What are Screencasts?

A screencast is a video recording of what is displayed on your computer or iPad. Screencasts and annotated screencasts have become popular online tools thanks to sites such as Khan Academy, MRUniversity, Coursera, Udacity and, others.

An annotated video has added interactive commentary to it (e.g. text overlays and quizzes). An annotated screencast allows you to create a virtual classroom where you can lecture online and engage your students as you would in a traditional face-to-face class.

Why Would You Use It?

In an online or hybrid course, video on how to solve a particular problem or equation can engage different learning styles than a book or text are able to. Screencasts also allow students to replay a lecture over and over until they understand the concept.

How Do You Get Started?

1. Choose one of the three screencasting methods:
   - **Kahn Academy**: Uses a USB tablet or tablet PC to create a virtual whiteboard environment.
   - **MRUniversity**: Uses an iPad to create a virtual whiteboard environment or to record a narrated Powerpoint-style presentation.
   - **Coursera/Udacity**: Uses a video camera to record notes written on paper with a pen or pencil.

2. Required Equipment:
   - **Quality microphone**: A high quality USB headset or USB condenser microphone. A good headset will cost between $25 and $75. A good USB condenser mic will cost between $100 and $250.
   - **Graphics tablet, tablet PC or iPad**: Depending on the method you choose, you may need to purchase a USB tablet like the Wacom Bamboo ($55-135) or an iPad ($329-$499 and up). A tablet PC can also be used without purchasing an additional tablet.

3. Required Software
   - **Drawing software**: Choose a tool that will allow you to easily write or draw your notes. The Khan Academy recommends SmoothDraw (v.4, free). Autodesk Sketchbook Express (free), MS Paint and other applications are effective. Powerpoint can be useful. Explain Everything is used by MRUniversity to record their presentations on the iPad.
   - **Screen recording software**: UA has a license for Panopto Focus. Panopto is free and can be easily integrated into your Springboard course. Other options include ScreenVideoRecorder ($20), Camtasia ($75-$150) or ScreenFlow ($90).
   - **Video editing software**: When recording using the Coursera/Udacity method, the recordings must be edited. Windows Movie Maker and iMovie both come with newer computers.

4. Video Hosting
   - Use UA’s Online Video Encoder or YouTube if you are not using Panopto Focus. Additional information on the Video Encoder can be found here: [https://www.uakron.edu/it/instructional_services/dds/services/encoder.dot](https://www.uakron.edu/it/instructional_services/dds/services/encoder.dot)

How Can You Get Help?

Design & Development Services can provide technical support and general tutorial support. DDS also has equipment that you can try or borrow on a limited basis.

Contact Wendy Lampner: wlampner@uakron.edu, x2149
What About Audio Quality?

The basic properties of a good recording depend on what kind of recording you are doing. You’ll want low background noise and clear, audible sound of your voice. Clean, intelligible audio will limit listener fatigue. Three basics to remember are:

1. Select a good location. A bedroom is better than a kitchen. Think in terms of the space. Tall ceilings and large rooms are not ideal. They produce echoes and reverberation of your voice.

2. Use appropriate equipment and microphone.
Choose a mic suitable to your recording setup

3. Check your mic levels. Adjust the gain on your mic and the volume of your voice to achieve a clear recording. It should not be too loud or too soft.

Where Can You Learn More?

- Udacity Website: https://www.udacity.com/how-it-works

Recommended Hardware

1. Wacom Bamboo Tablet
   MSRP: $41.95
   Method: KahnAcademy

2. Ravelli aptl2
   MSRP: $14.74
   Method: Coursera/Udacity

3. Cowboy Studio Lighting Kit
   MSRP: $59.99
   Method: Coursera/Udacity

4. iPad
   MSRP: $329 and up
   Method: MRUniversity

5. SDHC Memory Card
   MSRP: $35.00
   Method: Coursera/Udacity

6. AudioTechnica AT2020
   MSRP: $99
   Method: All Three

7. Logitech H390
   MSRP: $24.99
   Method: All Three

8. Canon Vixia HF R400
   MSRP: $299
   Method: Coursera/Udacity