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Stunningly Awful Demo Phrases

Here are a handful of phrases that we often hear from software vendors in demo meetings, followed by what the customer thinks in response...

Vendor Says: "Let me tell you a bit about our company..."

Customer Thinks: Nope, no need to – we wouldn't have agreed to invest our time in a demo if we didn't already know about you...

Vendor Says: "Let me give you a product overview..."

Customer Thinks: Is this for our sake or yours? Which of these products are relevant to us and our specific situation?

Vendor Says: "And we've just re-named our products, as follows..."

Customer Thinks: Oh joy, more useless things to remember...

Vendor Says: "And we've created some product bundles as well – let me share these with you..."

Customer Thinks: Why? Am I doing proof-reading for your marketing department?

Vendor Says: "Let's go through a day-in-the-life..."

Customer Thinks: Oh god, no. My day is painful enough already, why would you want to walk me through it again?

Vendor Says: "So we've created seven fictional characters for this demo: Mark the manager, Angie in accounting, Isaac in IT, Candace the CFO, Oscar in operations, Eustace the end-user..."

Customer Thinks: Wait – you want me to remember each of these names and their roles? I don't even know all of the folks in my own department...!

Vendor Says: "Let me show you how the navigation works..."

Customer Thinks: Will this be on the test?

Vendor Says: "One of the questions I get a lot is..."

Customer Thinks: Sure, but did WE ask it?

Vendor Says: "The other question is..."

Customer Thinks: Ditto...

Vendor Says: "And this is really important..."

Customer Thinks: Thanks – good to know what YOU think is important, as opposed to us...

Vendor Says: "Another really important thing is..."

Customer Thinks: Sounds like everything in your software is important – which means that none of it is...

Vendor Says: "The other nice thing..."
Customer Thinks: How many nice things are there?

Vendor Says: "Oh, and this is really cool..."
Customer Thinks: In whose opinion?

Vendor Says: "Now, if you want to..."
Customer Thinks: But what if I don't?

Vendor Says: "Or, you can also do this by..."
Customer Thinks: Please just show me the fastest way to get it done...

Vendor Says: "There are three ways you can do this – let me show you..."
Customer Thinks: Will these be on the test? Please just show me the one fastest way that I'd use in my day-to-day work.

Vendor Says: "Let me show you how to..."
Customer Thinks: Did I ask? Do I care? Am I interested?

Vendor Says: "What we call..."
Customer Thinks: Who cares what YOU call it? I'll never remember those terms anyway.

Vendor Says: "Gee, I've never seen that happen before..."
Customer Thinks: We have... All the time!

Vendor Says: "Let me try that again..."
Customer Thinks: So that you can prove that it REALLY doesn't work and you, the technical expert, don't know it?

Vendor Says: "In our next release due next year this should work much better..."
Customer Thinks: Great, then I'll hold off buying until the next release comes out next year.

Vendor Says: "Remember when I said..."
Customer Thinks: Nope.

Vendor Says: "Let me show you what happens behind the scenes..."
Customer Thinks: Did I ask? Do I care? Am I interested? I like sausage, but I'm not really interested in seeing how it was made...!

Vendor Says: "Let me explain how this works..."
Customer Thinks: Did I ask? Do I care? Am I interested?

Vendor Says: "To be honest..."
Customer Thinks: Wait a minute – so everything up through now has been a lie?

Vendor Says: "To make a long story short..."
Customer Thinks: Too late...!

Vendor Says: "Now don't take this the wrong way..."
Customer Thinks: Too late again...!

Vendor Says: "One of the neat things that I like is..."
Customer Thinks: Glad *you* like it; I could care less...

Vendor Says: "That's a great question..."
Customer Thinks: Oh, so my others questions were stupid?

Vendor Says: "So, when you sort of pull up this chart, you can kind of see your team's performance, you know?"
Customer thinks: Sort of? Kind of? Don't worry, my check to pay for the software will sort of, kind of be good, you know?

Vendor Says: "Oh – one more thing I want to show you..."
Customer Thinks: One more? How long will this go on?

Vendor Says: "We're running short on time, so I'll have to go really fast, but I want this to be interactive, so stop me if you have any questions..."
Customer Thinks: Oh god no – the run-on demo...!

Vendor Says: "Oops – looks like we ran out of time before we got to the best stuff..."
Customer Thinks: Too bad – looks like we won't *ever* see your best stuff...

Vendor Says: "I've saved the best for last..."
Customer Thinks: When our management team is gone and the rest of our brains are mush...
Why didn't you Do the Last Thing First?

[Shameless Self-Promotion Note:]

This Vendor Says: "We share how to avoid these phrases (and the resulting outcomes) in Great Demo! Workshops – and present (much more productive) alternatives..."
You, Dear Customer, Think: Great – I'll sign up...!

[With thanks to the many contributors from the Great Demo! Community...!]

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