

# Classroom Podcasting on a PC



## Create Content

Here are some ideas how you might use Podcasting as a learning tool in your classroom;

- Radio dramas
- Book talks and book reviews
- Poetry reading and musical performances
- Journals and reflections
- Directions and helpful hints about a project



## Record the Podcast

### Windows Sound Recorder

This is already installed with Windows; Start > Programs > Accessories > Entertainment > Sound Recorder. This is a very simple and easy to use program, but it only records into the .wav format, which is not ideal for posting to the Internet.

### Audacity – <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

Open source project that runs on Windows, Mac, and Linux. It is free yet full of powerful tools including noise reduction and effects such as reverberation. To create .mp3 files, you will also need to install the LAME encoder; <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/faq?s=install&item=lame-mp3>.

### Sony Acid Studio –

### <http://www.sonymediasoftware.com/products/acidfamily.asp>

This is professional quality software that comes in three versions; Acid XMC (\$40), Acid Music Studio (\$70), and Acid Pro 5 (\$300). Depending on which version you get, you may find this software comparable or superior to Apple's GarageBand software.



## Upload the Podcast

### Free Services

Several web sites will host your Podcast for free, but you may have to put up with ads and run the risk that the site is also hosting content that may be inappropriate for school. All of these services will create an RSS feed that listeners can subscribe to.

- <http://www.odeo.com/> - in addition to hosting podcasts, Odeo enables you to record audio directly into your web browser.
- <http://www.clickcaster.com/> - similar to Odeo in that you can record directly into a browser.
- <http://www.ourmedia.org/>
- <http://www.blip.tv/>
- <http://www.podcastpickle.com/>

## Commercial Web Hosts

Many commercial web hosts now support blogging by enabling you to set up Wordpress (<http://www.wordpress.org>) with just a few clicks. Wordpress has an upload feature that makes it easy to post any file online. The following hosts provide vast amounts of storage at a fair price;

- <http://www.dreamhost.com/> - starting at \$7.95 a month and has a great reputation.
- <http://www.asmallorange.com/services/hosting/> - the \$5 a month plan should provide more than enough storage for periodic Podcasting.



## Subscribe and Listen

These applications will enable you to subscribe to a Podcasts and will automatically download files when the Podcast is updated.

**iTunes** - <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>

The Windows version has nearly identical functionality to the Mac version. Although Apple was very late to pick up on the Podcasting concept, iTunes has become a standard way to browse for Podcasts.

**iPodder** - <http://www.ipodder.org/>

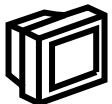
This was one of the first Podcast directories.

**Transistr** - <http://transistr.com/> (under re-development)

Originally known as iPodderX, this service has had to change their name in response to threats from Apple's legal department for trademark infringement.

**jPodder** - <http://www.jpodder.com/>

Application written in Java that runs on many platforms.



## Add Video?

It can be a bit difficult to create a video Podcast on a PC that will work on both a PC and a Mac. However, it is possible to create a vlog (video web log) that will enable your audience to view your content in Windows Media Player, Apple QuickTime, and several brands of portable media players that compete with the iPod.

**Windows Movie Maker – Part of Windows XP Service Pack 2**

Enables you to edit video content and save as a .wmv (Windows media format). Unfortunately, you cannot save the file as a .mov or .mpg that would work on other operating systems.

**Flip4Mac** - <http://www.flip4mac.com/wmv.htm>

This plug-in allows Mac users to view .wmv files inside of Apple's QuickTime player. If you post content in .wmv format, you should encourage your visitors to download the Flip4Mac plug-in.