Breaking in a New Gig as an SRE

Amy Tobey
Database Reliability Engineering Manager
@
Tenable

tenable

@MissAmyTobey

Our Plan

- That bit just before this
- All the bits after this

- Failing fast: Amy's summer of 2017
- The first 6 months in a new job: WYD
- If you have questions, I'm happy to chat after the session!

Backstory

- 2017-06 ~~Netflix~~
- 2017-07 sister & nephew move in
- 2017-07 full-time feminine presentation
- 2017-09 ~~Company That Shall Not Be Named~~
- 2017-09-25 first day at Tenable
- 2017-11-01 Amy's 4-week Observations
- 2018-01-08 this talk accepted
- 2018-02-12 promoted to manager of DBRE
- 2018-03-29 ohai!

Job Descriptions

- lol

Be specific early and often

- Salary
- Options, RSUs, grants, and other forms of fake money.
- Relocation
- Commute
- Travel
- Computer
- Phone
- Accessories

Administrative Junk

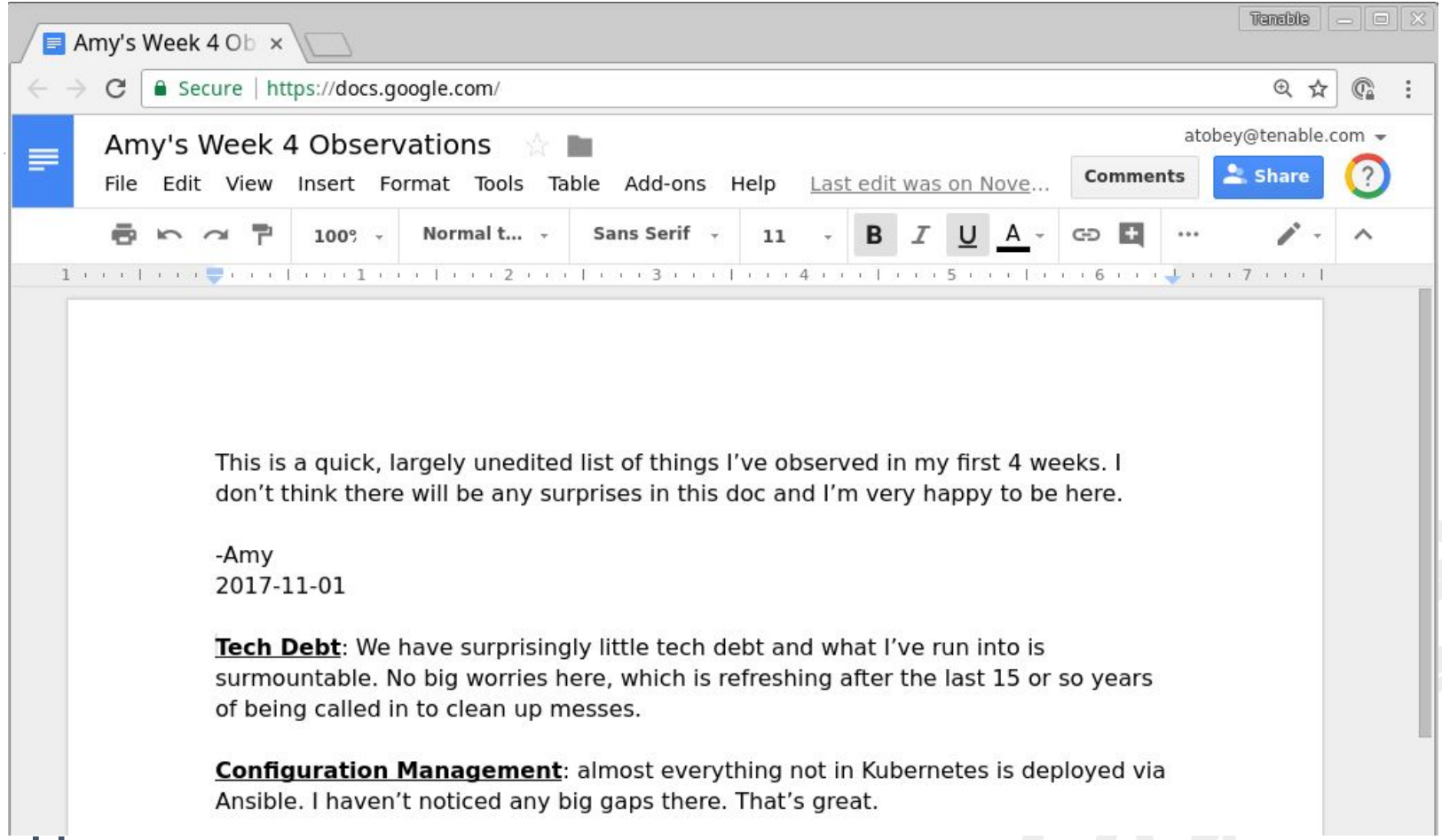
- Take the driver's seat when possible, otherwise shoulder surf
  - Always generate a brand-new SSH key
  - System Accounts
- Make friends with IT
- Make the leap to a new skill or tool
  - screen -> tmux
  - vim -> vim
  - Chef -> Ansible
  - Go -> Python -> Go

Breaking in: Week 1

- Memorizing new passwords
- Start exploring code and docs
- Set up 1:1's & architecture overviews
- Nesting
  - Daily driver
  - Bastions
- Ask lots of questions
- Take notes

Breaking in: Weeks 2-4

- Deploy early, deploy often
- Find something in your wheelhouse
- Update docs
- Send some PRs
- Shadowing
  - oncall
  - code & config
- Build your network


Tenable
Amy's Week 4 Ob
Secure | https://docs.google.com/
Amy's Week 4 Observations
atobey@tenable.com
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Add-ons Help
Last edit was on Nove...
Comments
Share
100%
Normal t...
Sans Serif
11
This is a quick, largely unedited list of things I've observed in my first 4 weeks. I don't think there will be any surprises in this doc and I'm very happy to be here.
-Amy
2017-11-01
Tech Debt: We have surprisingly little tech debt and what I've run into is surmountable. No big worries here, which is refreshing after the last 15 or so years of being called in to clean up messes.
Configuration Management: almost everything not in Kubernetes is deployed via Ansible. I haven't noticed any big gaps there. That's great.

Errata

- Beginner's Eyes
- Active Listening
- Pace Setting

ありがとうございます

@MissAmyTobey

(yep, I'm hiring)

tenable

tenable™