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Teri's Trials and Tribulations in Vodcasting

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Teri's Trials & Tribulations in Vodcasting

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C2C SIDLIT Conference
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<http://docs.google.com/present/edit?id=0Afs90jtF1NMUZG1mbWJjNV8yZ2oyOHJnZiU&hl=en>



Background

- Teaching online courses since 2001
 - XHTML & CSS
 - JavaScript
 - Web Page Design
- 2008 added Podcasts and Audio to courses
- 2009 added Vodcasts to courses

Topics

- Why Create a Vodcast?
- Basic Steps to Create a Vodcast
- Example Vodcast in ANGEL
- Example Vodcast in Dallas TeleLearning
- Lessons Learned



Why Create a Vodcast?

- Personalize your class
- Encourage active learning in students
- Answer common questions (how to...)
- Create a welcome message to students
- Give students the option of watching now or later
- Address various learning styles
- Low development costs

Basic Steps to Create a Vodcast

- Know your goals and objectives
- Keep it short and simple
- Create a Script
- Storyboard your video
- Produce the video
- Convert to a file format for publishing
- Publish your video



Goals & Objectives

- What does your video accomplish?
 - Concept lecture or demonstration or both?
- How will it benefit students?
 - Students gain confidence after being shown how to accomplish the task or assignment
- How will students use the video?
 - iPod, SmartPhone, PC, other mobile device
- What is the expected outcome?
 - Students gain a better understanding of the concept and can complete the assignments



Short & Simple

- Vodcasts should focus on one important concept
- Length is important!
 - Five to 20 minutes
 - Students prefer shorter podcasts and vodcasts
- Break out episodes if needed
 - Opening lecture as one episode (10 minutes)
 - Demonstrating task as another episode (5minutes)



Scripting & Storyboarding

- Take the time to create a script
 - It really does help when the time to record arrives
- Create a storyboard
 - Various templates available on the Web
 - Follow the storyboard when practicing for timing and transitions
 - <http://www2.csd.org/showmemovie/storybrd.pdf>

Example Storyboard

Sequence # 3

Shot Description: browser rendering of Starbuzz_index.html when viewed with IE7 and Firefox

Transition In: none

Video Image: screen shot

Added Audio: voice describing the steps

Transition Out: none

Estimated Time of Take: 1-2 mins

Narration/Script Notes:

Screen shot of pc looking at WDG website

<http://htmlhelp.com/tools/validator/direct.html.en>

Walk through the steps needed to copy & paste the HTML code for validation

Screen shots of the errors returned from the validation service



Production

- Minimum hardware investment
 - Quality microphone
 - Quality video camera or iFlip style camera
- Minimum software investment
 - Screen Capture Software
 - Jing (free for 5 minute capture)
 - Jing Pro (\$14.95 year)
 - CamStudio (free)
 - Editing Software
 - Pinnacle Pro (usually under \$100)
 - Magix (under \$60)
 - Various other types on the market



Conversion

- Know your audience
 - Slow connections?
 - Broadband?
 - Playback devices?
- Quality video display?
- Quality sound?
- Goal is to compress to the smallest file size possible without quality loss
 - Various free file converters found online
 - Zamzar (online converter)
 - Media Convert (online converter)
 - CamStudio (free application)
 - Can convert to .swf from .avi



Conversion continued

- Shock Wave Flash (.swf)
 - Pronounced swift
 - Commonly used for animated graphics on the Web
 - Flash movies or Flash games can be standalone
 - Flash Video (.flv) either used from within a .swf file or played through a FLV player such as VLC, QuickTime, Windows Media Player with external codecs added
 - Internet media type = application/x-shockwave-flash
- Flash Video (.flv, .f4v, .f4a, .f4b)
 - Format of choice for embedded video on the Web
 - Viewable via the Adobe Flash Player or other 3rd-Party players
 - Mplayer, VLC, QuickTime, Windows Media Player, Adobe Flash Player
 - YouTube, Google Video, Yahoo!Video, Reuters.com, MetaCafe all use the .flv format
 - Internet media type = video/x-flv, video/mp4, video/x-m4v, video/quicktime, audio/mp4



Conversion continued

- AVI (Audio Video Interleaved)
 - Uses less compression than similar formats
 - Supported by most computers using Windows and can play on most players
 - Codecs: DivX, H263, XviD, MPEG-4, MSmpeg4)
- MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group)
 - Compression standard format
- MPEG-4
 - Better compression and video quality use for iPod and BlueRay playback
- MPEG-2
 - Used in DVDs and digital video broadcasts
- WMV (Windows Movie Video)
 - Played on the Windows Media Player
 - Not suggested for editing
- MOV
 - Playback in QuickTime
 - Suitable for editing

Conversion File Size Examples

- validation.avi 1.23 GB
 - validation.mpg 800 MB (640x480 very clear)
 - validation.wmv 18.2 MB (320x 240)
 - validation.wmv 73.7 MB (640x480 clearer)
 - validation.swf 41.5 KB
 - validation.mp4 47 MB (640x480)
-
- team_directory.swf 7.32 MB
 - team_directory.mp4 21.1 MB



Publication

- ANGEL
- Dallas TeleLearning
- TeacherTube
- iTunes
- YouTube
- Just about anywhere on the Web

Vodcast in ANGEL

- BCC ANGEL

<http://webcourses.butlercc.edu/default.asp>

- ANGEL Team Directory

- Why Validate?

- Examples of file format differences

- Options

- Create xhtml page for .swf file

- Upload xhtml and .swf files

- Add .swf file to content section

- Create content page with link pointing to .swf in ANGEL

XHTML for Video Page

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
<title>How to Work in Your Team Directory</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>This short ShockWave Flash Video will guide you through the steps needed to work in your Team
    Directory (ANGEL). </p>
<object classid="clsid:D27CDB6E-AE6D-11cf-96B8-444553540000" width="850" height="610"
    codebase="http://active.macromedia.com/flash5/cabs/swflash.cab#version=5,0,0,0">
<param name="movie" value="angel_add_content.swf" />
<param name="play" value="true" />
<param name="loop" value="true" />
<param name="quality" value="high" />
<param name="scale" value="noborder" />
<embed SRC="angel_add_content.swf" width="850" height="610" play="true" loop="true"
    quality="high" scale="noborder"
    pluginspage="http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/index.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=Shockw
    aveFlash">
</embed>
</object>
</body>
</html>
```



Example Dallas TeleLearning Vodcast

- Why Validate?
 - Lecture and screen capture video
 - Approximately 20 minutes
 - iFlip
 - CamStudio software
- How to Update Your index.html Page
 - Approximately 5 minutes
 - Jing software
- How to Add Content to Your Team Directory
 - Approximately 5 minutes
 - Jing software

<https://tlearnvideo.dcccd.edu>



Lessons Learned

- Spend time setting up your recording “studio”
- Spend time on deciding what to wear if doing a lecture video
- Get your message across in a minimal amount of time
- Be sure the video is clearly understood and flows logically
- Screen captures need to be clear
- Audio needs to be clear
- Create a separate video for the lecture
- Create a separate video for the screen captures
- Use the right tool for the job (Pinnacle, Jing, CamStudio)
- You want to engage students so be sure the video addresses something pertinent to the course
- Use the smallest file type possible that maintains clarity

Questions?

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