



Blackboard Podcast

Introduction

A podcast is either an audio or a video file posted on a website that offers a subscription service called an RSS Feed to its podcasts. Podcasts can be created with a variety of software, depending on whether they are video or audio. The Blackboard podcasting tool supports audio and video podcasts and supplies the RSS feed for you.

Audio files can be created by recording on an mp3 player such as the iRiver H10s that HHP has to lend. You can also create them on your computer using the free software Audacity, which is also an audio editor. To record using Audacity, you will need a microphone. More information on Audacity and the iRiver H10 mp3 players may be found here: http://www.uncg.edu/hhp/oaa/othertech_audio.html .

What can a podcast help you do?

- Create weekly announcements, summaries of key points, or mini-lectures for your students.
- Ask students to present a current event or key issue.
- Ask students to create podcasts summarizing key points for a class or course topic.
- Have students create podcast presentations in a speaking intensive course.
- Record interviews with a guest speaker for class.
- Have students do audio interviews.

Blackboard podcasts

Online documentation for the Blackboard podcast tool may be found here:
http://support.learningobjects.com/help/campus_pack/2.7.7/podcast/podcast.htm

At present, the podcast tool in Blackboard is course or organization-based. That is, you cannot use the Blackboard podcast tool outside of a course or organization. You can, however, make your course podcasts publicly available via the RSS feed.

There is one RSS feed per course or organization. You create podcasting episodes that link to that feed. The podcast RSS feed is found under the Tools link in the Course Menu. The setup for the podcast RSS feed may be found in the Control Panel under Manage Podcast.

Podcast Tips

- Instructors only can post podcast episodes to a course or organization. Thus, students would need to get their podcasts to you ahead of time for posting.
- You can disable the RSS feed feature and limit access to course podcast episodes to the course. If you enable the RSS feed feature, students can subscribe via their news readers or iTunes and download podcast episodes to their mp3 players. In this case, they could also make this link available for anyone to subscribe. This is your decision.
- Short podcasts are better than long. Definitely do not go longer than 10 minutes. Create several short episodes rather than one long episode.
- You can post all podcast episodes together if desired but this is not necessary as they will display all together under Podcast area under Tools. You might rather post a podcast to the area of the course where it is pertinent.