

Audacity and Podcast

Introduction to Audio Formats

Read some Web articles about the introduction to digital audio formats

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audio_file_format
2. http://www.webopedia.com/DidYouKnow/Computer_Science/2005/digital_audio_formats.asp

Learn about the characteristics of common digital audio formats such as WAV, MP3, AIFF, etc.

Uncompressed audio formats, such as WAV, AIFF and AU;

wav – standard audio file container format (end with a .wav extension)

- Used mainly in Windows PCs
- CD-quality sound files,
- Large in size — around 10 MB per minute.
- Note: Wave files can also contain data encoded with a variety of codecs to reduce the file size (for example the GSM or mp3 codecs).

Compressed audio formats such as MP3, WMA,

mp3 – MPEG Layer-3 format (end with a .mp3 extension)

- The most popular format for downloading and storing music.
- Good audio quality.
- Small in size – around one-tenth the size of Wav format

Audio format for Talking PowerPoint

Audio type: Wav with MP3 format

Windows Sound Recorder (see the handout)

Create a Digital Audio File

Use a microphone and Audacity program to record and create a digital audio file.

Task:

1. Download and Install Audacity program
2. Follow the Audacity tutorials to learn how to use it
3. Record a brief speech
4. Export the file as MP3
5. Podcast your MP3 audio file to your **Blog**.

Requirements and Checklist for Digital Audio File

1. Content: A brief speech
2. Length: 10 – 30 seconds
3. Sound quality: Good
4. Format: MPEG Layer-3 (MP3)

Learn to Use Audacity

Download:

Audacity: Free Audio Editor and Recorder

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net> (For both PC and Mac users)

OR

http://download.cnet.com/Audacity/3000-2170_4-10058117.html

OR

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/8052> (For Mac users)

Audacity Tutorials

Audacity Tutorial for Podcasters

<http://www.how-to-podcast-tutorial.com/17-audacity-tutorial.htm>

Audacity 1.2 Tutorial

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/manual-1.2/tutorials.html>

Tasks:

- Record your voice
- Edit the voice:
 - a) Trim the silent sound
 - b) Adjust the level of volume (learn to use amplify)
 - c) Import and add music
- Save the project and export MP3 file

Free LAME encoder (For MP3 Format)

Because of software patents, the Audacity doesn't have MP3 encoding software with it. Therefore, you need follow these instructions to use the free LAME encoder to export MP3 files with Audacity.

Windows

1. Go to the LAME download page (<http://lame.buanzo.com.ar/>)
2. Under "For Audacity on Windows", left-click on the link "libmp3lame-win-3.97.zip" and save the zip folder to anywhere on your computer.
3. When you have finished downloading the ZIP folder, unzip it and save the file **lame_enc.dll** that it contains to anywhere on your computer.
4. The first time you use the "Export as MP3" command, Audacity will ask you where lame_enc.dll is saved. Browse and locate the lame_enc.dll. Then you will be able to export MP3 files.
5. In case of difficulty, please view our more detailed instructions at the Audacity Wiki.

Mac OS 9 or X

1. Go to the LAME download page (<http://lame.buanzo.com.ar/>)
2. Download either libmp3lame or the version of LameLib for your operating system.
3. When you have finished downloading, use Stuffit Expander to extract the files. (This may happen automatically.)
4. Save the file called "LameLib" or libmp3lame.dylib anywhere on your computer.
5. The first time you use the "Export as MP3" command, Audacity will ask you where LameLib or libmp3lame.dylib is saved. . Browse and locate the lame_enc.dll. Then you will be able to export MP3 files.

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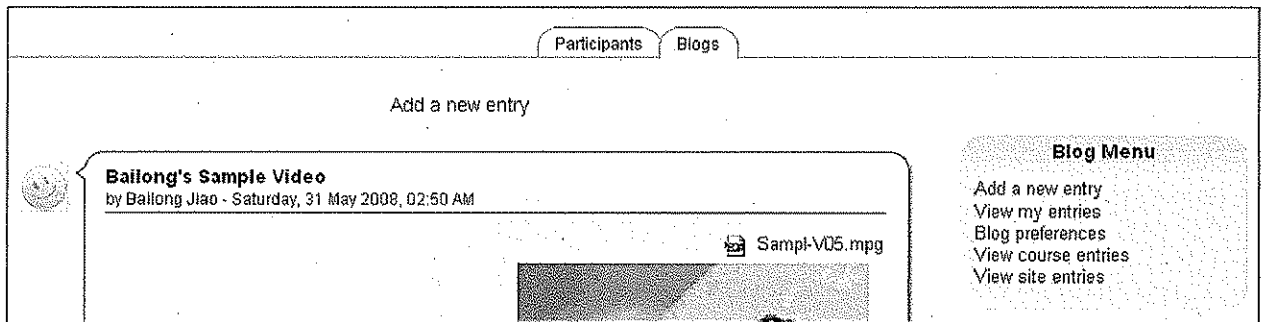
Podcast the audio on a Blog

In our Moodle classroom, we have a Blog function with which you can add podcast. To add a blog entry, you need follow the following steps:

1. Go to **Participants > Blogs**

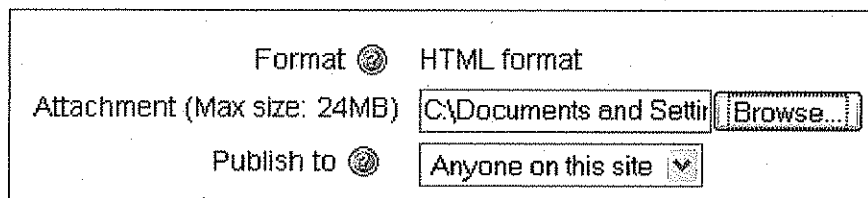


You will see your own blogs on the site. Or you will not see anything if you don't have anything yet.



2. Click **Add a new entry** to start your entry

Add a title, add blog body, attach the audio file > Make sure to select **Publish to Anyone on this site** > Save changes

A screenshot of the Moodle 'Add a new entry' form. The form includes a 'Format' dropdown menu set to 'HTML format', an 'Attachment (Max size: 24MB)' field with a file path 'C:\Documents and Settir' and a 'Browse...' button, and a 'Publish to' dropdown menu set to 'Anyone on this site'.

3. To view your own entries, click **View my entries** in the **Blog Menu**.

To view other people's entries, click **View site entries** in the **Blog Menu**.