

What is Podcasting?

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Definitions

Podcast - A podcast is a digital media file, or a series of such files, that is distributed over the Internet using syndication feeds for playback on portable media players and personal computers.

RSS (Real Simple Syndication) Feed - An XML format that is used to define channels of information such as title, author, description, dates when podcast and episodes were created, etc.

Episode - An individual media file contained within a RSS feed.

Characteristics

A podcast can be:

- a one-time production.
- a serial production where new “episodes” are produced daily, weekly, or monthly.
- downloaded automatically when new content is uploaded by the author or “podcaster.”
- listened to whenever and wherever

Common Misconceptions

- You need an iPod - No, an iPod is not needed. You can just use your computer or an .mp3 player.
- A podcast is like live radio - No, it's not a real-time broadcast.
- You have to pay to host a podcast or to subscribe to podcasts - No, podcasting is free, both to subscribers and podcasters.

Three Types of Podcasts

Basic podcast - audio only

- created using voice recorder or Audacity.
- typical format is .mp3 .

Enhanced podcast - audio with slides & pictures

- presentations with narration and chapters
- typical formats are .mp4a, .mp4b, but can also be .mov files and even .PDF .

Vodcast - video

- created using digital camcorder and video editing software such as iMovie.
- typical formats are .mp4 or .mov .

Uses for Podcasts in Courses

- Sum up a difficult lesson or concept, or add more detail than was covered in class.
- Interview a guest speaker.
- Record in-class discussions where students can become part of the content creation process.
- Post “pre-casts” of what will be covered in the next lesson to prepare students.
- What other ways can you suggest?

Accessing a Podcast

- There are a few ways to access a podcast:
 - 1) Download a stand-alone podcast from a link on a webpage
 - 2) Subscribe by clicking on an RSS link located on a webpage. Examples of RSS links include:
RSS **ATOM** **PODCAST** **XML**
 - 3) Search for podcasts using a podcatcher like iTunes or iPodderX, then subscribe to it.

Posting a Podcast at UHH

Email Dr. Robert Chi (rchi@hawaii.edu) or Cynthia Yamaguchi (cynthiae@hawaii.edu) with the following information to request space on the podcast server:

- course's code(s) (ex: SOC NNN)

Upload podcasts to your account at:

- <http://weblog.uhh.hawaii.edu/weblog/acctname>

Provide your students with the URL above

Contact Information

Call me at 933-3226, send email to cynthiae@hawaii.edu, or come by the Instructional Technology Lab in UCB 120.