

Title of Session: WebTools - Camtasia

Moderator: Pam Berger

Guest Speaker: Mary Thompson

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Room: After School Online

PamB: Welcome Everyone

MaryFT: Pam, would you like to give everyone a summary of last month's session? or shall I?

PamB: Well first let's all introduce ourselves.

MaryFT: I'm Mary Thompson, an instructor at University of Houston, and an avid user of Camtasia for the classroom

PamB: I'm a library/educational technology from New York

PamB: I'm a novice user and totally sold on it!

KennethO: I'm involved with schools and robotics

RamiaF: Hello my name is Ramia . I am a student at UH , preservice teacher math 4-8

ElizabetKI: I am a preservice teacher at U of H - Hi Mary!

PamB: How about every one else?

JanetSA: I'm an Instructional Technologist for a K-12 District in Mississippi

MonicaPe: My name is Monica, and I am a student teacher at DGF in Dilworth, Minnesota

ElizabetKI: Robotics sounds cool. Do you watch that show where they make those robots out of scrap?

KennethO: I work in Fargo, ND

KennethO: Not for a long time now - no time

MaryFT: Hello everyone and welcome

MaryFT: Last month, we started a discussion in WebTools about a product called Camtasia

PamB: Mary is our guest speaker tonight

KennethO: Welcome Mary

MaryFT: Basically, Camtasia is a screen capture video tool that allows you to create real time instructions about computers for your students

YvonnePH: That sounds very cool

MaryFT: The best thing about Camtasia, though, from the teacher's point of view, is its ease of use

MaryFT: I played with it for a few minutes and was able to pick up all I needed to create usable videos for my students

MonicaPe: can it be implemented in many different subject areas?

MaryFT: Later, I was able to go back and learn how to add fancy stuff

MaryFT: Monica, that's what I think we need to focus on tonight...generating ideas for how Camtasia videos could be used to support instruction across many content areas and grade levels

MaryFT: First, I'm going to give you all a link to last month's transcript so that you can read it at your leisure: <http://ti2data.sri.com/transcripts/mst/2005/20050210Webtools.pdf>

MaryFT: the transcript includes links to download a thirty-day free trial of the software so that you too can get hooked!

MaryFT: Since I think most of you are new tonight, how about spending a few minutes looking at some of the examples I've created for use in my classes?

KennethO: great

YvonnePH: sounds good

RamiaF: sounds great

JanetSA: Yaaay

MaryFT: Take about 5-7 minutes to visit the following page: <http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3113/camtasia.htm> and then come back and share your impressions of the software

StephanGst3 joined the room.

YvonnePH looking now

PamB: hi Stephanie

PamB: You found us!

PamB: welcome

StephanGst3: Yeah, whew...got it !! huffing and puffing!

PamB: everyone is looking at this page <http://coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3113/camtasia.htm>

StephanGst3: thanks

YvonnePH: you have a good recordable voice

MaryFT smiles

PamB: Mary, the videos worked great on my computer but when I tried to put them on my website to share it didn't work.

MaryFT: What format did you choose for exporting?

PamB: sometimes they took forever to load and Windows media one shows up with totally black screen.

PamB: I tried flash, pack and go, windows media

MaryFT: I normally choose to export in the Flash .fla format...small size and quick download time

MaryFT: Check the size of the finished Flash file...the more screen changes you have in your show...the larger it will be and you may have to do some editing

PamB: do you post the .swf or .html files to your website?

MaryFT: checking to make sure I give you the correct answer

MaryFT: I upload 4 files (.swf, .html, config.xml, and controller.swf)

MaryFT: I send the link to the .html page but you could have your students view the .swf by itself

ElizabetKI: So the software is easy to use? Is there a lot of reading required for this?

PamB: no, I created a movie by just viewing Mary's one on Camtasia

MaryFT: Almost none Elizabeth...the necessary steps are listed on the left hand side of the program and you just follow them

ElizabetKI: that is swell

PamB: the hardest part is to decide what to say

MaryFT: The best thing is that you can record and create your movies naturally, there's no extra clicking or preparation...just start and stop when you're done

YvonnePH: Very cool

MaryFT: Of course, you can then edit out any verbal flubs later

MaryFT: I have lots of those so I know!

ElizabetKI: so is this sort of like the Microsoft Photo Story 3?

MaryFT: One hint...when I make a verbal flub I stop for a minute and then start over...this gives me a "silence marker" that I can use for editing

MaryFT: In some ways Elizabeth...ease of use is comparable

MaryFT: BUT you've seen what I do with Camtasia for my classes...which are primarily technology-oriented

MaryFT: but I don't think Camtasia's uses should be limited to teaching only technology functions...

KennethO: I think that it can be used in broad area

RamiaF: All looks good

MaryFT: to return to Monica's question...can you think of ways that you could use Camtasia to support other content areas...what are those ways...let's brainstorm a little

MonicaPe: Do you think this would be a helpful, additional resource for students with special needs?

MaryFT: Absolutely...students can review your instructions multiple times

ElizabetKI: Maybe you can use it when a kid is absent from school to give him a brief overview of what he missed the day before?

MaryFT: they have the ability to stop, rewind, and watch again...which they can't do when you are lecturing to the whole class

MaryFT: Great idea Elizabeth

ElizabetKI: Thanks

YvonnePH: I plan on using PPT with problem solving questions for Math

MaryFT: be careful though...keep in mind that audio should be accompanied with a transcript for hearing impaired students

MonicaPe: may I ask how you are doing this Yvonne?

YvonnePH: I could add the voice over for those students that were absent or need a little extra help

MaryFT: I provide a transcript for all of my videos that I use

YvonnePH: I have not started this Monica, I was just brainstorming some ideas for the future

MaryFT: I find that many students appreciate being able to print out the transcript and take notes on the presentations...it's something to hold in their hands

PamB: Mary,

ElizabetKI: That is a good idea, but doesn't this take up time?

RamiaF: sounds like a great idea Yvonne

MonicaPe: I see, I am always looking for ideas because I am only just starting to teach, so it's nice to get a jump start

KennethO: I do the printouts when I use powerpoint so students can take notes

PamB: how do you create the transcript?

MaryFT: Yvonne and Monica...the newest upgrade to Camtasia allows it to integrate into the PowerPoint toolbar which would make that much easier

MaryFT: ah...the rub...I currently listen to my videos and hand-type my transcripts

StephanGst3: wow

MaryFT: not the most efficient way but I don't have a transcription tool yet

ElizabetKI: I am sure there is a software problem that could type your voice.

ElizabetKI: ah..there ya go a transcription tool

KennethO: dragon Naturally speaking

MaryFT: Kenneth...have you had good luck with running sound files through Dragon?

KennethO: Yes, I use a digital recorder and plug it in - has worked fairly well

MaryFT: That's the most obvious tool, I agree...

MaryFT: Okay...so I have an idea for technology integration in the elementary classroom

ElizabetKI: how much does the dragon cost?

MaryFT: I'm working with a teacher who wants to use technology but doesn't have time to provide the instruction or one-to-one support that it seems to need

KennethO: dragon professional is like 795 but the personal addition is much cheaper

YvonnePH: When I was checking out how to get the program, it says something about Snagit.....do we need that as well?

Jeff2Gst4: Snagit is great... screen capture.

MaryFT: Yvonne, Snagit is also created by TechSmith, the company that created Camtasia, but you don't need it to make Camtasia vids

PamB listens for Mary's idea

KennethO: Elizabeth here is the dragon link
<http://www.scansoft.com/naturallyspeaking/professional/>

MaryFT: Anyway, so the teacher and I are going to create some technology projects that relate to her content

MaryFT: and we're going to create Camtasia vids that show the students the steps they need to use to create their own versions

MaryFT: we'll have finished examples and an evaluation tool at the Computer Center

MaryFT: the students can then go to the center, watch the Camtasia video, and complete the technology activity

MaryFT: and look at the examples and other students' work for inspiration

MaryFT: What do you all think?

KennethO: Mary - good idea

PamB: what grade levels were you thinking?

MaryFT: this would be in 3rd grade

RamiaF: Sounds like a good ideas

ElizabetKI: I like the examples

JanetSA: very helpful to see vid, hear audio, and be able to replay all or portions

PamB: could it work for younger students?

MonicaPe: I think this software could be extremely useful, but one would have to plan out how they would do this for the classroom setting

ElizabetKI: I need to visualize stuff so I know the students like that, too

MaryFT: depending upon the complexity of the project

MaryFT: I think more supports could be included in the Camtasia video to allow younger students to follow along

PamB: It sounds like a great idea, especially if you develop some print sheets to support them

PamB: maybe callouts?

MaryFT: I agree Monica...careful planning is necessary...

MaryFT: but that's true for using any new approach (or even some old ones) in a classroom setting

PamB: The ability to play it over again is key

MaryFT: agreed...so a teacher would have to make sure that all students knew how to use the play, pause, and rewind controller

PamB: I'm working with a school librarian who thinking of setting up centers next year in the library. This would be a great tool

ElizabetKI: I like the centers idea

MaryFT: For me, it really helped me to standardize my instruction. I was teaching 6 sections of the same content and sometimes I would forget to say something or give an example

MaryFT: this way, I know that all of my students are receiving the same base instruction

StephanGst3: Does anyone know of a Mac product which is similar?

MaryFT: So, are you all ready to download and try it out for 30 days?

KennethO: Mary - I bought it again tonight

PamB: Elementary students like the independence centers give them and thei tool can really help with providing good instruction.

ElizabetKI: If we download it to a USB drive, we can keep it for more than 30 days, right? Or no, is that bad?

MaryFT: someone mentioned Ensharpen for Macs last month

StephanGst3: thanks

JanetSA: Already downloaded. I know our district will buy a few licenses to start and then more as fire spreads

MaryFT: Technically bad Elizabeth

PamB: I purchased it after using it for a few days

ElizabetKI: okay

RamiaF: I'm ready to download

PamB: I think Mary should get a commission on all these sales!

MaryFT grins

KennethO: Educational pricing is pretty good on the product

YvonnePH: me too

MaryFT: I'm just happy to share

KennethO: glad for that

PamB: yes, very good,

MaryFT: Yes it is Kenneth...another great thing about it

MaryFT: I like companies that work with educators and students...I feel like supporting them more readily

KennethO: I agree

MaryFT: I am now investigating another TechSmith product called Morae

PamB nods

PamB: tell us about it

JanetSA: And Tech Smith is very friendly to talk with. We use SnagIt

ElizabetKI: how do you find out about all these software programs?

JanetSA: Yes, tell us about Morae

MaryFT: it's a tool that allows web designers and instructional designers to track usability

MaryFT: You can video and audiotape and record user decisions as they navigate your website (volunteers, of course) and track where they are having difficulties

PamB: does it have a free trial offer like Camtasia?

MaryFT: It's more expensive but I see it as a useful tool since I develop a number of sites for students and I'd like to know what they're experiencing

MaryFT: Nope...I think because it's a server-based system - more components

SusanR: For Windows only, Mary?

MaryFT: What I like about Camtasia (getting back to the original topic) is that you can PLAY with it...it's genuinely fun to use

YvonnePH: oh no....that means we can play and look up and it will be hours later....LOL

PamB: it has a lot of application for both school and public libraries relying on websites to reach out to their users

ElizabetKI: I can't wait to start messing around with it!

MaryFT: Susan...I don't think Morae has a Mac version

PamB: Mary thanks so much for introducing us to Camtasia and for leading these two sessions. I learned a lot.

MaryFT: My pleasure!

YvonnePH: yes, thank you

ElizabetKI: Thank you!

KennethO: thank you

RamiaF: Thank you

PamB listens to the round of applause for Mary

MaryFT: You're so welcome...I really love this stuff and I enjoy having the opportunity to talk about it

MonicaPe: thanks for the insight into programs available

JanetSA: You've re-kindled my interest in this product. Thanks

SusanR: Our school district is Windows based...will mention it to our Tech department

ElizabetKI: thanks

PamB: Thanks for coming, everyone. Join us next month on April 14 at 7:00pm

PamB: I don't know yet, have any ideas?

MaryFT: Digital storytelling is very popular around here these days

MaryFT: Lots of content applications for it

MaryFT: and the tool, PhotoStory 3, is free from Microsoft

PamB: have you used it?

MaryFT: I made my wedding video with it

MaryFT blushes

PamB: WOW!

MaryFT: It allows you to make videos that have a movie feel without needing a video camera - still image video

PamB: I just got a link in my email today regarding digital storytelling...wait a minute.

PamB: I found it. It's from Technology and Learning Magazine. I'll forward it to you.

StephanGst3: No way, I felt like a backseat driver as it was, but love the e idea of digital storytelling.

MaryFT: Thanks Pam

MaryFT: the still image functionality makes it much more accessible to classrooms and schools that can't afford video cameras

MaryFT: digital cameras work but scanning existing pics can too

PamB: have you seen the ICDL website?

PamB: Internationasl Children's Digital Libarary

MaryFT: All the children's books online?

PamB: <http://www.icdlbooks.org>

PamB: Their goal is 10,000 books but they are up to 576 or so.

MaryFT: Wonderful!

PamB: I'm on the Advisory Board...it's on of my favorite projects.

MaryFT: How about StoryLine Online: <http://www.bookpals.net/storyline/index.html>

PamB: kids are helping to design it

MaryFT: videos of SAG actors reading children's books

PamB: yes, that one is great.

MaryFT: I love anything created with kids involved

PamB: well, I have to go. It was really fun talking to you.

PamB: Are you interested in doing something with digital storytelling with me for the next session?

MaryFT: me 2...I've had a great time as a guest host...please let me know...

MaryFT: ...I was just about to offer!

PamB laughs

MaryFT: sounds like a great idea...I'd love to!

PamB: OK I'll be touch by email and maybe we can meet in TI and plan

MaryFT: Excellent...I'm looking forward to it

PamB: goodnight