

Screencasting

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Screencasting at SCU

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What is Screencasting?

Screencasting allows you to record your computer screen, in addition to your voice or video image. Screencasting enables students to view learning materials repeatedly and in their own time. Students can view an entire presentation, select portions and repeat the presentation to control the pace of their learning. Screencasts are particularly suitable for explaining complex, sequence based activities.

Screencasts are useful for engaging students in learning before or after lectures and tutorials. Using your voice or video image in the recording can add a more personal touch for viewers. A narrated slide presentation is one form of screencasting used widely.

Pedagogical possibilities with Screencasting

Teaching activities	Details
Announcements and learning site tours	A welcome presentation for students, introducing yourself and the features of the unit and learning management system (e.g. Blackboard). Provide solutions to known issues or notifications of updated course content.
Microlectures or pre-briefings on a learning topic	Enables students to engage in complex topics before class, so teachers have more time for student-centred hands-on practice in face-to-face or synchronous online sessions.
Beginning discussions	Add a screencast video to a blog or forum to stimulate discussion.
Addressing 'stuck places' and threshold concepts	Help students identify and understand troublesome content and integrate these ideas with previous knowledge to develop a deep understanding of the subject.
Assessment explanation and feedback	Initial explanations, answers to FAQs or provide audio-visual feedback to groups (teamwork assessment) or cohorts.
Demonstrations	Show how to use software or demonstrate a complex screen-based process and provide step-by-step voice-over explanations.
Accessibility	Provide access to learning activities for students with disabilities (who might have restricted access to class sessions or presentations), and others who might benefit from the material but cannot attend a face-to-face presentation e.g. distance students.
Reusable resources	Reuse resources where generic content covers basic concepts, available in more than one unit, to an entire course or across several disciplines.
Routine training for large numbers of students	Provide information about an institution's learning management system (e.g. Blackboard) or other campus-wide systems.
Add an active, visual element to resources available outside scheduled class times	Provide a greater variety in teaching and learning resources to support learning and keep students engaged.

Practicalities of Screencasting

- Shorter recordings help students digest information in smaller 'chunks' - from as brief as 2 minutes, up to a maximum of 20 minutes.
- Plan the screen actions before you start recording. Record only the part of the screen that is important. Backgrounds, icons and other open programs can be distracting to viewers.
- Plan what to say before you start recording. Doing a run-through first may help you practice an engaging tone for your screencast and make the final recording more polished. Use appropriate language and terminology for your audience. Conversational language may be suitable for more informal content.
- If the content is to be re-used in future sessions, avoid reference to specific modules, dates, etc. which may impact on the shelf-life/versatility and may require time-consuming editing or rerecording.
- Think carefully about the content you use with screencasting. In some cases, presenting information using only text and still images could be more useful for students and less time consuming to develop.
- When publishing, include a brief description of the content to make it easier for students to find what they are looking for.
- Consider providing a short (fewer than 10 questions) online questionnaire with key screencasts, either for the students to reinforce the concepts or for you to gain feedback for future development of screencasts.

MyMediasite

[MyMediasite](#) is a web based portal that allows staff to create desktop recordings and upload new and existing media files into a central online location. [MyMediasite](#) includes a desktop recorder, an editor and video upload. Using your laptop or desktop computer with a camera and microphone, you can record high quality video or audio to accompany screencasts or slideshows.

Allow staff to:	Allow students to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce the following types of presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • screencasts with audio • screencasts with video • slideshows with audio • slideshows with video • upload and edit pre-recorded video (lectures, OER, YouTube, TED talks – with appropriate copyright) • add, delete or replace slides • add chapters (chapters allow viewers to navigate easily through longer presentations) • view statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playback presentations on nearly any device – desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone • search for text (searches any text captured on the screen) • navigate using the auto-generated thumbnails • navigate using chapters (if set up) • add comments or ask questions at specific points in the presentation – comments are then sent to the author of the presentation • participate in polls set up by the author

Sources

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