



What is podcasting?

Children and teachers are producing podcasts in many Irish schools, ranging from children's stories, book reviews, audio diaries, interviews, and news stories. Podcasting is an ongoing publishing activity. It is a highly creative communications tool, especially now that it can encompass image or video. Most importantly, you don't need to be very technical to podcast!

What is Podcasting?

The term podcasting derives its name from Apple's iPod and the word broadcast. Podcasting means delivering audio content, usually over the internet, to iPods and other portable media players eg, MP3 players. Users can also download podcasts to their media player using a PC connected to the internet. Podcasts are stored or hosted online and are typically saved in MP3 format. They can

also be listened to on nearly any computer or digital music device. One can think of podcasting as 'radio on demand'. There are podcasts available from many radio stations and on websites such as RTÉ which can be really useful both for teachers and children, especially if you wish to catch up on a show you have missed!



There are some very simple software packages out there to help you such as Kudlian's *Podcaster* and Softease's *Podium*. The trick is to keep things simple. With a program like *Podium*, you, or the children, can record, edit and then put it into a podcast ready for

publishing. You can also use Audacity which is free to download to record your podcast.

Where do I start?

Podcasting follows many of the

one-off. You want to invite listeners and ensure that they will continue to listen to your podcast. Your podcast needs to have a structure but does not always need to have a

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steps associated with storytelling:

1. Plan.
2. Record and produce.
3. Publish.

Plan

1. You need to have an idea. It is best to get an idea that will have longevity and not just a

complete script - Just like radio! Spontaneity can work well!

The children might decide to do a podcast interview on the sporting events that happen in their school. The "before and after match" sentiments could be recorded. Always best to choose a topic

in which the children are really interested in.

So ask yourself:

- What is the topic?
- Will you be adapting an interview style?
- Is there more than one host?
- How long will your podcast be?
- How many new releases will there be?
- Will there be music as well as talking or will there be moving image?

2. Have a place setup with the podcasting equipment. Choose a spot that is quiet and free from distraction.

3. You will need:

- A PC or a Mac with a

nication difficulties are very often motivated by the medium of podcasting as an alternative means of expression.

Podcasting can present opportunities to listen to a story more than once with fewer distractions and this can be very helpful where English is the child's second language. Podcasts can be highly motivating for children as they know their work will be available to a wider audience including their families. Most importantly, children really enjoy the medium and the process involved and have fun putting their podcasts together to share with others.

Websites of interest

RTE: www.rte.ie

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soundcard

- Headphones or Headset
- Microphone
- Internet access in the final stages

Record and produce

1. Turn on the mic, start talking and record. It does not matter what platform or application you use to record the audio, or whether you're using a PC or a Mac. You can use Audacity, a free application. On the Mac, GarageBand is a popular choice because it is also free and powerful. When you have finished recording, save your finished audio show at maximum quality.
2. Once you have saved the audio file you then have to save it to MP3 format.

Publish

1. You can upload your podcast to your school website or blog.

There is a cross – curricular dimension to creating podcasts. Children can work together in groups to plan and produce their podcast. Children with language difficulties or commu-

FÍS book club:
www.fisbookclub.com

Softase Podium:
www.podiumpodcasting.com

Kudlian Podcaster:
www.kudlian.net/products/podcaster/

Audacity: Free software for recording
<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/>

Radiowaves (Free podcasting project): www.radiowaves.co.uk

Apple itunes:
www.apple.com/uk/itunes/download/

David Baugh's school podcasting website:
<http://tinyurl.com/27jq6>

Sandaig Primary School, Glasgow:
www.sandaigprimary.co.uk/radio_sandaig

John Heffernan and Tom Lonergan of the NCTE

scoilnet
portal for Irish education
An t-ábhar eolais na hÉireann

Star site

St Thomas NS, Peterswell, Co Galway
www.stthomas.peterswell.blogspot.com
Different approach to normal. Wonderfully up-to-date blog of activities in the school.

Star Site is part of Schools Online
www.scoilnet.ie/schoolsonline

My favourite sites

Padraig O Drisceoil
Teacher at Scoil Christíl in Cork.
www.yesmag.ca/projects/index.html
Ideal for projects.

Nature Detectives - Autumn
www.naturedetectives.org.uk/autumn/
Collection of resources on the theme of autumn.

Art Through the Ages
www.cool2school.k12.or.us/courses/199901/lessons
Art History course in 13 lessons.

Top 10 sites

These were the most popular Christmas sites on Scoilnet in 2007.

- 1 **Christmas Around the World**
www.the-north-pole.com/around/index.htm
How people celebrate Christmas in other countries.
- 2 **The Christmas Story**
www.thechristmas.com/story/the_christmas_story.shtml
The full story.
- 3 **Christmas Lesson Plans**
www.lessonpage.com/Christmas.htm
Covering most subject areas.
- 4 **Christmas Crafts**
www.christmascrafts.com
All sorts of crafty ideas!
- 5 **Stories**
www.northpole.com/Overseas/StoryList.html#workshop
Stories from the North Pole.
- 6 **Christmas Clip Art**
<http://thebigkub.com/christmas-clips.html>
Really practical.
- 7 **The Christmas Play**
www.ictan.com/ressources/holidaysent.pdf
A play written by Michele Holliday, based on the story "The Gift of the Magi"
- 8 **The Origins of Christmas**
www.allthingschristmas.com/traditions.html
Traditions & symbols including fun facts.
- 9 **Christmas Crafts & Activities**
www.etc.hantslearning.com/crafts/christmas/
Aimed at lower classes.
- 10 **Christmas Songs**
www.kiddies.com/lyrics/christmas.html
Include the lyrics.