

Expanding the Classroom: Exploring Podcasts and Vodcasts in Education

2006 International Conference on Improving University Teaching

Rick Shelton
Northeastern State University
Tahlequah, Oklahoma USA



Agenda

- What are podcasts and vodcasts?
- How are universities using these technologies?
- Where do you find content?
- How do you develop pod- and vodcast-based assignments?
- How do you create a podcast?
- NSU initiative
- Let's make a podcast



What Are Podcasts and Vodcasts?



Podcasts and Vodcasts

- Digital audio and video files distributed over the Internet
- Download and use the content on a computer or a mobile device such as an iPod or an MP3 player
- Available through direct download from websites or through a subscription feed
- Podcasting software – iTunes, Juice, iPodder – needed to subscribe
- Once downloaded, the podcasts and vodcasts are not limited to online use



Podcasts and Vodcasts

- Pod- and vodcasting are based on RSS, the software that makes subscription possible
- RSS is server-side, not local software
- Digital audio can be converted to an MP3 file, a format recognized by RSS
- Digital video can be converted to a variety of formats that RSS can deliver
- The RSS file includes text that describes your MP3 or video file for the potential user



How Are Universities Using These Technologies?



Methods for Using the Technology

- Universities are using podcasts and vodcasts
 - As content delivery methods for online or hybrid courses
 - As supplements to traditional courses accessed through course management systems such as Blackboard or through dedicated servers
 - As outreach or recruiting tools for the university



Methods for Using the Technology

- University use of podcasts and vodcasts
 - Published podcasts and vodcasts with content appropriate for the course
 - Content created by the instructor
 - Content created by other university staff
 - Content created by students
- A number of institutions have initiated podcast-based programs



Current Use of Technologies

- Stanford University
 - Stanford on iTunes
 - Offering audio content from lectures, interviews, and other university events
 - Some content free and available to public, other content restricted to Stanford community
 - See <http://itunes.stanford.edu/> for more information



Current Use of Technologies

- Duke University iPod First-Year Experience
 - Incoming freshmen in fall 2004 given iPods and recording accessories
 - Academic use did not meet expectations
 - University's own evaluation of the project revealed a number of challenges, including faculty training
 - Now the Duke Digital Initiative, modified and reduced in scope to identified courses
 - For more information, see http://www.dukenews.duke.edu/2005/12/ipod_update.html



Current Use of Technologies

- Georgia College and State University
 - Milledgeville, central Georgia 90 miles from Atlanta
 - The iVillage
 - A virtual learning community for freshmen using iPods and WebCT
 - Created fall 2005
 - <http://ipod.gcsu.edu/>



Sources of Content



Sources of Content

- Podcast directories are searchable and generally organized into subject matter categories
- Some more academically oriented than others
 - The Education Podcast Network, <http://epnweb.org>
 - Podcasting News, <http://www.podcastingnews.com/>
 - Podcast.net, <http://www.podcast.net>



NSU

Sources of Content

- Podcast directories, continued
 - Podcast Alley, <http://www.podcastalley.com>
 - The Podcast Network, <http://www.thepodcastnetwork.com>
 - iTunes Podcasts, www.apple.com/itunes/podcasts/
 - Vodstock, <http://www.vodstock.com>
 - The Voice Booth, www.thevoicebooth.com/podcasting.htm



NSU

Sources of Content

- Other podcast and vodcast sources are more traditional online sites offering new delivery methods
 - NPR, www.npr.org
 - CNN, www.cnn.com
 - Radio New Zealand, <http://www.radionz.co.nz/rss>



NSU

Sources of Content: A Warning

- Podcasts and vodcasts are easy and inexpensive to create
- Anyone can and does publish them
- Files containing adult content, extreme views, and inaccurate information are common
- As with all online content, instructors must be cautious



Creating Podcast- and Vodcast-Based Assignments



Designing a Podcast

- Determine content
- Establish goals
- Outline your podcast
- Record your podcast
- Incorporate it into your class work

*From Podcasting@the University of Wisconsin



Determining Content

- Avoid overly complex topics
- Establish a focus
- Make it interesting
- Generally avoid just recording lectures

*From Podcasting@the University of Wisconsin



Establish Goals

- Use a rubric
- Clear goals, purposes and expected outcomes help focus the lesson
- Eliminate clutter from the podcast



Establish Goals

Goal

Focus

Lead-in to new assignments	Discuss expectations and topics
Provide alternative views	Use podcasts of other peoples' differing views
Student projects	Student-created podcasts

*From Podcasting@the University of Wisconsin



Outline

- Be creative
 - Use humor
 - Music
 - Use a co-host
- Plan it out
 - PowerPoint
 - Notes
 - Flowchart



Outline

- Some ideas
 - Provide a stimulus for students to react to or reflect upon for deeper analysis
 - Use experts on specific topics
 - Case studies illustrate a key topic or learning goal
 - For more ideas see:
<http://engage.doit.wisc.edu/podcasting/teachAndLearn/>

*From Podcasting@the University of Wisconsin



Record

- Record the podcast
 - Be natural and talk as if you have the student in front of you
 - Express your views and ideas
 - Use outline notes, not a firm script
 - Don't worry about flaws, you can always edit later

*From Podcasting@the University of Wisconsin



Incorporate

- Add the content into your course
 - Make it a logical fit
 - Make it core material, not ancillary
 - Start planning early
 - Know where and why you want to use it



How Do You Create A Podcast?



Creating Podcasts and Vodcasts

- Hardware needed for podcasts
 - Microphone
 - Digital audio recorder
 - Computer to upload files



Creating Podcasts and Vodcasts

- Hardware needed for vodcasts
 - Webcam or digital video camera
 - Computer to upload files
 - Microphone



Creating Podcasts and Vodcasts

- Software needed for vodcasts
 - Screen capture applications such as
 - Camtasia
 - Apple QuickTime Pro
 - Windows Movie Maker
 - Drupal



Creating Podcasts and Vodcasts

- Software needed for podcasts
 - Application to download the digital file from the recorder to the computer
 - Generally comes with the recorder
 - File conversion application, such as iTunes
 - www.apple.com/itunes, free download
 - RSS server software for subscriptions
 - Open-source applications such as Drupal, www.drupal.org
 - Server software would be managed by university IT staff



NSU

Creating Podcasts and Vodcasts

- Record content
- Save the audio at maximum quality
- Convert the file to MP3 format using iTunes or another application
- Upload the MP3 file to a web or course management server
- Test them on a computer and on any MP3 player



Creating Podcasts and Vodcasts

- For a tutorial on creating podcasts, see the *Webmonkey* article “All the World’s a Podcast” by Michael Calore
 - <http://www.webmonkey.com/webmonkey/05/52/index4a.html>
- Another tutorial is “How to create & deliver podcasts,” from the University of Wisconsin-Madison
 - <http://engage.doit.wisc.edu/podcasting/createAndDeliver/>

See also the *Podcasting News* article, “Make Your First Podcast”

- <http://www.podcastingnews.com/articles/How-to-Podcast.html>



NSU

The NSU Initiative



The NSU Initiative

- Spring 2006 pilot efforts
 - Educational Foundations & Leadership
 - Health & Kinesiology
 - Natural Science
 - Management
 - Spanish



The NSU Initiative

- Fall 2006 additions
 - Social Work
 - Nursing
 - Library Services
 - Curriculum & Instruction



Science

- NASA Online,
<http://www.knowitall.org/nasa/>
- The Naked Scientists Internet Radio Show
<http://www.thenakedscientists.com/>
- NASA Brain Bites
 - <http://brainbites.nasa.gov>



Spanish

- Mini-lessons for review
 - Instructor-produced
 - Audio file and screen capture of PowerPoint
- Supplemental content for upper-division courses
 - Spanish-language podcasts on cultural, historical, or political topics
 - Podcasts from variety of countries for analysis of dialectical variations



Health & Kinesiology

- Supplemental content for undergraduate courses
 - Combined with Blackboard-based discussion topics
- Micro-lessons
 - Use of health-related equipment
 - Library orientation
- Outside expertise
- Lectures for review



Health & Kinesiology

- Student-created content
 - Personal philosophies
 - Students reflect on the creation process and their beliefs
 - Creates an electronic artifact for later use or reflection
 - Based on “This I Believe” program at National Public Radio
 - <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4566554>



Management

- Primary and supplemental content for undergraduate courses
 - Lectures for online classes
 - Lecture previews
 - PowerPoint captures
- Podcasts
- Vodcasts
- Class discussions



Educational Foundations & Leadership

- Online course development
 - Primary and supplemental content for undergraduate courses
 - Lectures for online classes
 - Service-learning activities
 - Portfolio development



Library Services

- Micro-lessons
 - <http://library.nsuok.edu/tutorials/orientation.html>
- Many tutorials are in the process of becoming vodcasts



Let's Make a Podcast



A Quick Podcasting Activity

- We will break into small groups
- Each group will spend a few minutes reviewing the instructional use of podcasts and vodcasts
- Each group needs to select a spokesperson
- I will pass out recorders and microphones
- Each spokesperson will record a summary of the group's ideas
- I will show you how easy it is to make a podcast from these summaries



NSU Podcast Site

- User ID: Rick Shelton
- Password: same
 - <http://ctl.nsuok.edu/drupal/?q=node>
- NSU
 - <http://www.nsuok.edu/>
 - <http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~sheltorw/>



Presentation Resources

Best, June. (June 20, 2005). Duke's Free iPod Program Has Mixed Results. *CNET News.com*. Retrieved March 30, 2006 from http://news.com.com/Dukes+free+iPod+program+has+mixed+results/2100-1025_3-5754005.html.

Blaisdell, Mikael. (2006). Academic MP3s: Is It Time Yet? *Campus Technology*, March, 38-50.

Calore, Michael. (December 16, 2005). All the World's a Podcast. *Webmonkey*. Retrieved April 15, 2006 from <http://www.webmonkey.com/webmonkey/05/52/index4a.html>.

(December 5, 2005). *Duke Sees Growth in Classroom iPod Use*. Retrieved April 15, 2006 from <http://www.dukenews.duke.edu/2005/12/ipodupdate.html>.



NSU

Presentation Resources

- Make Your First Podcast. *Podcasting News*. Retrieved April 16, 2006 from <http://www.podcastingnews.com/articles/How-to-Podcast.html>.
- Terdima, Daniel. (November 3, 2005). Stanford Using iTunes to Take Lectures Global. *CNET News.com*. Retrieved March 30, 2006 from http://news.com.com/Stanford+using+iTunes+to+take+lectures+global/2100-1041_3-5931232.html.
- Podcasting@the University of Wisconsin – Madison Retrieved May 20, 2006 from <http://engage.doit.wisc.edu/podcasting/teachAndLearn/>



Questions?

Thank You!

Rick Shelton, sheltorw@nsuok.edu

