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Technology and Deaf Education

"Multimedia Lesson Design for the Design Novice"

Presenters:

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>>MODERATOR: Hello, everyone. I hope you're enjoying your second day of the conference. I'd like to introduce Simon Ting and our other presenter, Cathy Clarke.

They are some wonderful people to work with. I've developed -- they've helped me develop my Web design for classes and for the job search process, and they're wonderful. I couldn't live without them. Honestly. So, take it away!

>>CATHY CLARKE: Okay. Today we're going to talk about multimedia lesson design for the design novice. Basically, we want to show you ways that you can use the Web to create multimedia lessons and elements for your own courses or other. And Simon's going to start off today and then I'll do a brief demo after that.

>>SIMON TING: Okay. I'd like to begin this presentation, and then Cathy Clarke can take over after I'm done.

Educators of the deaf have had longstanding interest in using visual materials to teach deaf students. Some studies have also shown that multimedia lessons are effective in helping deaf students learn and retain lesson information. Multimedia lessons briefly are lessons that deliver information using a combination of media, text, graphics, video, audio and possibly animation.

Pictures and images are often combined into linear slide shows or interactive presentations. In a slide show, text, photos and images advance linearly, one at a time. That process can be automatic or under user control.

An interactive multimedia presentation may combine audio and video with images and text. You can apply animation or transition effects as well.

The presentation may proceed linearly, or permit branching. Multimedia in the classroom often means teacher-created PowerPoint presentations which usually progress linearly. Commercial courseware on CD ROM is usually more interactive. But developing interactive multimedia content, using software, is time consuming and expensive.

It is cheaper and faster to develop multimedia lessons in the form of dynamic web pages using HTML, CSS and Java script. We call this Web-based multimedia and that is what we want to discuss today.

Cathy and I have created scores of multimedia Web sites used to teach deaf students here at NTID. We use an online application called IdeaTools. This is a combined course management and multimedia authoring system.

Cathy and I have developed the system over several years. We recently added a prototype video conferencing system, which we will be talking about tomorrow morning in another presentation.

IdeaTools is what allows us to be productive in using the Web as a medium for creating and delivering multimedia

content.

I would like to show some examples from our past projects to illustrate what we mean by Web-based multimedia. Here you can see a lot of the applications that we've done using IdeaTools.

Here, instead of telling the students about writing, we're using a comic called Manga, and we'll click on the writing process.

So instead of a regular PowerPoint presentation, we use this. The idea is to help students to attract their attention, and also make it fun for them to read about a dry subject.

Another example -- this is an interactive slide show. You can decide to show slides one at a time or you can automate this process. This is all done using IdeaTools. And I'll show you another example of one of our latest projects.

Well, this computer is going a little bit slow, so but you see you can combine the video, a slide show. It's a whole interactive multimedia package.

What are you seeing here is Web pages created using HTML, CSS and Java script, but it's also possible to create sophisticated multimedia using just the Web 2.0 applications.

IdeaTools is right now accessible only to RIT faculty staff and students. But a year ago, Cathy and I started to notice a new kind of Web site developing known as Web 2.0. The most exciting thing about these Web sites is it allows you to create multimedia and to work with multimedia on the Web. It's no longer necessary to have expensive desktop software on your computer.

It's entirely possible using only free services to create multimedia.

So what is Web 2.0? Some early examples of Web 2.0 applications on the Web. These are some early examples. We have a site called Flickr and also YouTube. Flickr is for photo sharing. YouTube is for video sharing, as you probably know.

There are more than two billion images that have been uploaded to Flickr as of November 2007 as evidence of the popularity of these sites, and over three billion videos have been downloaded to YouTube. That was in the month of January 2008.

So Web 2.0 is very popular.

The benefits of Web 2.0, as you know with traditional desktop software, tend to be very expensive and there's a steep learning curve involved. It requires a lot of power from your computer. It's very process intensive, and whereas the Web 2.0 services are mostly free. They're very easy to use,

and they're browser based.  
They do everything on the Web browser, so it doesn't demand

a lot from your computer. Of course, there are disadvantages to the Web 2.0 sites as well. Most of the Web 2.0 sites are new, so we're not sure how long they will survive, if they'll be around forever. If they're having trouble making money for their owners, then the owners might shut down the site and they might disappear so you might be worried about that. You want to make sure that you're working with well-established companies if you're concerned about that, such as Yahoo or Google and Microsoft, for example.

Cathy and I are very excited about this new tool. We seem to be using Web 2.0 sites a lot. We're thinking about this might be an idea for IdeaTools. Many of the Web 2.0 Web sites allow other Web sites to access their content and utilize their functionality and services through what is known as an API, which is a way for software and different Web sites to work with each other.

As Web developers we hope to have a better understanding of the way these API's work and that will enable us to use Web 2.0 services in IdeaTools. That would allow NTID faculty to create multimedia content on external Web sites, Web 2.0 Web sites.

And that way, the students don't have to go to specific computers to catch up on the information, but they can access that from the Web. From any computer.

We're thinking this is a good way to leverage Web 2.0 services to reduce the resources that are needed to support the development of even more sophisticated multimedia for the classroom.

People are wanting more and more, so this is a way to liberate what's out there with what we have as internal resources. We want to convert some of our own internal capabilities into Web 2.0 services so that we can share our resources with others outside the Institute.

I'd like to address some copyright issues. Well, we'll talk about that if we have some time. That's the end of my introduction. For the rest of this presentation, Cathy will demonstrate some multimedia techniques using and utilizing Web 2.0 Web sites. She's going to show you how to organize and edit images online. Secondly, she'll show you how to create interactive multimedia presentations and thirdly she will show how to deliver the resulting multimedia to your students.

There are many Web sites that are offering Web 2.0 services. More are appearing every day. We have compiled a guide, a listing, of many of these services in several categories. This is just a small sample of some of our explorations, what we found out there. We hope what you see today will inspire you to explore these and other services, and you will find new way to use these services to create your own

multimedia for your lessons.

Okay. And now Cathy will begin her part of the presentation.

>>CATHY CLARKE: I'm going to start by talking about images on the Web, and I think you'll find that use Web services for functions that you typically need.

Okay. Using the Web, you can perform a lot of the same functions that you normally would need, like desktop software to complete, like, Photoshop and things like that. So I'm going to start out talking about Flickr, which is a site you can use to upload your images and share them on the Web. It's a great tool because it's offered by Yahoo, and it's, like Simon mentioned earlier, there's a huge community of people that are using Flickr.

So when you first go to Flickr, you want to create an account, which is a pretty simple process, and the next thing you need to do is start uploading photos. And you just click on that first link, and you browse to your files on your computer. I have a couple that I'm just going to add. You can add tags to the entire batch, which just helps other people search for your images. It's a good way to identify things, so I'll add a couple of tags.

And then you can choose your privacy settings. You can keep these public or you can make them private so that you are the only one who can see them. And then you upload.

Now, I already added some tags, but if I wanted to add more, I could do that here. You can also edit the titles of your images. You can add a description, and you can add individual tags to each image. You can also add your photos to a photo set, which is basically just like a group of photos. It's an easy way to organize things.

And when you're done, you click Save.

So then you'll see a page listing all the images that you've uploaded into your account.

If you click on an image, it enlarges it, and you'll see that people can come here and look at it and add comments if they want. But another nice feature of Flickr is that you can add a note to an image, which basically lets you add a

comment to a specific area of a photo, which could be useful if you wanted to critique a photograph or some other piece of graphics that someone uploaded. So you can make the box any size you want, and then type in your comment. And save it.

So now when people go there, they'll see a box around your image, and they know if they mouse over, they can see the comment. And you can add as many as you want.

Now, beyond just -- oh, sorry!

Beyond just adding your image to the Web and uploading it there, you may want to edit your image. And instead of having to download the image again to your computer and then

go ahead and edit it in something like Photo Shop, then you can just -- now you can just use services on the Web to do this for you.

So in Flickr, if you click Edit Photo, it takes you to another site called Picnik, and Picnik is a really nice, easy to use site for doing simple image editing, and really you can do all the basic things that you need to do to edit your photos, like rotating, crop, resize, all those basic, simple kind of things. And you can do it right on the Web. I'm going to click on exposure, and I'm going to just adjust the color levels in this image a little bit to make it a little more contrast. And Picnik also has auto fix, which automatically processes your images and decides what it thinks should be the best, but you can have your own controls if you want.

Click Okay, and that's it. If you had colors, you can adjust those, and if you had red eye in an image, it lets you fix that.

If you click on the Create tab, it gives you some more features like changing the colors or adding blur. What I want to show you is adding text. And you can just pick from a punch of fonts that they already have on their Web site. You can type in text and then click Add, and it adds your text.

And now you can resize, move it around. You could rotate it if you wanted. You can change the colors, the opacity and the size. But I'm going to leave it like this, and then I'm going to go to shapes. And shapes are basically different clip art shapes that you can add. And I'm going to scroll down and just add a simple rounded box, and I'm going to put that behind the text.

So I'll resize it and then right click and send it backwards. Now it's behind the text.

And then I'm going to adjust the color and change the opacity.

And other things that you can do are touch-ups like whitening, you can add frames around the image, or there's some advanced controls like curves and levels, which Photoshop users are probably familiar with, and when you're done, you just click Save, and this actually creates a copy of the image in Flickr, so it doesn't change the original. So if you want to change the title or any of the information, you can.

Click Save. And now, your image is automatically in Flickr. You don't have to upload again, and people can see it right away.

>>AUDIENCE MEMBER: One question. What is the difference between Flickr and --

>>CATHY CLARKE: Well, Flickr is just a place to store your photos. But in Photoshop, you're scoring them on your own

computer. So Flickr is sharing them on the Web so anyone can access them.

And speaking of Photoshop, let me switch back to my PowerPoint. Photoshop also has an online service that's similar, it's called Photoshop Express. It's just an alternative to a site like Picnik, so there are some other options out there.

Next thing I'm going to talk about is creating multimedia presentations so this is the case where you'd want to take images and maybe some videos and text, audio, things like that, and combine them into an online presentation.

So I have some various sites here. Flickr automatically, if you have a group of photos, people can play those as a slide show. There's no extra work involved in that.

VCASMO is a site that lets you create some unique presentations.

Switch over and show you that. This is an example of a VCASMO presentation. It's not one I created, but it's available on the site. You can see in the top left corner there's a video and in this area here sort of like a PowerPoint slide, and down in the bottom corner and here are just different ways to view the presentation. You can play and you can click on a thumbnail of a slide, and it will jump to that point in the presentation, and all of these things you put together on the Web site. So you create your timing and things like that.

So that's one example of a presentation service.

This site actually is a plug-in if you use Picasa, which is

another photo-sharing site, which is developed by Google. And Picasa lets you upload your images similar to Flickr. This is a plug-in that someone else developed for Picasa that you can apply to your images. So instead of just having a slide show, it makes it like it's a book, and you flip the pages through your images. So there's really no coding involved in any of this. This is just something that you can add to your own images. Next site I'll show you is one where we actually developed our own sample presentation, and this site is called scrapblog, and it's really originally made so that you could create like a scrapbook, but like online. So a lot of people use it to share their family photos and things like that. But you can also use it to create some really unique presentations and you can add video and audio and images to these as well. So this is just a sample that we created, and you can step through the pages or you can play it like a slide show. And I'll create a new scrapblog to show you -- let me switch my screen so you can see it. So when you create a new scrapblog, you can choose to start from the beginning, or you can start with a theme. I'll

quickly just choose a theme. So a lot of people have developed things that you can use on your own. I'll just pick one and use it.

Working with this is a lot like working with Picnik. You can select your images. You can bring your images in from Flickr if you have them. You can select creme, rotate, apply -- change the background on the page, add text. It also has shapes and it has stickers, which is, again, like clip art where you can just click something, drag it on to a page, and you can resize it if you choose. You can also add videos that play right in the page just like if they were an image, and you can rotate those and resize them. And you can add frames to images if you choose.

So that's a -- I'll shorten up my demo, but it's a unique way to create a presentation online.

So finally, I'll show you, talk a little bit about how you can bring all this together and put it in one place.

So a lot of people like to create blogs, and it's a great way to take all these different elements you've created in other places and put it in one location so that students or users can always check that one spot for new content.

So we created a sample blog on Word Press. And Word Press is a very popular blog service. It's free to use and you



can choose from different themes when you create your new blogs. Some of them really let you customize images and colors that you use.

And then on the side, you can have a side bar with all kinds of plug-ins and widgets that you can choose from and it's a lot of fun.

And this blog right now just has a couple of posts. This one is a link to the scrapblog that I just showed you. This second one is just a simple article with some images that I imported from Flickr. And right now, I'm going to create a new post, and I'm going to embed a YouTube video right in this, so this is a good way to combine all these things. So you click New Post. Type in your title. And down here you can add some text.

And then I'm going to go to YouTube, and I have a video that I want to use. I'm going to -- this area over here that says embed, I'm just going to copy all that code, go back to my blog and paste it. And you can preview, if you want, before you post it, but I'm just going to go ahead and publish this.

So now your video is embedded right in your blog, so nobody has to go to YouTube and different places. It's all in one location.

So now when people come to your site, they can add comments directly to your blog.

And that's it for my demo. So we just want to remind you that this is just a small sampling of all the services out

there. So check out the guide that we gave you, and hopefully you can find something that will work for you.

>>SIMON TING: Also, tomorrow we're making another presentation on video conferencing. So live stream media for interactions and sharing and cooperating working on the Web. If time permits, we'll be happy to see you again. Thank you all for coming today.

[Applause]

>>MODERATOR: Does anyone have any questions?

>>AUDIENCE MEMBER: When you have your own Web page, can you create things and then post it on your own Web page?

>>CATHY CLARKE: Sure. All of these sites will -- once you create something, they'll give you the code to embed it into any Web page. Not just a blog, but any page you have, yeah. Yes?

>>AUDIENCE MEMBER: When I want to upload a picture, is there a way to automatically include the file details such as the file name or the date -- the day the picture was

taken?

>>CATHY CLARKE: When you upload an image to Flickr, it automatically uses the file name and makes that the title, and I think if there are other details, it may also include those. But I'm not completely sure. But it definitely will include your file name as the title of the image.

>>AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is there any recommendations for what's the best service to use? I know there's a lot of videos and movie sites out there. Do you have recommendations for the best?

>>CATHY CLARKE: As far as videos go, YouTube is a really popular site, so if that works for you, that's a great site to use. I mean, there's tons of video sites, but usually if you go with something that's developed by Yahoo or Google or Microsoft, some company that you feel will probably be around for a while, that might be your best bet as far as a Web service. Yes?

>>AUDIENCE MEMBER: YouTube is also diversified. There's now a section called teachertube that's an educational focus.

>>MODERATOR: We need your feedback. Please fill out the survey forms. I don't have enough copies, paper, but you can also go online and fill out the evaluation for this workshop. Thank you. I'll pass out what I do