

Hello again. I'm Walter Gajewski at the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). Welcome to TechTips. Today's episode is about making your podcast a video podcast, also known as a vodcast. To see a couple of examples, launch iTunes, go to the iTunes Store and search for "Chemistry Lab Procedures" or try "Delicious TV Veg."

If you've been following the most recent episodes of this TechTips podcast, you already know the basics of creating an audio podcast. With only a few minor adjustments to my audio podcast instructions, you can create a video podcast.

The most obvious difference is that instead of recording an mp3 audio file, you must create a video file in the mp4 format. This is usually done directly from within your video editing software. For example, if you are using SONY Vegas to edit your video, go to the top menu of the video editing screen and select File/render as . . . and then in the rendering dialog box, select Save as type Main Concept (\*.mp4). Make sure you choose the Template called Apple iPod 320 X 240 video. If you are interested, your video file is now an MPEG4 file made with the H264 compression codec.

Several video editors have Apple iPod Video listed as one of the formats available when you save your edited project as a video file. If Apple iPod is not listed, you can save video on your PC as an avi file and then convert that avi file to the Apple iPod format using the free utility called Videora. Instructions on how to do this are explained in Techtips Episode 10: Creating iPod video movies using free PC software.

Now that you have your video file, the only other changes you have to make to produce a video podcast, using my previous audio podcast instructions, are changes to the text of the XML file you will edit and upload to your web server.

In the XML file, everything in the first part of the file, the part that describes the "Channel" information is the same for either an audio or a video podcast. The differences are evident in the sections of the file that describe the individual episodes, listed in the file as "items."

In the item section of the XML file, you will see an "enclosure URL" tag. This URL has to be the fully described location of the mp4 video file. Make sure the URL is enclosed in quotation marks. Because this is a video file, make sure you have the "type" attribute listed correctly. No longer will you use type="audio/mpeg" but rather type="video/mp4"

You also have to list your video file correctly in the XML file where it says "guid" As with the audio podcast, this part of the XML file should indicate the fully described path out to your video file. Note that in the guid section, there are no quotation marks around the address.

And that's it. All the other instructions I provided in Tech Tips episodes thirteen, fourteen and fifteen still apply.

As usual, feel free to contact me, Walter Gajewski with any questions at gajewski at CSULB dot edu. Thanks for listening.