QCon SAN FRANCISCO by InfoQ

Modern Languages & Infrastructure at QCon San Francisco 2026

Sessions

The Schema Was Never Enough: The World in Protocols

Monday Nov 16

Every reliable process in the world is a protocol: auctions, double-entry bookkeeping, brokerage account transfers, or APIs. Protocols reduce ambiguity but the world remains messy.

Ryan Brown

Building infrastructure @Render, Previously Principal @Crunchyroll, @Red Hat, and @Vendia

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No New Backend: The API Layer Behind 800+ Agent-Built Apps at Duolingo

Monday Nov 16

At Duolingo, anyone (engineer or not) can describe an internal tool and get a working app back, deployed against real company systems. That's BuildingHub, and 350 Duolingo employees have created at least one app with it.

Sarah Deitke

Senior Software Engineer @Duolingo

Saturation: How Your Software Will Fail at Scale

Monday Nov 16

Even in the ethereal world of software, everything has a limit. And, once that limit is reached, very bad things can happen. In this talk, we will explore the problem of saturation: when a software system runs into one of these limits.

Lorin Hochstein

Staff Software Engineer @Airbnb, Writes @surfingcomplexity.blog, Previously @Netflix and Member of the Resilience in Software Foundation

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Stop Fighting the Remodel: API Design for Models That Outgrew Their Boundaries

Monday Nov 16

Every domain model has a breaking point. At Netflix, ours arrived all at once—Ads, Games, Live events, and entirely new kinds of content. Each pulled the core entities in different, sometimes contradictory directions.

Aarti Gupta

Staff Engineer @Netflix

Breaking Down the Walls to Python & Big Data + AI Performance with Transpilation and LLMs

Tuesday Nov 17

Many of us have a love hate relationship with Apache Spark, especially when it comes to PySpark. Especially in Python, the UDF performance can be a dumpster fire.

Holden Karau

Data Engineer @Snowflake & Co-Founder of Fight Health Insurance, Previously @Netfilx, @Apple, and @Google

How to Build Online Systems with Object Storage

Tuesday Nov 17

"Diskless" systems that delegate durability to object storage are everywhere, and for three good reasons:

Almog Gavra

Co-Founder @Responsive.dev - Building Object-Native Databases, Previously @Confluent and @LinkedIn

Iceberg V4: The Next Chapter in Table Formats

Tuesday Nov 17

Apache Iceberg V3 adoption is growing and the community is already shaping what comes next. This talk walks through the emerging scope and priorities for the V4 table spec and progress of the proposals

currently underway.

Daniel Weeks
MTS @Databricks, Co-Founder of Tabular and Co-Creator of Apache Iceberg, 20+ Years Designing & Developing Large-Scale Distributed Systems

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Trainings

Agent MCP Workshop: Building Your Own Java-Based MCP Server

Friday Nov 20

The MCP Workshop is an instructor led, hands on learning series focused on building a Java based server that implements the Model Context Protocol (MCP) from the ground up.

David Parry
Principal Architect @Qodo
