



Barebones Podcasting

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Podcasting Basics

Sound/audio file

- ANY device that plays digital audio files will play a podcast- from iPods to Windows PC's
- Typical format for the files is MP3 or OGG Vorbis
- Often podcasts are “radio-like” programs- host with music, interviews, monologues, etc.



Podcasting Basics

Distribution

- Some MP3 files called podcasts are links on Web pages
- Some podcasts are distributed as e-mail attachments
- Traded via sneakernet technology, i.e. traded via disks or stick drives
- A typical defining characteristic is that the files are distributed via RSS / Feed Technology



Podcasting Basics: Redux

1. Sound/audio file

- ANY device that plays digital audio files will play a podcast- from iPods to Windows PC's
- Typical format for the files is MP3 or OGG Vorbis

2. Usually distributed via RSS (as Sophie said)

- Really Simple Syndication
- Form of XML for syndicated distribution of files
- Requires an aggregator to “grab” the files



Podcasting History



- The Creators: Adam Curry and Dave Winer



- Adam Curry coined the term “podcast” after the Apple iPod (his device of choice for listening to audio files)



Podcatchers



- The aggregators to obtain podcasts are sometimes called “podcatchers”
- Some podcatchers are:
 - **Apple iTunes**
 - Available for free for Windows and Mac machines
 - See (<http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>)
 - **Doppler**
 - Free for Windows
 - See: (<http://dopplerradio.net/>)
 - **Juice**
 - Free for Windows and Mac (Linux soon)
 - See: (<http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/>)



Using the iTunes Podcatchers



Step One: Click on a page with a podcast image link and copy resulting URL

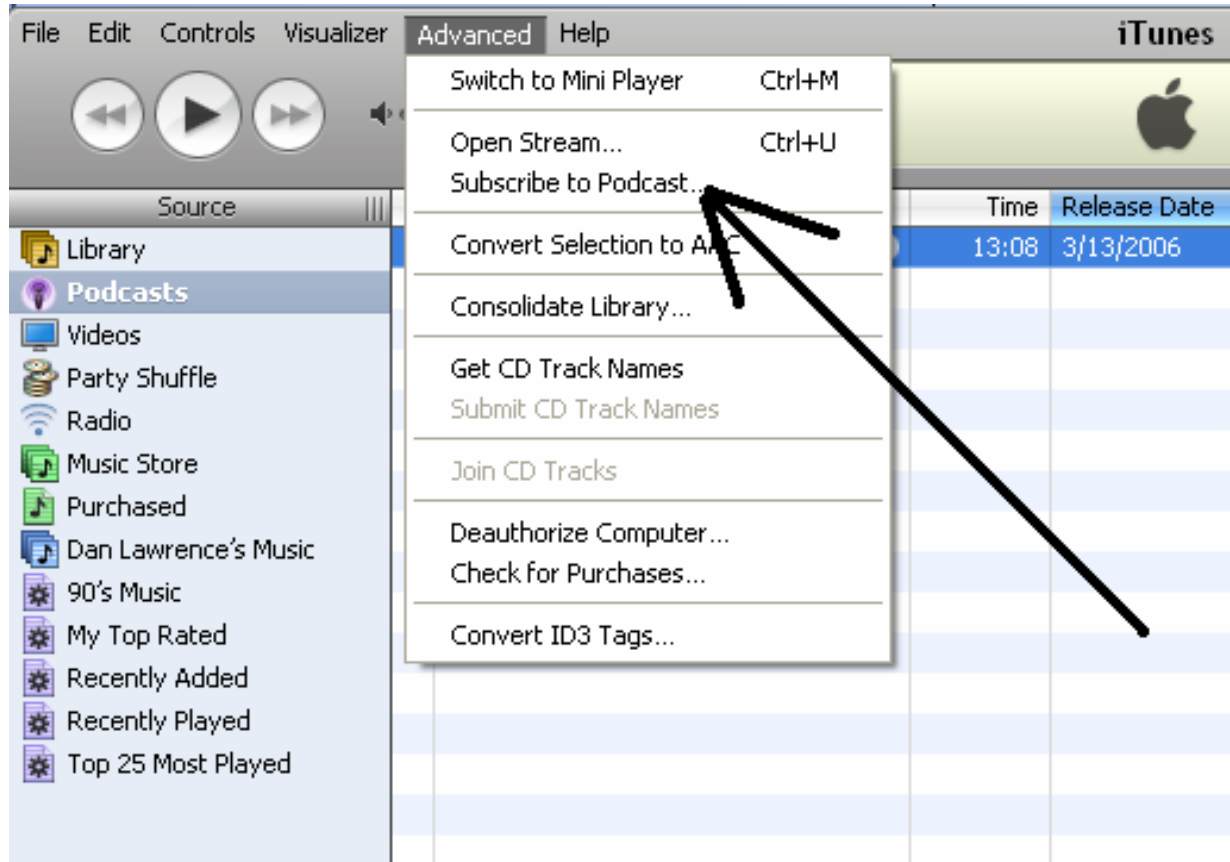




Using the iTunes Podcatchers



Step 2: In iTunes, click on Advanced, then click “Subscribe to Podcast”

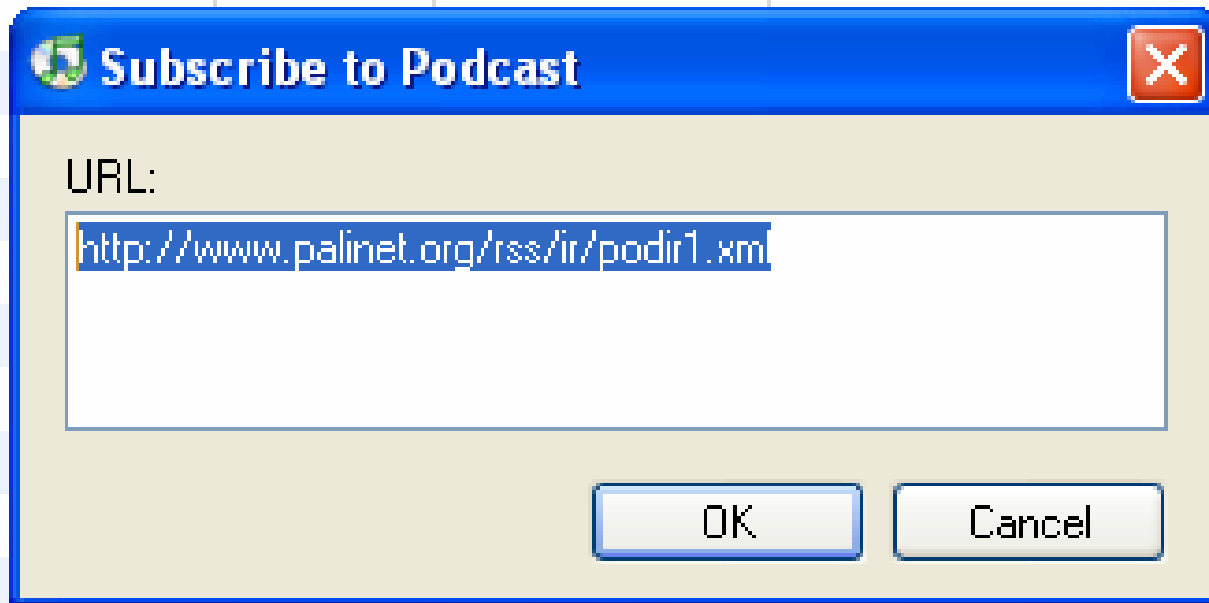




Using the iTunes Podcatchers



Step 3: Paste the URL in “Subscribe to Podcast”,
click OK





Using the iTunes Podcatchers



Step 4: Each time iTunes loads the latest podcast will feed in ...





Finding Podcasts



– Podcast directories:

- PodcastAlley.com - (<http://www.podcastalley.com/>)
- Podcast.net - (<http://www.podcast.net/>)
- iPodder.org - (<http://ipodder.org>)
- iTunes Store

– Podcast text searching:

- Podzinger (<http://podzinger.com>)
- Podscope (<http://podscope.com/>)



Podcast Creation



- **To create a podcast, consider:**
 - personal computer
 - microphone
 - software that can create MP3 or OGG Vorbis files
 - create a podcast via a service on the Web
 - programming savvy
 - web server or web space to place the sound file
 - ability to create an RSS feed with enclosures



Podcast Creation: PC & Mic



- **personal computer**
 - sound card
 - mixer (optional)
- **microphone**
 - omnidirectional
 - pop screens
 - lavalier microphone
 - go inexpensive



Podcast Creation: Software



- **Client Software**
 - Garage band (Mac)
 - Pro Tools (Win Mac)
 - Audition (Win)
 - Sound Forge (Win)
 - **Audacity (Win Linux Mac)- FREE!**
- **Web-based Services**
 - Odeo (<http://odeo.com>)
 - Podomatic (<http://podomatic.com/>)



Podcast & Webserver



- **Load sound file and RSS file on the webserver**
 - Apache, IIS etc.
 - Use file transferring software to place file
- **Use space on the Web to store files**
 - OurMedia (free, <http://www.ourmedia.org>)
 - Podlot (\$5.00 per 150MB, <http://podlot.com/>)
 - Podbus (\$5.00 per 300MB, <http://podbus.com/>)
 - Audioblog (\$9.95 per 500mb, <http://www.audioblog.com/>)

<rss version="2.0">

<channel>

<title>PALINET Podcast: Technology Conversations</title>

<link><http://www.palinet.org/rss/tech-conversations/></link>

<description>A podcast for the members of PALINET</description>

<language>en-us</language>

<copyright>Copyright 2006 PALINET</copyright>

<lastBuildDate>Mon,13 Mar 2006 14:11:33 GMT</lastBuildDate>

<item>

<title>PALINET Podcast: Technology Conversations</title>

<link><http://www.palinet.org/rss/tech-conversations/tc1.xml></link>

<description>An ongoing conversation with vendors and practitioners with ...</description>

<enclosure url="http://www.palinet.org/tc4.mp3" length="12615680" type="audio/mpeg"/>

<pubDate>Mon, 13 Mar 2006 14:35:00 GMT</pubDate>

<category>Public Radio</category>

</item>

</channel>

</rss>



RSS Code: Podbasket



Yet another way to generate RSS:

Podbasket allows you to create your own podcast feed by providing a URL for offsite audio files.

See: <http://www.podbasket.com/>

(Thanks to Jessica Unger of Ocean County NJ Public Library for info on this!)



Podcasting in Libraries



– Chesire Public Library (CT)

- Young adult podcast series

- See: (<http://www.cheshirelib.org/teens/cplpodcast.htm>)

– Muskingum College Library (OH)

- Notable lectures and discussions

- See: (<http://www.muskingum.edu/~library/blog/2005/10/october-author-talk-podcast-available.html>)

– Western Kentucky University Libraries

- Notable lectures and discussions

- See: (<http://www.wku.edu/Library/podcast/index.html>)



Podcasting in Libraries



- **Lansing MI Public Library**
 - Podcasts of tech news, info teens, and also for children
 - (<http://www.lansing.lib.il.us/podcast.htm>)
- **PALINET** has podcasts
 - (<http://www.palinet.org/rss/tech-conversations/>)
- **Librivox**
 - Effort to create sound files for public domain books
 - (<http://www.librivox.org/>)



Podcasting Elsewhere



– Podcasting in Education

- Great for K-12
- (<http://chatt.hdsb.ca/~magps/boylit/Podcasting%20in%20Education>)

– Purdue University

- Providing podcasts of lecture, called “boilercasts”
- (<http://boilercast.itap.purdue.edu:1013/Boilercast/Whatisboilercast.htm>)

– Nature

- Great example of publisher podcast
- (<http://www.nature.com/index.html>)



Bottom Line: Podcasts



- **Negative:** not in common use, small audience
- **Positive:** probably will be more common
- **Positive:** library applications have promise
- **More to come:** botcasts & video podcasts/vodcasts



Thanks



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