



slack

VARIETY PACK

Episode 1: Starter Pack

Speaker 1: You are listening to the Slack.

Speaker 2: Variety Pack.

Speaker 1: A collection of stories about work.

Speaker 2: Life and everything in-between.

Speaker 1: Brought to you by Slack. If you don't know what Slack is, head over to Slack. Com and change your working life forever. On this episode, meet a school teacher on the shortlist for one way to trip to Mars.

Speaker 3: How ridiculous is it that I'm sitting here talking to about going to Mars.

Speaker 1: Go inside a new \$10 million quantum computer.

Speaker 4: As we operate these things that we called as sustain temperature in the universe.

Speaker 1: Hear the true story of a real life office fistfight.

Speaker 5: One of the guys, as they were walking in the building, sucker punched the other guy.

Speaker 1: An author on Office Star, BJ Novak shares productivity tips at a hockey game.

Speaker 6: Slack variety pack? Yeah. Cool. Okay.

Speaker 7: Making work less [work cue 00:00:51].

Speaker 8: It's time to give something without a sound. A sound. Have you ever wondered what an Emoji sounds like? Why don't we find out now.

Speaker 9: First question, do you guys know what Emojis are?

Speaker 10: Yes.

Speaker 11: Yes.

Speaker 9: Okay, could you maybe describe what this Emoji is, what we're looking at here?

Speaker 11: This ones is crying a river.

Speaker 12: A face with two hearts on the eyes.

Speaker 10: Screaming I'd say. Definitely not happy. Well, that's a fist coming towards me like a fist pound.

Speaker 9: If you're to give fist pound a sound, what would it be?

Speaker 10: [fu-boomed 00:01:32]

Speaker 9: Let's try it in a sentence.

Speaker 8: I just climbed Mount Everest with Beyonce and Jay-Z. Fu-boom fu-boom

Speaker 9: Don't walk away. Could you describe this one that I am holding in front of you?

Speaker 11: It's a happy face tweaking out but it's also encouraging.

Speaker 9: With it's tongue sticking out, one eye winking and one bugged out.

Speaker 10: Okay, if this emoji was a sound what do it sound like? [inaudible 00:02:02] Now, I think you know what's coming next.

Speaker 9: Let's try it in a sentence.

Speaker 8: I just stole my co-workers lunch from the refrigerator.

Speaker 9: All right, I got an emoji here in front of you. Could you please describe it for me?

Speaker 13: That is a taunting a ghost emoji.

Speaker 9: Okay, if this emoji were a sound what would it be?

Speaker 13: This one ... I mean it's a ghost. I want to be scared but I got to say I'm not frightened at all. This one's more like a [Wooooh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh 00:02:31]

Speaker 9: Let's try it in a sentence.

Speaker 8: Last night, everyone at the club was like, "Wooooh-oh-oh-oh-oh" and I was all like "Wooooh-oh-oh-oh-oh". Ha ha ha ha that was fun. Do you have an emoji you wanted to hear the sound for? Hit us up on Twitter at slackhq. Fu-boom.

Speaker 14: Channel change inside the strange and amazing world of quantum computing.

Speaker 2: This story is actually two stories. Both of them are about to attempts to solve next doom possible problems. The first story is about a new computer that cost

at least \$10 million. There are only seven of them in existence and the only current owners are Google, NASA and Lockheed Martin. It's called a quantum computer and it just might change the world as we know it.

Speaker 15: My name is Jeremy Hilton and I'm the Vice President of Processor Development of D-Wave Systems. We're building quantum computers right now based on principles of quantum mechanics to solve humanities grand challenge.

Speaker 2: The second story is also about trying to solve one of humanities grand challenges, trying to explain how quantum computing actually works in audio in just a few short minutes. It will make your brain hurt and it will defy most of your assumptions about how the world works.

Speaker 15: The reality of quantum mechanics is something that doesn't make any sense to most of us.

Speaker 2: Trust me. It's really hard to understand. Let's put off story number two for a minute and take a trip to the coldest place in the known universe, the inside of a quantum computer.

Speaker 15: We operate this things at very close to absolute zero about minus 273 degrees Celsius.

Speaker 16: Minus 273 degrees Celsius.

Speaker 15: About a 150 times colder than the interstellar space.

Speaker 17: The coldest place in the universe is in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Speaker 15: That's right. In our fridges where these trips are running. Yeah, exactly.

Speaker 2: You may have guessed by now that these computers look nothing like your laptop.

Speaker 17: It's a monolithic block box. They're about 12 feet long by eight feet wide and about ten feet tall. The quantum processor itself is about the size of your thumbnail. It's very small. This huge like ten foot I think is holding in a size of a thumbnail.

Speaker 15: That's right.

Speaker 17: Yeah, exactly. Low temperature physics stuff tends to look Sci-Fi which is cool. Everybody here is quite passionate about quantum could be in a way I'll grow in Start trek and good Sci-Fi so that's part of what motivates us.

Speaker 2: Now, it's time for the second story trying to explain how a quantum computer actually works in under a minute but I'm warning you, it makes no sense. Before we start, here's my best tip. Remember this phrase. "At the same time". It's what makes quantum computers so special. At the same time. Take a deep breath. Set the timer for one minute and here we go. We're going to start with the glossary of a few quantum terms, starting with super position. Super position. Super position means that an object can be in two states. At the same time. This is weird.

Normally, we assumed that an object can only be one thing at a time. A light bulb can either be on or off. A computer bit can either one or zero, or your pet can either be a dog or a cat, but on quantum mechanics a light bulb can be on and off. A computer bit which is now call a QBit or quantum bit can be one and a zero and your pet can be a dog and a cat at the same time. How is this possible? The answer. Parallel universes. In one universe, the light bulb is on, the quantum bit is a one and your pet is a dog. In another universe, the light bulb is off, the quantum bit is a zero and your pet is a cat.

Through something called quantum tunneling, these universes connect with each other and if that isn't confusing enough there's also entanglement which is like a really strong psychic connection between twins.

Speaker 18: Hello brother.

Speaker 2: No matter how far apart the twins are, when one changes the other one does too. Let's say you've got two entangled light bulbs and you put one of them on the moon. If the bulb on Earth turns on, the bulb on the moon does too at the same time. Why would anyone want to build a computer based on all these complicated ideas?

Speaker 15: Our society faces all kinds of challenging problems that despite the advances of the computers that we know and take for granted, they'll never be able to solve these kinds of problems.

Speaker 2: D-wave has specifically developed their quantum computers to solve insanely tough challenges containing massive amounts of data, things like helping Google, developing self driving cars and helping NASA find planets that might support life.

Speaker 15: What I call classical computing simply can't run the algorithms you need to make sense of all that data.

Speaker 2: The best way to differentiate your laptop from a quantum computer is to see how they approach a brutal challenge called the traveling salesman problem.

Speaker 19: Hello.

Speaker 2: Here's how it works. A salesman has to visit a number of cities and return home without visiting the same city twice.

Speaker 19: I'm trying to travel to Sioux Falls, Massola, Grand Rapids, Rochester, Tallahassee, Little Rock Cznference, Sacramento to Antosa.

Speaker 2: The challenge is to determine the shortest route for the trip.

Speaker 19: Well, I'll just ask our corporate travel agent.

Speaker 2: On the surface, this doesn't sound that hard.

Speaker 19: I'm sure they get request for that route all the time.

Speaker 2: Consider this. If our salesman wants to visit ten cities, there are over 300,000 round trip options. For a 15 city trip, there are more than 87 billion with a b.

Speaker 19: Really?

Speaker 2: One you hit 30 cities, it would take a traditional computer the age of the entire universe to figure out the best route.

Speaker 19: I'm getting over time for this right?

Speaker 2: That's because your laptop has to evaluate every single possible combination of roots individually but a quantum computer uses super position, quantum tunneling and entanglement to evaluate every combination of routes. Wait for it at the same time.

Speaker 19: I like the sound of that super position.

Speaker 15: In the quantum mechanical world, you explore different pathways simultaneously. You get this exponential capability for the same number of resources.

Speaker 19: Really?

Speaker 2: It can solve problems like the travelling salesman thousands of time faster than today's fastest computers.

Speaker 19: Well, it sound like I have to get one of these computers. Can you remind me the sticker price?

Speaker 2: There you have it. Massive \$10 million computers shielding processors the size of your thumbnail operating at the coldest known temperature in the universe solving humanities most difficult problems in ways that make absolutely no sense. Quantum computing 101. Who needs an expert?

Speaker 20: Here I though the hard part is how to sell these vacuums?

Speaker 1: Slack Variety Pack. Everything is worth doing well.

Speaker 21: Dear grandma.

Speaker 22: Dear granddad.

Speaker 23: Dear grandma.

Speaker 21: It's me, your granddaughter.

Speaker 22: It's me, your grandson. I have bad news. You are using the internet wrong again.

Speaker 23: Again.

Speaker 21: Again.

Speaker 23: Remember when you asked me last me last weekend why I don't reply back to your emails?

Speaker 21: It's because I never use email.

Speaker 22: No one my age ever uses emails ever.

Speaker 23: Ever.

Speaker 21: Ever. You're asking me why I don't reply to your email is like someone asking you why you've not replied back to their telegrams.

Speaker 23: In the future, if you'd like to get in touch your best bet is to DM or tag on Instagram.

Speaker 21: Or shoot me a message on Whats app. Talk to you soon but on email.

Speaker 22: But on email.

Speaker 24: You've got mail.

Speaker 1: All the channels.

Speaker 2: This is office recreations where we get you to tell us a real story from your office and then we reenact it.

Speaker 5: I thought it was really embarrassing when it happened.

Speaker 2: We found this story and story teller on a subreddit form.

Speaker 5: Hi.

Speaker 2: This is Michelle from Boise, Idaho and we're calling her story The Fight.

Speaker 5: Where I work there is a call center downstairs.

Speaker 25: Morning Simon.

Speaker 5: There are two guys. They don't really like each other. They're in the mid 40's.

Speaker 25: I said morning Simon.

Speaker 26: I see you're not talking to me. Okay.

Speaker 27: Sorry, I don't talk to people who copy other people's style on purpose.

Speaker 5: I didn't know them very well. I had seen both of them in passing.

Speaker 26: Are you talking about tie? Maybe if what?

Speaker 27: Your shirt. Okay. You're wearing the exact same shirt as me.

Speaker 5: I guess what did happened was they were ... I guess they were getting on each other's nerves or one of them was making comments and the other one told the other to shut up.

Speaker 27: Shut up. Why don't you shut up okay.

Speaker 26: Are we hearing this? I can't believe you just told me to shut up man.

Speaker 5: That guy didn't really like being spoke to like that. I guess it's started ... It just started escalating and then one of them said he was going to go his break. First, smoke outside.

Speaker 26: You know what? I will shut up. I'll shut up all the way to the parking lot because it's time for my smoke break.

Speaker 5: Said that if he want to finish to this argument then he'd come outside and meet him. The other guy followed him and I guess they just went out into this grassy cleary that's right in front of our building.

Speaker 26: We're having a fight.

Speaker 5: Everyone can see this. They just started like weightily gone each other.

Speaker 26: I may lay you down in the nice green grass.

Speaker 27: Who's trying to do a choke?

Speaker 26: You know what's good about fighting on the grass? That's where I kill you. I can just bury you right away.

Speaker 5: We're are picturing but they're both like out of shape middle aged guys.

Speaker 26: Hold on. Maybe we should get some bottles of water.

Speaker 30: This other guy who works at the near department came out and broke up the fight. He was nice enough to do that.

Speaker 28: Break it up. Break it up. Get back inside.

Speaker 5: He told them to go back inside and they started to but one of the guys as they were walking in the building kind of sucker punched the other guy in the back of his head which cause the fight to continue like right at the front of the building. Some other people who were close at the entrance of the building got involved and got them separated and took them inside of the building and then notified their boss. They both got fired.

Speaker 26: You don't want to leave. This is going to get really ugly.

Speaker 2: If you have a true story from your office that you'd like us to reenact, reach out to us on Twitter at slackhq.

Speaker 5: That was probably the craziest thing that's ever happened there.

Speaker 1: Random channel.

Speaker 29: All right. I'm sure [inaudible 00:13:41]. I'm here in Staples Center watching LA Kings and [inaudible 00:13:44] and sudden death over time. I thought this could be a perfect time to ask BJ Novak a couple of questions.

Speaker 1: BJ Novak. Actor, producer and writer. Best known for his role as Ryan on NBC's the office. He's also the author of the new book One More Things. Stories another stories.

Speaker 29: Office man for eight seasons. You did a lot of brilliant writing there. Did you actually ever work in an office?

Speaker 30: Well, I've interned at a couple places and I attempted for a month in an office job but not really.

Speaker 29: That was just coming from your soul?

Speaker 30: That came from my observations on human nature. My trick was just right for the people and let the environment take care of itself.

Speaker 29: You're doing a lot of writing now and you just came off a huge book. Do you have any productivity tips perhaps?

Speaker 30: Yeah, start with what you love. Don't start with the problem. If you wake up in the morning and you don't know how to get, how to start chapter eight, don't start a chapter eight. Start it with your favorite line in chapter six and expand out from there until you're so high on your feelings. Say you're like, "Oh and then here's two chapters from then we'll start." I started with what you love.

Speaker 29: Awesome. Thank you so much.

Speaker 1: Big picture channel.

Speaker 31: Good evening listeners. We're going to be taking a flight detour. Sit back and enjoy. Mars meditation.

Speaker 32: Now, 25 seconds we have complete for launch. We are go.

Speaker 33: The non profits foundation Mars One is one step closer to deciding on the final list of modern day pioneers to make a one way trip to the red planet.

Speaker 32: The flight that really striking.

Speaker 34: Here is Mars first space explorer.

- Speaker 3: Hi. I'm Joanna Hindle. I'm 42 years old. I live in Whistler, Canada. I'm a high school English teacher. I am hoping to be chosen as one of the 24 individuals trained by Mars One.
- Speaker 33: The group plans to send the crews every two years starting in 2024. The goal to set up a permanent colony on Mars.
- Speaker 3: I was in a hotel room. I woke up in the morning and then I checked my email. I believed I dumped on the bed in the hotel room. I was ridiculously excited. Never in a million years that I think I get chosen. For me, the fascination of space has always come more from being outside at night in natural settings and having the stars and the milky way be a part of ... Like walking the dog or sitting on there in a camp fire and having them all there all the time and looking up at them and never seen it as a place that have a [sculpt sign 00:17:02] on it.
- Speaker 33: The journey to Mars will take about seven months. For those chosen, it's the biggest decision of their life.
- Speaker 3: I can even begin to comprehend all the things I will miss. The idea of never swimming again loose me almost breathless but more so I can't imagine what it would be like to experience looking at the sky and having a completely different sky above you that you've ever seen before.
- Speaker 32: Oh, look at the Mars today Jim but they're all set mood. Isn't that beautiful? Really is. That just super. It's unreal.
- Speaker 3: One of the most beautiful parts about human beings is that they're able to change, they're able to adapt and they're able to create comfort for themselves in situations that we would never imagine that they can create comfort. This life might be over but that new life looks amazing.
- Speaker 35: Hello. I'm John Hindle.
- Speaker 36: My name is Sarah Robertsons.
- Speaker 3: My brother and sister have been enormously supportive.
- Speaker 36: I was thrilled because for me that [inaudible 00:18:16] that they have something like going on the program.
- Speaker 35: That's an opportunity that this ... A Hindle wining a lottery.

- Speaker 33: The recent study by MIT found that even with the best technology if the group was actually successfully in landing on Mars, they would likely only survive 68 days.
- Speaker 3: I would think that no one wants to go first. I want to go first. Absolutely. I see that now, how safe it's that say sitting at my kitchen table with you with my running water and oxygen everywhere. I'm terrified of the idea of going first. It's absolutely terrifying but I'm so curious.
- Speaker 36: This is her life. What I'm concerned about for myself is her not coming back. I probably wouldn't bring that up with her because I don't want her up there thinking anything but positive thought. It's not going to be my voice in her head saying I wish you weren't going.
- Speaker 35: We've all been separated times whether it's for months or years by choices we've made in our lives already. All the family is lost, both mom and dad forever. I think that goes along to helping you understand forever is only as long as you're not remembering somebody.
- Speaker 3: I don't wake up every morning on Earth and say, "Today, I might die." I'm not planning on going to Mars to die. That's not the plan. The plan is to as live us long and as happily and is helpfully as possible but I go out to the cabin, I don't think to myself I'd better not tap this wood because I might cut myself with my ax and then I'll bleed out. Nobody is here to help me and I don't think about I might die doing this. I think about how I might going to pull this off. I think if you define crazy by being willing to take risks and by not adhering to the structures that we create in society all the time, being able to pass those and then yeah I'm a little crazy, but I also think that that is an incredibly same way I look at the world too.
- Speaker 32: We had a great time on our trip. I think we accomplished a lot and we have lot of support from a lot of people. I just like to say that we appreciate every bit of it and we could not have done the mission. We couldn't have done one step without the support of the many, many thousands of people involved. Thank you very much.
- Speaker 1: Slack Variety Pack. Be cool but also be warm.
- Speaker 37: Hi. I'm Graham Clark.
- Speaker 38: I'm Dave Shumka.
- Speaker 37: Welcome to our Startup Club.

Speaker 39: Startup Club.

Speaker 37: Every week we get together and pitch each other our startup ideas.

Speaker 38: Now, these are the ideas that we hope will change the world and or make us both very rich.

Speaker 39: Graham and Dave in Startup Club.

Speaker 38: I go first. All right.

Speaker 37: A lot of people like to think that they're a good kisser but how do you know? Most of the people that you've kissed are going to say you're a good kisser because ... Or you break up and they say you're a bad kisser but you can't trust them in that state. They're just trying to hurt you.

Speaker 38: Yeah, they are very emotional.

Speaker 37: Yeah.

Speaker 38: Your ex's and they live in Texas.

Speaker 37: My product is called the robot smooch. It is a robot designed. It has all sorts of information programmed into it of about what people desire in a good kisser. A pressure. Life of content. Face whole thing.

Speaker 38: Yeah, noises.

Speaker 37: Yeah, and that you go. You've pay a nominal fee. You go to the lab where the smooch bot is or whatever I'll called it. You make out with this robot. It's scientifically tells you what areas you can work on and if you are in fact empirically a good kisser.

Speaker 38: Now, this device, this robot is there just one of it?

Speaker 37: There's two. There's one for people who like smooching guys and there's one for people who like smooching ladies.

Speaker 38: See. I'm going with the same kind of model of Netflix. Right now, you have to show up and kiss this smooch bot. In the future, you'll be able to just download the smooch bot and kiss your computer or stream the smooch bot.

Speaker 37: Yeah, absolutely. Only have face. [crosstalk 00:23:41]

Speaker 38: Oh boy, we should all be so lucky.

Speaker 37: Yeah, but this is the first generation of smooch bot.

Speaker 38: We specifically called robot smooch.

Speaker 37: Well, the company's called Robot smooch. That robot is called the smooch bot.

Speaker 38: All right. Well, I like it.

Speaker 37: Yeah, I thought you would.

Speaker 38: Smooch bot.

Speaker 37: Smooch bot.

Speaker 39: Startup Club.

Speaker 37: Dave?

Speaker 38: Yeah?

Speaker 37: Why did you hit me when one of these pitches? Have you even been in a meeting at work and you want to have a good idea but you could only sounds so smart because maybe you have let's say like a worded day calendar.

Speaker 38: Sure.

Speaker 37: We all have them and we all like, "Oh yeah, Oh I'm feeling cheaper today I guess."

Speaker 38: I'm didactic.

Speaker 37: Yeah, et cetera. The problem with that is that it limits you to the words that exist in the English language. My idea is an app that comes up with a word a day that does not exist.

Speaker 38: Oh good.

Speaker 37: You can sound ways smarter. Like you here in your meeting, "Oh, I sound as smart as my boss." You're going to sound smarter than your boss.

Speaker 38: Right.

Speaker 37: You'll be like, "What do you think Jankens?" And Jankens will be like, "I think we should take a step back and [recubriate 00:25:11]."

Speaker 38: Yes.

Speaker 37: He'll say and then you look super like way smarter because the sky is the limit. There's only one million words in the English language but there is an infinite amount of words not in the English language.

Speaker 38: Now, can somebody used the app to look up the word that you used to find out what it means?

Speaker 37: If it's got that built in and it'll say malfunctioned. App malfunction.

Speaker 38: People will never know.

Speaker 37: Your boss will be like, "What's wrong with your app?" And I was like, "Oh, I think something that might be [comborfinize 00:25:45] with it." And then they go on their app what is [inaudible 00:25:51] and it says malfunction. I love it because you know what? You're right. Jankens has been taking the window of my sales at all the pitch meetings and this is my opportunity to really [inaudible 00:26:04]. Well, that's it for Startup Club this week. Let us know which one of our ideas you like better by hitting us up on twitter at slackhq, whether it's lingo fake or robot smooch and you can determine which product gets developed more. Go now. What are you waiting for?

Speaker 39: Graham and Dave in Startup Club.

Speaker 1: That's it for the first episode of Slack Variety Pack. A show about work, life and everything in between. The details. Each story is available on SoundCloud so you can link directly to your favorites. Let us know what you think about this episode using the hashtag slackvarietypack or leave us a voice at 4159927561. If you really like the show, subscribe to the series. Our website is slack.com/varietypack and our twitter handle is @slackhq. Next episode. Here's what's coming up on the Slack Variety Pack. Meet the scientist who has turned a bag of potato chips into a secret recording device.

Speaker 40: What's essential with this it let's us do, it let us turn any thing that we can see into a micro soap.

Speaker 1: Quit your job. Take pictures of ways. Get famous.

Speaker 41: I'm still tripping out on the whole social media thing. I can go on and shoot and I can push the button and reach a million people.

Speaker 1: Podcast. How did we get here?

Speaker 42: They say that it was intended by an Apple branding agency [inaudible 00:27:34].

Speaker 1: In the meantime, here's a music recommendation. The artist is Oddisee from Washington DC and the track is What's love.

Speaker 43: When you told me the truth, even if it really hurt because you knew a lie was worse. That's love. When you let me borrow money, that you didn't really have because you knew what I was worth. That's love. When I was at my worst, you would tell me I would blow when I thought that I would burst. That's love. You taught me how to help others, and through that discover how to put myself first and here we are again, just confronting fears whether pain, or gain, it's a bunch of tears, blood, sweats, and peers, probably disappear. When smoke starts to clear, their persistence near. Pay attention to the folks, who're fanning the flames. They're the ones who matter most. In the gravity game, when stakes weigh you down, and they stay around and pick up pieces, and you off the ground.

Speaker 44: Making work class work cue.