PRODUCING PODCASTING

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Abstract: In this hands-on workshop, participants will be able to produce their own podcasting using iLife applications and .Mac accounts.   The topics will be: recording, editing audio files, publishing the podcast episodes and creating a web page for the podcast, adding images to create enhanced podcasting.   If the time allows, we may be able to get to advanced podcast creation.
Keyword: podcasting, enhanced podcasting, publishing, iLife, .Mac

1.   INTRODUCTION

In this workshop, participants will have hands-on training in the computer lab with iMac machines.   iLife applications and .Mac created for this training will allow participants to experience creating and publishing podcasting easily. GarageBand, iTunes, iWeb and .Mac accounts are used.

iPod is so popular among college students and everybody seems to own one. Using podcasting fits today's college students' life style naturally.   Accessing Japanese podcasts is an easy and economical way to obtain authentic audio materials and it is useful especially to advanced learners.   Teacher-developed podcasts make delivering audio/video materials easy.   Moreover podcasting gives students' opportunity to publish their own speaking work. Students can listen to each other's podcasting and if the class decides, it can open beyond classroom with real audience on the Internet.

Podcasts are Internet radio programs played with personal computer and often with mobile devices.   Although we use iTunes in this training, application to listen in personal computer need not be iTunes.   And mobile device need not be an iPod.   Even some cell phones and PDA can play podcasts.

There are three types of podcasts that could be in discussion during the training.
1) Audio only
2) Enhanced podcast (With chapter, still graphics)
3) Video

Audio and video podcasts sounds self-explanatory, but enhanced podcasts may not be familiar.   In enhanced podcasts, still images are shown (where it normally shows artwork for music albums) synchronized to the audio file.

There are four modules to this workshop and the last section is for your reference.

1) Getting Familiar with Podcasts

2) Producing and Editing audio files

3) Publishing and Making Podcasts Accessible

4) Producing Enhanced Podcasts

5) Podcast hosting services and helpful software

2.   GETTING FAMILIAR WITH PODCASTS

In this module, participants will learn how to access podcasts using iTunes. Podcasts are Internet radio programs played with personal computer therefore you need an application for the purpose on the computer.   What is different from traditional downloaded or streaming is synchronization and subscription.   Once you subscribe, the episodes can be downloaded automatically using software capable of reading feed formats such as RSS.   iTunes store complies a list of podcasts and you can either browse or power search for something you would like.   iTunes store has a Japanese version where you have access to podcasts from Japan and Japanese.   In order to search in Japanese, please make sure that Japanese input (kotoeri for Mac) is enabled.   Informational web pages for some podcasts of your interest might be at:

- Learn Japanese with Daily Podcasts from Tokyo

http://www.japanesepod101.com/

- Japanese Classical Literature at Bedtime 寝しなに読む日本の古典文学

http://www.podcastingnews.com/details/eloise.cocolog-nifty.com/rodoku/index.rdf/view.htm

- Japanese Script

http://japaneselistening.blogspot.com/

-日本童話　http://privatebank.jp/

3.   PRODUCING AND EDITING AUDIO FILES

In this module, participants will use GarageBand to record and edit audio files and audio tracks.   You also need a microphone that is recognized by GarageBand.   Go to Preferences of GarageBand under File and click Audio/MIDI menu and make sure your input/out device is selected.   Quite a few music files that you can use for background music is included in GarageBand.   You can add the music in a separate track from voice recording track.   Here we will learn how to add a track, splitting an audio file, add effect to audio file (such as telephone effect) and adjusting the volume for each track.

4.   PUBLISHING AND MAKING PODCASTING ACCESSIBLE

Once audio file is recorded and edited to your liking, you can use iWeb to publish the audio file as an episode of your podcast.   From GarageBand, go to "Share" and choose "Send Podcast to iWeb".   iWeb enables you to easily create and manage informational web page and its episodes so that the podcast is accessible. Normally you have to create a text file in XML and most Japanese teachers would not want to do that. In iWeb, you can choose template and you can enter new text, add photos and resize to the web page.   GarageBand has Media browser that show graphic and audio files stored in the computer.

You will need URL (web address) for podcast server.   For this training, from GarageBand, you will publish to a folder, enter the URL of podcast server on .Mac account.   You will be given a user ID and password for .Mac account space.   From Finder, choose "Go" and choose "Connect to the server".   Go to Sites folder and drag and drop the folder that you will upload.   Then from GarageBand, you can add podcast and add episodes.

5.   PRODUCING ENHANCED PODCASTING

Enhanced podcasts have pictures and text in your podcast.   Music plays and photo appears along with the text in the timing you specify.   The easiest way to describe is "kamishibai" style presentation.   In iPod, you can press the middle button to see the text. Photos can be imported from your digital camera to iPhoto, which is visible from Media Browser in Garageband.   You can drop a picture in podcasting track in Garageband file.

Double click to preview the pocast episode.   Once it is done you can send to the server using GarageBand and check in iTunes.

6.   HELPFUL SOFTWARE FOR PODCASTING HOSTING SERVICES

If your home institution is not able to provide the set up used in today's training, you may want to talk to the IT specialists for following software or hosting services.

1) Podcast Maker (http://www.potionfactory.com/podcastmaker/)

Podcast Maker is a tool for Mac OS X that makes podcasting simple similar to today's setting for Mac OS.   You can make the content with GarageBand, Audio Hijack Pro, QuickTime Pro, etc. and drag in your content into Podcast Maker. You can drag files directly in from iTunes and iPhoto.

2) FeedForAll (http://www.feedforall.com/)

FeedForAll is a tool for Windows and Mac OS X that makes podcasting simple similar to today's setting for Mac OS.

3) Profcast (http://www.profcast.com)

ProfCast is a Mac OS-based tool for recording lectures including PowerPoint and/or Keynote slides for creating enhanced podcasts.

4) iTunesU

http://www.apple.com/education/products/ipod/itunes_u.html

It is basically an iTunes store for the academic institution hosted by Apple.   Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Hawaii, Penn State and Duke University have been using the service.

5) Podshow Creator

http://www.podshowcreator.com/

If you don't have hosting server, this service will host your podcasts.

Web addresses verified on March 31, 2007.