

Blended Learning Essentials: Getting Started

Crib Sheet: Screen Casting



What is Screen Casting?

A **screencast** is a digital recording of computer screen output, also known as a *video screen capture*, often containing audio narration. There are a variety of tools you can use. The most comprehensive tool is [Camtasia](#) which you need to buy and download on your computer. If you use a Mac, Screenflow is very easy to use, relatively inexpensive and allows you to choose to record your screen, yourself, your voice, your computer's audio or any combination. For a free alternative, [QuickTime Player](#) comes installed on Mac computers, and can be used to make screen and audio recordings.

However, there are many free screen casting tools available. [Jing](#) is a free screen casting tool made by TechSmith who also make Camtasia. Jing can be easily downloaded onto your computer. Jing also allows you to upload your finished video to screencast.com, which will host the video for you and you can then link to or embed the video in Moodle. There are other screen casting tools that are free to use, and do not even require you to download any software before you start. For example, [screencast-o-matic](#) allows you to upload your video directly to YouTube. The interface of these screen casting tools is very similar, so once you have tried one you can transfer your skills to another.

There are also a range of mobile apps where presentations and screen casting options are combined to create video presentations for example [Adobe Voice and Adobe Slate](#) (for iPad) and [Explain Everything](#) (available on the App Store, Google Play, Windows Store, and Chrome Web Store). As an easy alternative, PowerPoint presentations can also now be exported as videos on a PC.

Where can I find out how to use Screen Casting?

A comprehensive guide to [screen casting tools and techniques can be found here](#). Most screen casting websites have excellent videos on their website, for example, <https://www.techsmith.com/tutorial.html>. Apple provides comprehensive guidance on [how to use Quick Time Player](#) on a Mac. Office provides guidance on [turning Powerpoint presentations into a video](#). If you have a Lynda.com account there are detailed training videos there as well as a general explanation of screen casting and it's potential.

How can Screen Casting be used in learning and teaching?

You can use screen casting to make audio visual tutorials - these can be particularly useful if you want to show your students how to do something using your computer (e.g. browsing databases in the e-library or accessing a complex website). You can also give students feedback on their assignments, by recording your comments as they watch you go through their essay on the screen. You can ask your students to create their own screen casts, as an alternative to a written assignment or a presentation in class. Students often appreciate this multi-media approach and some find it an easier way to access information than text. More and more multi-media resources are being made and uploaded to YouTube using these tools and are often being used in the

'Flipped classroom' as a starting point for students to watch at home and then come to the lesson or lecture to discuss or explore the complexities of the topic.

Within the Vocational Education and Training sector, possible uses of screen casting that could be adapted to your own educational context are:

- Creating flipped classroom resources, for example, in Teacher Training, a tutor creates a video explaining a diagram of Bloom's Taxonomy for learners to watch before coming to class, where they discuss the ideas with their peers;
- Creating a screen cast to explain a complex website or demonstrate a software application, e.g. creating graphs in Excel;
- Learners creating their own screen cast to explain a topic or concept visually to provide evidence for an assignment;
- Using screen casting to give audio-video feedback on learners' written (or visual) assignments;
- Recording an oral explanation of a marking scheme created as a Word document to enhance distance learners' understanding;
- Creating a audio-video guide to Moodle as a learner induction;
- Learners creating a screencast to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of software packages.

Using Screen Casting in the Vocational Education and Training Sector

Level 3 Visual Merchandising

The teacher or trainer has set an assignment for learners to create designs to realise visual merchandising ideas and submit them as digital artefacts in order to demonstrate the required competencies

- Learners create designs using digital mock up tools such as [Balsmiq](#) or taking digital photographs of their drawings.
- The tutor or trainer provides formative feedback to their learners by creating a screencast.
- The learners add the feedback and their reflections to their portfolio.

Level 3 Music Technology

The tutor or trainer has asked learners to submit a music project that requires them to create a music track in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) e.g. Cubase, Logic or Ableton:

- The learner submits their assignment online (if electronic submission system is set to accept large file sizes) or on CD if not.
- The tutor opens the project on their computer and gives constructive feedback by using a screen casting tool to record their screen and voice as they scroll through the project, playing sections and highlighting positive aspects and improvement strategies.

Level 2 IT Users

The teacher or trainer records a screen cast to demonstrate how to use a presentation software package:

- The teacher or trainer uploads the video to Moodle (or uploads to YouTube and then embeds the video in Moodle).
- The learners watch the tutorial before attending the workshop.
- At the workshop, the learners use the software to create a 3 minute presentation to showcase their setting (e.g. the college or training provider).