

Podcasting for Learning



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Creating a podcast

- A podcast is an audio file that can be listened to on your computer or MP3 player
- Can create using free software and microphone
 - Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>)
 - useful material on <http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/> including screencasts on downloading, installing and using Audacity



New Opportunities for T&L Activities

As it becomes easier to edit and publish and distribute content on the web using podcasting tools, many lecturers are looking at the potential to apply these applications to teaching and learning contexts ...

There are real opportunities to facilitate communication, collaboration and student-centred activities in novel ways

Source: CELT NUI Galway & TCD

A renaissance for audio in learning

- Flexibility and learner control
- Learner motivation and engagement
- Cognition and learning
- Novel way of presenting information and instruction
- Learning locations
- Fostering learning discussions
- Contributing students
- Accommodating 'different strokes'
- Moving from entertainment to learning
 - Salmon G & Edirisingha P (2008) *Podcasting for Learning in Universities* p2-p10; see also *How to create podcasts for education* – both books in library

New Opportunities for feedback

- Audio recordings of teacher's remarks and suggestions
- Supports self-reflection and critical thinking

More information

- Sounds Good: Quicker, better assessment using audio feedback
www.soundsgood.org.uk
- Incorporating Audio Recording to Teaching and Assessment, NDLR project by Thomas Gartian DkIT
<https://dspace.ndlr.ie/jspui/handle/10633/37527>
- Example case study: Audiofiles
Pachler et al (2010) *Formative e-assessment: Practitioner cases* Computers & Education 54(3)
- Does providing academic feedback to students via mp3 audio files enhance learning?
<http://www.bioscience.hescaedemy.ac.uk/resources/projects/merts.as.uk>
- 'Are you listening please?' The advantages of electronic audio feedback compared to written feedback
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpg/content/content=a914316795?db=all&jumpType=rss>

iTunes University and the classroom:

Can podcasts replace Professors???

- To determine the effectiveness of audio lectures in higher education, undergraduate general psychology students participated in one of two conditions
 - lecture condition: participants listened to a 25-min lecture given in person by a professor using PowerPoint slides. Copies of the slides were given to aid note-taking
 - podcast condition: participants received a podcast of the same lecture along with the PowerPoint handouts
- One week from the initial session students returned to take an exam on lecture content. Results indicated that **students in the podcast condition who took notes while listening to the podcast scored significantly higher than the lecture condition**
 - McKinney D, Dyck J L and Luber E S (2009) "iTunes University and the classroom: Can podcasts replace Professors?" *Computers & Education* 52 (2009) 617–623
 - see also REAP project <http://www.reap.ac.uk/assessment/pilotsSUHTM.html>

Set a task for students



Podcasts in education?

- Overviews and summaries, general tips
- Explanations linked to technical diagrams and worked solutions to problems
- Preview of forthcoming lecture, review of previous lecture
- Recordings of parts of lectures, conferences and interviews
 - [focus on what learners find difficult](#)
- Summaries of up-to-date articles and information on relevant research
- Student oral presentations, student reflections and interviews
- To enhance enrollment and recruiting
 - i.e. virtual tour of campus, lecture podcasts, joining other third level institutions on iTunes U
- Educational podcasts from RTE, BBC and other media as well as from iTunes U

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Michael Hanley's tips for creating podcasts

Pace, Pitch, Project, Pause

Allow enough time to each learning point for it to be well understood. Then move on.

Anticipate how your audience could interpret a word and understand how it might affect interpretation of your meaning.

Michael Hanley's good short series on podcasting for education
<http://michaelhanley.ie/elearningcurve/podcasting-for-e-learning-putting-it-all-together/2009/08/07/>

Tips for creating podcasts

- Have a clear purpose for your podcast
- Integrate it into your teaching, so that your students see how it supports their learning
- Keep it short (under 10 minutes, 'less is more')
- Be prepared before recording and consider reading a script
 - although the informality of talking without a script may come across better and you can always edit out mistakes, silences and so on
- Be aware of your listener
 - talk to them, think about what you want them to do
- Talk clearly and not too fast
- Record in a quiet location

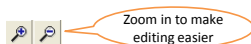
Activity to do: *create a podcast*



- Record an initial podcast of 1 – 3 minutes in length, discussing one mini-topic or chunk
 - Open Audacity, put on your headset, press record and begin speaking
 - Once you have covered the mini-topic, press stop
 - Listen to your recording and edit out errors
 - Playback your podcast and make any final changes needed
- Save your podcast as an Audacity project and then as an MP3 (File > Export as MP3)

Editing a podcast in Audacity

- **Removing ums and ahs**
 - select and delete
- **Reducing noise**
 - Effect > Noise removal (will change sound quality, be careful)
- **Adding background music at beginning and end**
 - Download CC-BY or copyright-free music
 - Open music file from Audacity
 - Edit and then Effect > Fade In (or Fade Out)
 - Save a copy as Audacity project for reuse
 - Copy to combine with narration
 - Use Time Shift Tool to sync correctly
- **Adding background music to entire podcast**
 - As above, but if running in background for entire project, reduce volume



Watch video: <http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/audacity.htm>

Activity to do: upload a podcast in Blackboard



Audio File Inserted

You have added: test.mp3 (94503 bytes)



Use the **Add Audio** option to embed the podcast (allows students to play it online – alternatively **attach** it as a file so that students can download the podcast)

Integrating podcasts into your teaching

To do: review & planning

- Take 5 minutes to think about what you have learnt today
- Draw up a list of some topics you will cover in the next month
 - identify topics students usually struggle with
 - identify topics the students could present on, which you could then record and ask them to reflect on aspects of their presentation
 - identify what continual assessments you have set and how podcasts could add to them (Supplement the podcast with handouts and questions that the students can only answer by listening to the podcast, but can further understand with the handouts, before submitting their answers to you)
 - more personalised and understandable feedback on the continual assessments for the students can be provided through a podcast, giving them more detail on what they need to improve
 - identify general tips for the students that could be recorded as a podcast (Study tips, What areas to focus on for exams/continual assessments, etc)

Useful references

- Patrick Doyle's Prezi presentation
 - Podcasting in Education <http://prezi.com/nbtqzmp1us9/podcasting-in-education/>
- Information on eLearn:
 - Podcasting overview including Plain English video <http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm>
 - Salmon et al How to create podcasts for education [full book/ how to guide](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/audacity.htm)
 - Video on using Audacity and link for downloading: <http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/audacity.htm>
- RSS
 - RSS in Plain English <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0klgl5xGsuI>
 - Educause 7 Things You Should Know About RSS <http://educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7024.pdf>
 - Google Reader in Plain English http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSP22Uu_X3Y
- 'How to' videos for Audacity
 - Audio Editing with Audacity, Conor Brennan <https://dspace.ndlr.ie/jspui/handle/10633/5536>
 - Reduce background and ambient noise from elearning narration using Audacity <http://screenr.com/q4h8>
 - Using Audacity's Bass Boost effect to add warmth and presence to a narration track <http://screenr.com/nH8>
 - Using Audacity's Equalization effect to add warmth and presence to a narration track <http://screenr.com/XH8>
- BBC Click How to improve your podcasting http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/click_online/9557126.stm
- Zamzar: free online file conversion including text to MP3 <http://zamzar.com/index.php>

Sourcing background music – use Creative Commons

- Copyright-free, usable music
- <http://dig.ccmixer.org/>
- <http://creativecommons.org/audio>
 - <http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/7186>
 - http://www.culturaliure.cat/musica_lliure.php
- Search Creative Commons for music
 - <http://search.creativecommons.org/>
 - example from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Sound/list>
- See also:
 - <http://www.jamendo.com/en/> (do a search for Creative Commons music/audio)
 - <http://www.flashkit.com/loops/>

References

- Books**
- Salmon G and Edirisingha P eds (2008) *How to create podcasts for education* [full book/ how to guide](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm) [also ebook]
 - Edirisingha P and Popova A (2009) *Podcasting: a learning technology* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm) (short overview, go to p72)
- Journal Articles**
- Popova A and Edirisingha P (2010) *How can podcasts support engaging students in learning activities?* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
 - Savin-Baden M (2010) *The sound of feedback in higher education* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
 - Nie et al (2010) *The role of podcasting in effective curriculum renewal* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
 - Walls S M et al (2010) *Podcasting in education: Are students as ready and eager as we think they are?* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
 - McKinney D et al (2009) *iTunes University and the classroom: Can podcasts replace Professors?* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
 - Griffin D K et al (2009) *Podcasting by synchronising PowerPoint and voice: What are the pedagogical benefits?* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
- Other**
- REAP project Strathclyde Business School [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
 - JISC short briefing on *Creative Commons Licences* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)
 - Newton J and Middleton A (2009) *Podcasting for Pedagogic Purposes: The Journey So Far and Some Lessons Learned* [link](http://elearn.itcarlow.ie/topic/podcasts.htm)