

Screencasting



A screencast is a recording of the actions occurring on a computer screen and generally includes audio narration of the on-screen actions. Built-in microphones and webcams on modern laptops allow for convenient screencasts. Professional projects may require higher-quality webcams, microphones, and software.

PURPOSE

For teaching: Screencasts are often used to describe a step-by-step process, for lab or specialized software tutorials, for online lecture delivery, and for instructional videos.

For an assignment: Students can create screencasts for projects such as a digital story, online presentations, tutorials, and documentation.

PROCEDURE

- 1. Create a script or outline.** Define the topic and learning objectives to open the narration.
- 2. Test audio and video equipment.** For higher-quality screencasts, use commercial screencasting software and a headset or microphone designed for podcast recording.
- 3. Practice!**

- 4. Prepare your desktop for recording. IMPORTANT:** *Close applications that may contain confidential information before recording!*
- 5. Record your screencast.** Keep in mind screen resolution and size.
- 6. Publish your video** in a format easily accessible to your students (YouTube, your course web page, etc.).

CONSIDERATIONS

- » Underestimating the time involved for a professional-quality project
- » Choosing software that is either too simplistic or overly complicated for your project
- » Poor-quality recordings due to poor location and substandard webcam/microphone



INTERMEDIATE