00:10:28 Ali

Yeah, that's actually another reason why I love working on dark mode.

00:10:31 Ali

A big part of my job on word is actually managing accessibility.

00:10:35 Ali

For the product.

00:10:36 Ali

And dark mode, although like every person thinks it's super cool, it actually falls under an accessibility feature category.

00:10:44 Ali

While we're reducing the light put output of your screen and kind of reducing some of that color contrast and brightness of your document, that actually helps people with certain vision problems.

00:10:56 Ali

Or if you have light sensitivity, you know, even temporary disability from someone who's been staring at a screen all day long and experiencing eyestrain.

00:11:03 Ali

These are just.

00:11:04 Ali

Examples of way that we're trying to design our products to actually be more helpful for our users and usable for every.

00:11:09 Ali

One, and that's also why I love Dark mode, because it's a great example of a feature that could be specifically for a target group of users with eye problems, except that it actually applies to everyone, showing that inclusive design can just make the product more enjoyable all around.

00:11:26 Dewayne

That's a great, a great point.

00:11:28 Dewayne

Our educators are very, very aware of accessibility when they author papers and documents and publications and things like that.

00:11:38 Dewayne

And so out of curiosity, I'm just.

00:11:41 Dewayne

Just curious is it does the way you?

00:11:45 Dewayne

View your document if you're operating in dark.

00:11:49 Dewayne

Blind you in any way to accessibility things that you might want to think of on behalf of someone else who's consuming the document, like does the accessibility checker like take that into consideration or anything?

00:11:59 Dewayne

Anything interesting there?

00:12:01 Ali

Yeah, that's a great question.

00:12:03 Ali

I think one thing to note is that in dark mode you are not guaranteeing that your other collaborators are also in dark mode.

00:12:10 Ali

It's a user specific view.

00:12:12 Ali

And so if you ever.

00:12:13 Ali

Want to check how something is going to look when you share it with someone else?

00:12:16 Ali

Or if you're going to print this out on paper?

00:12:18 Ali

You should either use the switch modes button, which will just flip your page color back to white, or you should exit dark mode entirely, really just changing the page colors.

00:12:27 Ali

All you have to do to check what does that white document.

00:12:30 Ali

Still look like.

00:12:32 Ali

Because you know you want to make sure that something still looks good for your collaborator, or if you are printing on paper despite the questions on Twitter, you don't need black paper to print in dark mode.

00:12:43 Ali

But back to your question about the accessibility checker, which is another awesome feature on word.

00:12:49 Ali

For those who aren't familiar, the accessibility checker is a tool that is offered in app for word, and what it does is it runs through your document and flags accessibility issues that might make your content difficult to consume for someone else.

00:13:03 Ali

This is just like spell check, except it's a different set of rules.

00:13:07 Ali

Things like looking for.

00:13:08 Ali

All text on your images or making sure your color contrast is sufficient for people to be able to read your.

00:13:14 Ali

Content looking for, you know, tables with complex structure that might be difficult to navigate for a keyboard or screen reader user.

00:13:22 Ali

There's a variety of different rules there that I'd encourage people to go check out, but in terms of dark mode, the accessibility checker is running on the what we refer to as like the server version of the document.

00:13:34 Ali

So it's the.

00:13:35 Ali

The true docx file.

00:13:37 Ali

Again, dark mode is just a view that we build on top of that document.

00:13:41 Ali

So anything in the accessibility checker is looking at the real colors of your document.

00:13:45 Ali

So if your page color was white, we'll be checking color contrasts against that against that white background.

00:13:52 Ali

However, when we do map your content to dark mode, we should be maintaining.

00:13:56 Ali

The same minimum accessible color contrast requirements.

00:14:00 Ali

And so when we convert that document to dark mode, hopefully everything should still remain, you know, correct color contrast for people to read.

00:14:08 Dewayne

That's really good.

00:14:09 Dewayne

I'm glad that you kind of clarified that a little bit, 'cause.

00:14:12 Dewayne

I could see that probably tripping up some.

00:14:15 Dewayne

Some non-technical folks that that might think like like you said jokingly but maybe somebody did say it. Seriously, do I need black paper now for my printer which I?

00:14:24 Ali

Yeah, it can be a real a real question, and I think these these new features can definitely be confusing at times when you're really used to one way of doing things.

00:14:24 Dewayne

Think is hilarious.

00:14:33 Ali

But I think that's a lot of the beauty of word is that you have this one document, and that's consistent everywhere.

00:14:39 Ali

And then users really can customize their views whether they want to.

00:14:42 Ali

Be in print.

00:14:43 Ali

Layout or dark mode or you know be in web view with their text size larger and you can really customize your editing and consumption experience, however is easiest for you.

00:14:53 Ali

Personally to like consume that document.

00:14:57 Dewayne

Joe and I were at a conference a while back and we it was a it nerd kind of gathering and there was some classes that were being offered that were outside of our normal scope of something we would participate in and we wanted to do something different.

00:15:12 Dewayne

And one of them was a class on authoring accessible documents.

00:15:16 Dewayne

In Microsoft Word and there was a wonderful video that they played that showed the difference between how a screen reader would interpret a document if you hadn't properly gone in and set the sequence.

00:15:29 Dewayne

You know, use the right syntax I guess, to tell the screen reader what to read 1st, and it was a.

00:15:35 Dewayne

Eye opening your opening experience to to hear how that works, and so if if anybody who's listening hasn't played with the accessibility checker, definitely, definitely give it a look 'cause.

00:15:47 Dewayne

It is very helpful.

00:15:49 Ali

Yeah, I think a useful statistic there is that, like one in five people have a disability whether it's visible or not.

00:15:56 Ali

And so people often don't realize how important making your content accessible is, because you might not even realize that people you're collaborating with have some sort of disability.

00:16:06 Ali

And so if you can just add.

00:16:08 Ali

In one extra step.

00:16:09 Ali

To your workflow.

00:16:10 Ali

That's super useful.

00:16:12 Ali

I know outlook now also has a feature where individual people can say they prefer accessible.

00:16:17 Ali

Content and that will actually prompt someone before sending an e-mail.

00:16:20 Ali

You might get this little popup that says, hey, someone on this recipient list prefers accessible content.

00:16:25 Ali

Run the accessibility checker, because that same accessibility checker is offered in outlook with a lot of the same rules and requirements that we have in Word.

00:16:34 Dewayne

That's really, that's really cool.

00:16:35 Dewayne

I didn't know.

00:16:36 Dewayne

I I didn't know that was the thing you could opt into.

00:16:39 Dewayne

That's awesome.

00:16:41 Dewayne

I do know that.

00:16:42 Dewayne

Funny enough, in our organization we have a little banner that gets forced onto any e-mail that comes from an external source.

00:16:52 Dewayne

And that banner text is super bright, like red.

00:16:57 Dewayne

And sometimes when I reply to emails, I get an alert from Outlook that says I might want a second second, you know, look at my document to make sure it's accessible and it's because of.

00:17:07 Dewayne



That stupid banner that's.

00:17:08 Dewayne

Getting forced injected into the e-mail.

00:17:11 Joe

So that you're supposed to actually read and look at and pay.

00:17:14 Ali

Attention to but yeah, seems like someone needs to redesign the colors on that.

00:17:16 Joe

Not great color.

00:17:19 Dewayne

Yeah, yeah, I totally agree.

00:17:23 Joe

Are some of these making their way into mobile apps?

00:17:27 Joe

A lot of our agents will be definitely on the road often, and you know they'll be using office mobile or maybe an iPad.

00:17:34 Joe

Some of the like dark mode and accessibility features beneby.

00:17:37 Ali

Yeah, dark mode is definitely coming to the mobile apps.

00:17:41 Ali

That's something we're working on for iOS and Android right now.

00:17:45 Dewayne

It is.

00:17:46 Dewayne

It's interesting to see the dark mode and I, you know, obviously the whole episode is not gonna be about dark mode, but it's interesting to see the dark mode.

00:17:56 Dewayne

At a system.

00:17:57 Dewayne

Level is working on my Android phone.

00:18:00 Dewayne

I'm looking at Word Mobile right now, but the actual canvas that I would type on is white, which is.

00:18:05 Dewayne

Which is kind of curious like the ribbon is.

00:18:08 Dewayne

Dark I guess 'cause my OS is set dark.

00:18:08

Yes, so that's.

00:18:10 Ali

Yes, we have a concept of themes a lot.

00:18:13 Ali

The time inward, where your ribbon, your file menus, the dialog boxes, those are all part of some specific color palette.

00:18:21 Ali

You know Windows Desktop has the most versions.

00:18:24 Ali

Of these themes.

00:18:25 Ali

You can choose from so often when we're actually starting to roll out dark mode from an engineering perspective.

00:18:31 Ali

It's easier to change all of the theming for those.

00:18:35 Ali

Ribbon menu item controls, and then it just takes additional time and funding for us to figure out.

00:18:42 Ali

You know the algorithm to map the user content because you know every user in dark mode is going to have the same exact color for their file menu.

00:18:49 Ali

But your document is, you know, totally unique to.

00:18:52 Ali

It's your own document.

00:18:53 Ali

So doing the work to make sure those.

00:18:55 Ali

Colors can invert and flip that page.

00:18:58 Ali

Colors takes a little bit longer, but that's what you're seeing on Android is you're seeing basically half of the feature released right now with the Dark menu controls, and soon the dark page color will follow.

00:19:08 Dewayne

My battery will thank you.

00:19:11 Dewayne

So is that true, Joe, like it is?

00:19:14 Dewayne

Does it require less energy I guess for a phone to like not display a color?

00:19:19 Dewayne

I guess like are certain colors more optimal?

00:19:23 Joe

I mean, I think that what I've read is there's some energy, less energy, you know, not having to push out a.

00:19:29 Joe

A bright screen.

00:19:30 Joe

So reducing that might be interesting to just take, you know, all computers across the planet.

00:19:34 Joe

Dark mode?

00:19:35 Joe

What would we how many plus carbon units would be saving?

00:19:38 Joe

Who knows?

00:19:39 Joe

Wow, interesting.

00:19:39 Ali

Yeah, with your.

00:19:40 Ali

Phone, definitely.

00:19:41 Ali

I know that, you know, if I'm in bright sunlight trying to look at my phone, I need to have my brightness up all the way.

00:19:46 Ali

And that definitely drains my battery quicker.

00:19:49 Ali

And then there is some sort of correlation between maximum, you know, brightness for a white pixel versus slightly dimmer with a dark pixel.

00:19:59 Ali

I actually used to work on a displays and brightness team back in Windows before this.

00:20:04 Ali

That did a lot of testing with different types.

00:20:06 Ali

Of displays looking at the the colors and the energy consumption in that whole sphere.

00:20:12 Ali

But I do.

00:20:12 Speaker 2

Very cool.

00:20:13 Ali

Think it's it's more fun to work on an end user product like word.

00:20:18 Dewayne

Are you an extension agent just getting started with teams?

00:20:21 Dewayne

Or maybe you're experienced but you're looking to improve your digital cloud skill set?

00:20:26 Dewayne

Are you an IT pro supporting extension programs at your university?

00:20:29 Dewayne

Well, you're invited to join us in a community working to empower extension agents and their support staff to skill up.

00:20:36 Dewayne

And learn together.

00:20:38 Dewayne

If you're interested, visit [akms forward slash, join Cloudy County](#) to sign up, and join us for monthly training sessions and open discussion with your hosts of the shift.

00:20:49 Dewayne

Show cloudy county extension essential cloud skills for extension by extension.

00:20:57 Dewayne

Well, we started off the.

00:20:59 Dewayne

The conversation by talking about.

00:21:01 Dewayne

How there's now dark mode for word online, and I think it might be pretty cool at a basic level to just talk about the fact that there is a word online.

00:21:12 Dewayne

I know a lot of our users when they think about office, they think about have you installed office on my computer?

00:21:18 Dewayne

I need office setup.

00:21:20 Dewayne

Hey, I need my apps, that kind of stuff.

00:21:22 Dewayne

But there's actually a completely free version of Office that exists only.

00:21:27 Dewayne

In the web.

00:21:28 Dewayne

And you have a lot to do with that too.

00:21:30 Dewayne

And there are some.

00:21:32 Dewayne

Difference is obviously it's running in a web browser, but.

00:21:36 Joe

What're what're a?

00:21:37 Dewayne

Few of your favorite things that you can only get in the web.

00:21:40 Dewayne

And is there anything extra interesting you want to say about the web 'cause?

00:21:44 Dewayne

A lot of people don't even know it's there.

00:21:46 Ali

Yeah, I'm office online or you know, word online.

00:21:49 Ali

Word for the web.

00:21:50 Ali

There's a few different names for it.

00:21:52 Ali

It really is just a version of word in your browser tab, but so many people don't know about it.

00:21:57 Ali

My own younger brother needed to access.

00:22:00 Ali

This you know his word files and he couldn't get it from the desktop and I was able to tell him, hey, you can actually go to office.com and you can upload your file there and then you can open it in Word, totally free without an account.

00:22:13 Ali

But yeah, office online is totally free and which is super awesome 'cause.

00:22:18 Ali

I know a lot of people, you know when they leave school or when their license expires, they get those annoying prompts on their desktop and they can't open those files anymore.

00:22:25 Ali

But you know, if that file is saved to the cloud, like save to a OneDrive account which is also free, you can go in and open that.

00:22:33 Ali

File on the web and then you know, collaboration, seeing real time typing all of.

00:22:37 Ali

That stuff will work there.

00:22:39 Ali

In terms of features that I really like that are in Word web only right now, one of them is transcribe.

00:22:45 Ali

This is a super cool feature where you can actually upload an audio file and word will parse out all of the words in that audio file and put them into a Word document for you.

00:22:57 Ali

That's just a super useful feature.

00:22:58 Ali

Whether you have you know a meeting, recording, or you just want to know the lyrics of the new song that you've been listening to, you can see what word thing.

00:23:07 Ali

That singer is saying.

00:23:08 Dewayne

That's an interesting use case.

00:23:11 Ali

I don't know.

00:23:12 Ali

You never know.

00:23:12 Dewayne

I like it.

00:23:14 Dewayne

We use transcribe every single time we do a podcast recording. We use word online to transcribe the the final MP3 so that we can upload a PDF file alongside the episode so if anybody out there has ever looked at.

00:23:31 Dewayne

Don't know if anybody has, but if anybody has ever looked at our show notes and looked at the transcription to try to hunt something that we said that was all powered by word online.

00:23:41 Dewayne

One of my favorites, and so times two there.

00:23:44 Joe

It's really cool is that it does, uh, attribution for speakers to it.

00:23:48 Joe

It figures out that there's a, you know, multiple speakers.

00:23:51 Joe

And you can set a name for who's talking at each point, which is really helpful for us again for for doing something like a podcast transcript.

00:24:01 Ali

That's a super useful feature.

00:24:04 Ali

I think on that same topic of other features I love that are only in the web right now, there's a feature called comment reactions, which is also something I've worked on.

00:24:13 Ali

Pretty basic idea is just, you know, we added a like button to comments, but now it's so much easier for me.

00:24:20 Ali

Instead of having to go into my comments and typing that, I've had some reply that I've seen it or a + 1 or something to acknowledge it.



00:24:28 Ali

I can just press a like button and then that collaborator can see that, you know?

00:24:33 Ali

I've seen the comment, or if it's someone else's comment that wasn't directed towards me, I can just add emphasis and kind of up.

00:24:39 Ali

Note those comments.

00:24:41 Ali

We've actually run meetings before where you can, you know, leave comments with feedback, and then people can upvote which feedback idea was their most favorite one.

00:24:51 Ali

It's kind of just a lightweight way of getting kind of a pulse via feedback in comments and it just makes your document feel a lot less cluttered when.

00:24:59 Ali

You just have.

00:25:00 Ali

To, you know, have these thumbs up like button responses versus additional like plus one replies.

00:25:05 Ali

From each author.

00:25:07 Dewayne

I think that is such a cool.

00:25:09 Dewayne

Uhm, shift in how people are working together now I'm going to derail us slightly, but I'll bring us back.

00:25:19 Dewayne

There has been a really funny, controversial topic out on in my spaces online about the new emojis.

00:25:30 Dewayne

In teams.

00:25:31 Ali

Yes, that's are definitely polarizing.

00:25:33 Dewayne

Yeah, and and the fact.

00:25:36 Dewayne

That they're polarizing is what I find interesting.

00:25:39 Dewayne

Like people are legitimately getting upset over what emojis look like in a business collaboration plat.

00:25:46 Dewayne

And so that has become important to them, right, as far as like how they communicate with each other.

00:25:52 Dewayne

And so early on in our rollout of teams, Joe was advising folks saying, hey, it's good etiquette to when somebody sends you a message to just give it a like and that's so good way to acknowledge.

00:26:05 Dewayne

I've seen it.

00:26:06 Dewayne

I understand.

00:26:07 Dewayne

You know, confirm 10 four good buddy that.

00:26:09 Dewayne

Kind of thing.

00:26:11 Dewayne

And so it's really, really cool to see the emoji types world you know leak over into things like comments and and being able like you said, to acknowledge, yes I've seen your comment I understand what it is that you want me to do in this document.

00:26:27 Dewayne

So are there any plans for the.

00:26:30 Dewayne

The the the styling of the comments to follow teams emojis, you know.

00:26:34 Ali

I think eventually.

00:26:35 Ali

Actually our current the current selected like ICON that's shipped right now came from a previous version of the teams Icon library before they got.

00:26:45 Ali

All 3D and animated.

00:26:48 Ali

The current version of comment reactions I actually started in a hackathon project.

00:26:53 Ali

'cause it wasn't.

00:26:55 Ali

Something we were actually working on.

00:26:56 Ali

It was just an idea that myself and some other engineers had and so the the current UI and the icons are.

00:27:05 Ali

Kind of a minimum viable product right now it's we just took the current teams icon of the time before they changed them and you know updated it with with that icon flow.

00:27:17 Dewayne

I think the the word that you use there of use, and this is really how we met was because I saw that you were a big critical player in the comment reactions and it was the result of a hackathon, which is something that's been brought up on our show before.

00:27:34 Dewayne

When we had Sean Miller on on, he talked about some of the features.

00:27:38 Dewayne

That came out in PowerPoint.

00:27:40 Dewayne

We're actually the result of a hackathon.

00:27:42 Dewayne

So can you tell us a little bit more about like Woody as a Microsoft employee working on the largest word processor on the planet, like?

00:27:51 Dewayne

When you.

00:27:51 Dewayne

Get time to do a hackathon.

00:27:53 Dewayne

Like what happens?

00:27:54 Dewayne

Like how does that work?

00:27:55 Ali

Hackathons are my favorite week. They feel like Christmas to me. It really is because I think I'm just actually really passionate about working on word and as someone who knows the in's and outs of the product and exactly how it works, but also while being a user myself and having so many friends that are users.

00:28:14 Ali

And being able to look on social media and see feedback from people that are users, I always have different ideas of how can we make this easier for people.

00:28:23 Ali

I think that's one of my main inspirations and motivations with my hackathon project, isn't it?

00:28:29 Ali

Isn't how can I build this new cutting edge technology.

00:28:31 Ali

It's how can I take this great product that's already here, and how can I add?

00:28:35 Ali

Something to it that just makes people have an easier time with their documents, makes their.

00:28:40 Ali

Work close easier, just save some time or just put a smile on their face.

00:28:44 Ali

And so hackathon week.

00:28:47 Ali

Often it's it's never really a one week project for me.

00:28:50 Ali

I'm scheming ahead of time and figuring out what something I could reasonably get done in a week, like which engineers might know the most about that type of code.

00:28:59 Ali

Previous things that I've done in hacking.

00:29:03 Ali

Changing the way we zoom in and out of text on word web was one thing.

00:29:08 Ali

I actually changed the, you know, control plus and minus shortcuts.

00:29:11 Ali

If you're inside, your page will actually zoom in and out of your page instead of zooming the whole browser window.

00:29:17 Ali

I'm sure people have experienced this before when you try to zoom in on something and it actually just like zoom the whole page in.

00:29:23 Ali

But you only wanted to see your actual document content bigger.

00:29:27 Ali

That was one thing.

00:29:28 Ali

The control shift V shortcut is actually one of my.

00:29:33 Ali

All time favorite parts of word web, trying to add it to a desktop.

00:29:36 Ali

Eventually that's going to paste your content without formatting.

00:29:40 Ali

So that's like.

00:29:41 Ali

A paste text only feature.

00:29:42 Ali

So every time you're annoyed that you paste in something into your document and it's got you.

00:29:46 Ali

Know it's suddenly the font is red and it's bold and it's way bigger than what's next to it if you just do a control shift.

00:29:53 Ali

Maybe it's going to make your life a lot better.

00:29:55 Ali

It's going to just match the text that you're pasting it next to.

00:29:58 Ali

But yeah, those are just all examples of things that I've done during a hackathon because I think.

00:30:03 Ali

It's often, you know, the people who work on the products all the time.

00:30:07 Ali

We're best equipped to figure out now.

00:30:09 Ali

And we, you know, when I get my own, I have my own sense of agency and I can provide my own direction.

00:30:15 Ali

I'm pretty motivated to do something that's going to have a big impact for users versus, you know, we have ongoing pillars of commitments of, you know, performance.

00:30:23 Ali

Reliability, different features, things that we like need to work through for a business.

00:30:28 Ali

Models that we can, you know, maintain our service and make everything continue to work for everyone.

00:30:33 Ali

But those one week hackathons or when I can say, hey, what's something special? How can I add a little bit of sparkle somewhere and make someone's day better?

00:30:42 Joe

That's, that's really great to hear 'cause.

00:30:44 Joe

I mean I'm picking up there was you're listening to your friends who's using word?

00:30:50 Joe

You're also listening to Twitter.

00:30:52 Joe

It sounds like to pick up some of these aspects of what's important to the user, and you mentioned control the, the, the, the pasting without.

00:31:02 Joe

Any formatting did that kind of blow up on Twitter?

00:31:05 Joe

On you?

00:31:07 Ali

Yes, that is another one in in Twitter.

00:31:11 Joe

That might be a good feedback place for occasionally to get to.

00:31:15 Ali

Right, so in terms of feedback, we do have the in app feedback option where users can go and send feedback during their session.

00:31:22 Ali

And I sometimes shy away from like, looking at that feedback too much because.

00:31:29 Ali

There's a different mindset that someone is in when they're submitting in app feedback versus when they go on a Twitter rant, and I really want to capture the people that are on Twitter.

00:31:37 Ali

Ramps like that's the feedback that I want to find and I think that feedback gets overlooked with the the in app.

00:31:43 Ali

Microsoft blessed feedback pipeline, right?

00:31:46 Ali

Someone who's that passionate or angry about something, they're not going to go open word and write their feedback about it.

00:31:52 Ali

They're going to type it on Instagram or Twitter or whatever social media platform that they're using.

00:31:58 Ali

I think the.

00:31:59 Ali

Tweet that you're referring to is there was kind of this viral tweet that was.

00:32:02 Ali

You know, I never ever ever many errors later want to paste text and keep source formatting in Word and and that actually is our default paste option on desktop word.

00:32:14 Ali

And that's as I mentioned, you know, if you go and copy a, you know, headline from a Wikipedia article or a news article or something and you paste it.

00:32:22 Ali

Into word, the default option is to try to make it look exactly how it looked on that website.

00:32:28 Ali

And I think that really is not most users intentions.

00:32:31 Ali

They want to take the content of something that they had to copy or, you know, something they didn't know how to spell that they looked up and copied and want to paste it in, and they don't want it to look like it came from their Internet browser.

00:32:42 Ali

They want to look like it's typed next to all of their other words in their document, and so that was an.

00:32:49 Ali

An attempt like the control shift key shortcut and web adds this option for users.

00:32:54 Ali

I am on a longer mission to revisit the default paste options on desktop and that can take a little bit longer just because we have so many users on desktop.

00:33:03 Ali

That's something I actually love about working on word for the web.

00:33:06 Ali



'cause it really is a more experimental playground in my mind of users who have opted into a more modern experience.

00:33:14 Ali

They're on the web browser, so we can actually, we can change their experience every day in terms of the way.

00:33:19 Ali

The product.

00:33:20 Ali

Works, you know, it used to be for desktop word.

00:33:22 Ali

You had to buy a CD and load it into your computer and whatever the.

00:33:26 Ali

Word product Team had put on that CD is what you got and you had to, you know, wait a few more years to load a new CD on.

00:33:32 Ali

And now with those desktop versions, you know there are a frequency that you can go and update things, but I think even our one of our fastest update channels is still like per month.

00:33:41 Ali

But if you run that word for the web version, we can make a change every single day.

00:33:46 Ali

Be fixing things, adding new experiences, and so it's just, it's such a such a faster pace, which is fun for both the users and for people like me who are adding features and 'cause.

00:33:55 Ali

It's a lot more instant gratification.

00:33:58 Joe

Talking about again, a little bit back to word on the web, something that we.

00:34:04 Joe

Love about PowerPoint is designer and helping our agents.

00:34:10 Joe

Take their presentations and definitely kick them up a little notch is, and we're seeing that now in Word on the web.

00:34:19 Joe

There's a designer there.

00:34:20 Joe

Is that something you're part of?

00:34:21 Ali

Yes, there is a designer feature.

00:34:23 Joe

OK.

00:34:24 Ali

Yeah, the designer feature is, I think, also going to be really valuable to users.

00:34:29 Ali

I kind of see it as two sections.

00:34:32 Ali

One part of the designer feature is taking your existing headings or other document landmarks and then providing a more beautiful, advanced formatting version of it, you know.

00:34:43 Ali

Adding like more colorful borders or boxes around the text or putting a different style on it so it just looks more professional and cohesive.

00:34:52 Ali

And that's, I think, a lot of the value of PowerPoint designer to myself as well as it's taking that existing structure.

00:34:57 Ali

And then just making it look so much better in ways that I would not have patience to go in and manually format all of these different options.

00:35:05 Ali

And there's a secondary part of word designer that I think is also really helpful that actually kind of aligns with these paste options that is talking about.

00:35:13 Ali

And there is this user sense of they just want all of their content to look the same.

00:35:17 Ali

They don't want to have to go in and fix all of their fonts and font sizes like the number of times I've pasted something in and suddenly my size 11 font is like Nexus size 10 font and I'm.

00:35:28 Ali

Like squinting at it, trying to.

00:35:29 Ali

Figure out if it's slightly different.

00:35:31 Ali

Word designer is kind of that magic wand that's going to go in and.

00:35:34 Ali

See all of those kind of what I would call format spelling mistakes and go and just kind of fix all of those and it's done in a way that it doesn't happen as like an auto correct.

00:35:44 Ali

It actually gives suggestions so you can go in and manually review and accept those changes so you don't feel like the documents like not in your control anymore.

00:35:52 Ali

I think it's actually really nice flow or you can.

00:35:55 Ali

Click through those suggestions, whether it's a more beautified style or it's fixing that one sentence that's got both size 10 and 11 font in it.

00:36:03 Ali

And then you know at the end of it your document just looks so much more polished.

00:36:07 Ali

It's way easier than manually looking for all that formatting discrepancies yourself.

00:36:12 Dewayne

I'm going to call Joe out here. Just got going on the spot because we did A and I hope this that Ali thinks this is cool because we we have a monthly champions community here at our university where we talk about something Office 365 E every, every single month and we had.

00:36:33 Dewayne

Just shy of 200 people on the call when we highlighted Microsoft.

00:36:39 Dewayne

Word and, you know, word is word has been around for a minute.

00:36:44 Dewayne

And so we were really surprised.

00:36:45 Dewayne

We're like, oh, there's all this interest.

00:36:47 Dewayne

This is really cool and Joe shot off some really.

00:36:51 Dewayne

I had no idea that you could control find like a font.

00:36:56 Dewayne

He he was showing off ways that you could search Joe.

00:37:00 Dewayne

Can you take me back through that?

00:37:01 Joe

Yeah, just, you know, change, changing a style, changing a font throughout your document.

00:37:06 Joe

If you're using two or three different fonts for headers and things like that, you could yeah, it was pretty cool that you could dive into, search on actual formatting, and discover that and change it.

00:37:18 Joe

Maybe the everywhere that was bold needed to be italic and things like that that could that could happen.

00:37:24 Dewayne

And I think that what Ali saying with word online is what Joe showed was possible was really cool, but remembering how to do.

00:37:33 Dewayne

It isn't quite.

00:37:34 Dewayne

As easy and now there's it sounds like there's an easy button.

00:37:38 Ali

I think that's a lot of the difference between those two platforms.

00:37:38

You know.

00:37:41 Ali

So desktop word is.

00:37:43 Ali

And people write books in Word.

00:37:45 Ali

There is so much publishing and formatting and really fine tune mechanics of how your layout and your font.

00:37:52 Ali

And, you know, people can change things like font kerning in the space between the characters and how much, like the tildes are like spaced on those spots as well.

00:38:02 Ali

There's really dirty.

00:38:03 Ali

Formatting details that you have a.

00:38:06 Ali

You know, super fine-tuned adjustment on the desktop app and then what we're trying to do on the web app is instead.

00:38:12 Ali

Of adding like all of.

00:38:13 Ali

Those like 100 knobs for the fine-tuned complexity. We want to be able to take all of those concepts, but just make it easier.

00:38:20 Ali

We don't want you to have to become an expert.

00:38:23 Ali

And you know how?

00:38:24 Ali

To search for bold versus italic.

00:38:25 Ali

Formatting or how to go in and adjust exactly what that font looks like?

00:38:30 Ali

We want to still use those documents.

00:38:32 Ali

Queries, but expose them in a way that you don't have to be an expert to actually go in and adjust these things and have a sense of things being done more automatically or providing a kind of a smarter default experience and how we can, you know, revise and reformat your content for you.

00:38:48 Dewayne

I think it's really important to point out that this designer thing we've we've encouraged our extension agents to look at Designer and PowerPoint, because there are.

00:39:00 Dewayne

There's this attraction to some other unnamed online source that helps them generate content and they find it so much easier.

00:39:09 Dewayne

They're like, oh, I can just do a I can put some words on the page and.

00:39:12 Dewayne

In a couple.

00:39:12 Dewayne

Of clicks, like I have a a professional looking, you know graphic or something.

00:39:16 Dewayne

We're like, well, you can actually do that.

00:39:18 Dewayne

In in PowerPoint it's called designer.

00:39:20 Dewayne

It's one click away and so it's cool to see that same type of.

00:39:25 Dewayne

Super charging of authoring content coming over into word, I think I'm, I'm excited about that.

00:39:31 Dewayne

I'm, I'm, I'm, I'm really I I want to like announce it to our user base.

00:39:35 Dewayne

Like, you need to look at word online 'cause it does some.

00:39:38 Dewayne

Special things so.

00:39:40 Ali

And this is the type of thing.

00:39:41 Ali

Again, when I've mentioned the the pace of our development, word online does get things faster, 'cause.

00:39:47 Ali

It's easier to add things there, and it's a more modern codebase and we're.

00:39:52 Ali

Just making changes every day, but we're that's not to say that, you know, word designer is never going to be on desktop like we do.

00:40:00 Ali

Want to try to make the experience better in more places.

00:40:04 Ali

But I do think back to that kind of overarching goal of what are we.

00:40:09 Ali

Trying to offer for.

00:40:10 Ali

Users, I think we do kind of have a.

00:40:12 Ali

A pretty solid viewpoint that the desktop app is what has.

00:40:15 Ali

You know all of the options and you can.

00:40:16 Ali

Do a million things in very specific ways, but wordweb is where we want you to go to not have to think about all of those options as much and have more of that Taylor experience where we can provide those path lines for you and do some of that fixing in an easier way.

00:40:35 Joe

Does designer also that I'm assuming help with accessibility and it's choosing and producing those type of choices for you to maybe correct your document or?

00:40:47 Joe

Obviously whatever it produces is probably going through the accessibility checker world and is going to come out great.

00:40:54

So it does work.

00:40:55 Ali

Both ways right now with, you know, when we added the designer feature, I worked with that team pretty closely because we wanted to make sure that using the designer feature it wasn't going to create new accessibility issues in your document.

00:41:07 Ali

You know, for example, we want to make sure that the colors that they're choosing have sufficient color contrast for everyone to read.

00:41:12 Ali

Made and you know if there's images being added that you know they comply with that all text.

00:41:18 Ali

Also just making sure the feature itself is accessible so someone with limited vision or a different disability could still navigate that designer feature.

00:41:26 Ali

And that's actually really useful for someone who is vision impaired 'cause all this advanced formatting can be sometimes impossible.

00:41:33 Ali

For them, and if they can actually just use the designer feature, they can actually then have a more polished document and being taken more seriously with their content because they don't have all these small formatting mistakes that someone with perfect vision would easily see themselves.

00:41:47 Ali

And so that can actually really help people with disabilities like have credibility in the work.

00:41:52 Ali

Place on the other side, though.

00:41:54 Ali

I would really love someday to take the designer tech and feed that back into the accessibility checker.



00:42:00 Ali

There is, you know, different.

00:42:03 Ali

Different models that that feature is running on your document to try to analyze.

00:42:08 Ali

You know, should something be a heading.

00:42:09 Ali

That's one of the things that designer will look at, right?

00:42:12 Ali

It's seeing, oh, you have some text that's bold and it's slightly bigger than the other text.

00:42:17 Ali

This is probably supposed to be heading, and this person didn't know how to use the styles pane.

00:42:20 Ali

So, you know, designer will suggest to turn that into a heading, one that's actually making your document more accessible, adding those landmark regions, having headings, things that end up in the Navigation Pane, table of contents.

00:42:32 Ali

And that's actually really important for all users, especially users.

00:42:37 Ali

With disabilities feel to efficiently navigate through the content.

00:42:40 Ali

And so I think one of my dream hackathon projects someday would be how can we connect that back to the accessibility checker or have the experiences more related so we can, you know, improve one with the other?

00:42:51 Ali

Like could the way that you fix accessibility issues be using designer?

00:42:55 Ali

I think it's very possible.

00:42:57 Dewayne

I think that would make a lot of our people happier.

00:43:01 Dewayne

This our our educators are, uh there's a huge emphasis on accessibility as there should be on making sure that the the public information that our extension agents are generating is consumable by all.

00:43:17 Dewayne

And so having having that connection there, yeah, I.

00:43:21 Dewayne

Mark me down as voting for that as a as a hackathon, so.

00:43:24 Ali

Yeah, 'cause.

00:43:25 Ali

Then your content can be both accessible and beautiful, and I I think that's often something in people minds.

00:43:31 Ali

I think it's a tradeoff.

00:43:32 Ali

It's one or the other, but it really can be.

00:43:35 Ali

Some of it is that you do need.

00:43:37 Ali

You might need more advanced knowledge of word to figure out how to make it both, but I think that's where the tech room designer comes in.

00:43:43 Ali

They can add beautiful designs to your document while still making sure it adheres to all of the accessibility principles.

00:43:50 Joe

So time to up up your TPS reports game and make something that's beautiful and readable.

00:44:01 Dewayne

Uh, so I guess as we kind of we're we're getting towards the end and we, we've got one special thing we want to save that we typically do at the end of our episodes or our wins that we talk about.

00:44:13 Dewayne

But before we get.

00:44:14 Dewayne

There are.

00:44:15 Dewayne

Is there anything that you?

00:44:16 Dewayne

Can share with us that's that's cool to share.

00:44:19 Dewayne

That is like the future of word, like any kind of exciting stuff that might be coming 'cause I was gonna, I was gonna say, like, dark mode for the web is coming, but it's already out now, so it kind of stole my Thunder, and I'm happy about that, but is there any interesting?

00:44:35 Dewayne

I don't know developments in in the word land that we can know about.

00:44:40 Ali

Let's say back to one of my other projects comment reactions.

00:44:43 Ali

That is something that we are trying to add to all the platforms of word.

00:44:48 Ali

And we do want to come up with a cohesive design that fits with teams as well.

00:44:52 Ali

I think the the polarizing nature of the emojis is always interesting to think about.

00:44:58 Ali

But, you know, being able to react to comments, not just the like button, but being able to, you know, angry, sad insert emoji here, that's definitely something we're looking for.

00:45:08 Joe

I was curious about the Nuans acquisition and maybe some enhancements to the dictation capabilities throughout, you know, probably the whole office platform where that's at.

00:45:21 Joe

But specifically word, I know our agents are often working with scientific names for plants and species.

00:45:29 Joe

And things like that I just want.

00:45:31 Joe

Where that acquisition is at, if you can talk about that with respect to bringing that into some of?

00:45:36 Joe

These systems.

00:45:38 Ali

Yeah, I don't know how much I can say about that acquisition 'cause.

00:45:41 Ali

I am actually not too sure if it has closed myself.

00:45:46 Ali

But from the extensibility angle, voice accessibility, voice commanding is actually an area that we're starting to look at.

00:45:53 Ali

For this next year.

00:45:55 Ali

There's been voice commanding.

00:45:57 Ali

On Mac OS for a little while and the new Windows platform I think is going to have a Voice Access capability, you know?

00:46:07 Ali

Phones already have lot of this capability as well.

00:46:10 Ali

And then you know, as you mentioned dictation is something that exists within word, but that's a button for you know, text input from your voice that's really with just within the canvas, right?

00:46:21 Ali

That's like I'm typing in my document and instead I'm going to speak and those words will be recorded into the document.

00:46:27 Ali

I think.

00:46:28 Ali

Yeah, the next level of that would be, you know, can I press the bold button with my voice?

00:46:33 Ali

Can I tell word to open a new file?

00:46:36 Ali

And that definitely is a direction that we're going to be moving in as we see all of this.

00:46:40 Ali

And assistive technology in the accessibility space pop up in that voice commanding area.

00:46:47 Ali

And again, this is something that you know, users with motor function impairments or other disabilities, they rely on a voice commanding type software to do their jobs.

00:46:56 Ali

But these same capabilities really help someone who's you know on the go, just on their phone with a small keyboard.

00:47:02 Ali

Or maybe they're like holding a baby in their hands while doing something and they don't want to type.

00:47:06 Ali

And if you again, if we have access to our voices, there's so much more room for you know how to get things done on your machine and how to be more efficient editing your document.

00:47:17 Ali

I'm not entirely sure.

00:47:17 Joe

But if I kind of yell yell into my, if I yell into my Word document, I can maybe get an exclamation mark at the end of it is that's the the plan.

00:47:24 Ali

Maybe, yeah, I I do yell at my computer sometimes it it doesn't really seem to listen.

00:47:33 Dewayne

Oh wow, if our users could yell at their computer and come across differently in Word.

00:47:38 Ali

See, I wish that we could, you know, as we make improvements, if we, you know, reduce the number of crashes in Word we're looking.

00:47:44 Ali

At you know.

00:47:46 Ali

We have existing metrics for how often is there a crash rate or a data loss failure?

00:47:52 Ali

I wish we had a metric that captured how often are people yelling at their computer?

00:47:56 Ali

And if we could just like.

00:47:58 Ali

Reduce that. I know there's probably 1,000,000 privacy concerns. We're not, you know, we're not actually listening to everyone.

00:48:04 Ali

You know that's not happening, but if we could, I think that would be a hilarious way to capture user sentiment.

00:48:10 Dewayne

That that would be.

00:48:11 Joe

Keyboard smashing.

00:48:12 Joe

Yes, in the word.

00:48:16 Dewayne

Well, this has been really cool. Word is a staple in the world, I think it is. It has been around a minute and it's really cool to see that in 2022. It's come to the dark side and it's got all these new features and I think.

00:48:34 Dewayne

One of the takeaways that I would have for our listeners would be you should try word online.

00:48:40 Dewayne

If you haven't tried it yet, you should take one of your documents and you should open it in Word online and you should give it a look.

00:48:47 Dewayne

To see if there's something there that maybe isn't happening for you on the desktop. Like we said earlier, the the transcription functionality that Joe and I use every single month when we do one of these shows is only available in Word online. And I that's just how it is. And so every single month I'm getting word online uploading in MP3 and it's.

00:49:08 Dewayne

It's a really great feature.

00:49:10 Dewayne

I feel like it's really solid and really accurate.

00:49:12 Dewayne

So every once in awhile I'm from I'm from the South and I'll say something.

00:49:18

That it won't.

00:49:18 Dewayne

Pick up but I can I can go in and fix it and word.

00:49:24 Ali

For people that don't know how to.

00:49:26 Ali

Get to word.

00:49:27 Ali

Online I would. There's a lot of different ways to get there, but I think the easiest one is just going to office.com and then you have both, you know, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, teams, whatever office apps that you have access to or then also available in that web browser. And that's just for me, that's the easiest way to get there with office.com.

00:49:46 Dewayne

Absolutely that Joe. We just said that yesterday we we did a, we got to do an in person training, which was a lot of fun to start to have those come back to being part of normal and that was our advice to all of the attendees was the the start for everything is office.com.

00:50:04 Dewayne

So we're going to move into a super positive part and not that this hasn't been positive, but we always like to end with talking about something that's really good for for us, either professionally or personally.

00:50:17 Dewayne

In the last I don't know.

00:50:18 Dewayne

However long you want to go back.

00:50:19 Dewayne

I don't care.

00:50:20 Dewayne

But we call these our wins.

00:50:22 Dewayne

What is something that has happened?

00:50:24 Dewayne

And it was positive in your in your life that made you feel good about something that that you've done or or had happened to you.

00:50:32 Dewayne

So I Ali, do you want to start?

00:50:35 Ali

Yeah, I think my head up.

00:50:37 Ali

So the guy I mentioned that I have a dog at the beginning of this talk today.

00:50:43 Ali

And the pre work to getting the dog was building a fence around my whole house and I finally finished the last section of fence the other week.

00:50:52 Ali

And this has been like a a 12 month process.

00:50:54 Ali

Of slowly digging.

00:50:56 Ali

Holes in the ground and filling them with concrete.

00:50:58 Ali

I was a year ago.

00:51:00 Ali



I was thinking about hiring someone to do it and then when I found out.

00:51:02 Ali

How expensive it was, I figure.

00:51:04 Ali

That myself, plus YouTube could figure it out. It couldn't be that hard. And so yeah, I finally finished it and it felt it felt very.

00:51:12 Ali

Good to be able to, you know, look at the whole thing and know that I I did it myself and then, you know, have a furry little puppy running around inside of it now.

00:51:21 Dewayne

You can almost learn how to do.

00:51:23 Dewayne

Anything off YouTube?

00:51:25 Ali

Here again, the Internet is amazing.

00:51:25 Dewayne

Really cool.

00:51:29 Dewayne

Joe, what do you?

00:51:29 Joe

Got yeah, I've got uh, I stopped.

00:51:32 Joe

A little nerdy, but it was a fun, fun little process for.

00:51:37 Joe

Working through a Microsoft power automate flow for someone.

00:51:41 Joe

Had someone complaining about getting invites for meetings from people on the Google platform and.

00:51:51 Joe

They would not have any automatic reminders built in.

00:51:56 Joe

Typically we're used to you know, 15 minute reminder passing that around on meeting invites, but they their meeting where invites were not coming in with any reminders.

00:52:06 Joe

And dug into.

00:52:09 Joe

The the file that comes in from a meeting invite your little ICS file and there's just there's not proper, there's not proper information in that file that we're seeing coming from the folks that they were interacting with coming from Google.

00:52:25 Joe

So there's just no way for outlook to pick.

00:52:27 Joe

Shut up.

00:52:28 Joe

But I wrote a little flow that looks for calendar invites coming from Google and throws a reminder on there, and this faculty member now won't miss a bunch of their meetings, that they were starting to interact with some external institutions that were on that other platform and fix that up.

00:52:49 Dewayne

I I remember seeing that in you and Joe Joe's is great. He's he's one of the only people I know that's probably opened an ICS file in Notepad and I was like, I didn't never even thought to do that like.

00:53:04 Dewayne

And he's tearing it apart and he's like, well, it's not giving you a 15 minute reminder because there's literally no data in the ICS file to tell Outlook to give you a.

00:53:13 Dewayne

15 minute reminder.

00:53:15 Dewayne

It's a good job, Joe.

00:53:16 Dewayne

That was a cool find and I uh, I think that's a really cool.

00:53:21 Dewayne

Work around for that, so kudos to you for doing that.

00:53:24 Dewayne

Going the extra mile, my my win is on on of, and back in February I was nominated for the Microsoft MVP program, and in August I got a surprise.

00:53:41 Dewayne

E-mail that said, hey, congratulations, you've made it so, so that was really cool to to be able.

00:53:47 Joe

Very awesome.

00:53:48 Dewayne

To do that.

00:53:49 Dewayne

I got a cool little thank you it it came with a cool little crystal award and a plaque and some really cool perks and benefits.

00:53:57 Dewayne

Then the ability to interface with product groups and stuff, which is a lot of fun, and I kind of feel like I'm doing that right now, right?

00:54:05 Dewayne

Like, I'm interfacing with the product group, so it's it was a real honor to to get that, so I was super stoked about that.

00:54:13 Dewayne

That was a cool win.

00:54:15 Dewayne

Well, Ali, thank you so much for beaming onto our show and hanging out with us and getting nerdy about word and I I'm really excited for the work that you've done on it.

00:54:25 Dewayne

My eyes are very thankful for the work that you have done on it and and we're just happy that you wanted to hang out with us.

00:54:32 Dewayne

We really appreciate it.

00:54:34 Ali

Thanks so much for having me.

00:54:35 Ali

It was super fun to chat about word and nerdy things and bringing more people to the dark side.

00:54:42 Speaker 2

I love it.

00:54:44 Dewayne

All right, everybody, if if you listen this far, we appreciate you being here too.

00:54:48 Dewayne

And we'll be back next month with the the new show.

00:54:52 Dewayne

We hope you enjoyed this episode of The Shift Show.

00:54:55 Dewayne

If you found our content useful, please consider subscribing and leaving us a 5 star review.

00:55:00 Dewayne

This will help others find our show.

00:55:03 Dewayne

If you'd like to connect with us, you can find us on LinkedIn or on our homepage at AKA dot MY forward Slash Shift show. We'll be back next month for a new episode.

00:55:15 Scotty

Transporter room standby to beam up landing party.