

Title of Session: Next Vista - How to Make a Simple How-to Video

Moderator: Rushton Hurley

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Room: Next Vista for Learning Group

RushtonH: Hi Brandi - welcome!

BrandiSa: hello!

RushtonH: Brandi, where are you now?

BrandiSa: It says I'm in NextVista_Grp

BrandiSa: is that what you mean?

BJB2 smiles...in real life, Brandi

RushtonH: Nope - I'm in California - how about you?

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania

BrandiSa: oh sorry...TEXAS!!

RushtonH left the room (signed off).

BJB2: oh, bummer!

BJB2: like Rushton said, we'll talk among ourselves.

BJB2: Have you participated in any other Tapped In discussions, Brandi?

BrandiSa: do you get on these often?

BrandiSa: not really..one of my professor's has her own Tapped In office

BrandiSa: but besides that I haven't really explored it much

BJB2: I do and Jeff does. Rushton leads a discussion once a month

JeffC: who's your prof?

BrandiSa: Danika Brown

JeffC: cool

BJB2: oh, cool. Give Danika a hug from BJ

BrandiSa: okay..

BJB2: so you're interested in learning how to make a how to video? Or did you have another interest in participating in this discussion?

BrandiSa: so how do these chat rooms work

BrandiSa: yes that's why I logged in

BJB2: Jeff and I pretend we know something until Rushton gets back ;-)

BrandiSa: nice

BJB2 . o O (we sometimes do a comedy routine or I get out my tap shoes)

BrandiSa: have you guys done this before?

BrandiSa: lol

BJB2: we were at the discussion last month and can give you a few pointers

BJB2: Jeff, anything to add?

BJB2 . o O (Jeff likes to multitask and sometimes he needs a gentle poke)

BJB2 . o O (ADHD guy ;-))

BrandiSa: lol

BrandiSa: I have to write a brief essay as to my experience with one of these online chatrooms

BrandiSa: plus I thought it would be neat to learn how to make a video

BrandiSa: are there any other ones going on right now?

BJB2: we're usually pretty informal, Brandi...you know how important it is to engage kids and for them to have fun while learning...

BJB2: then same is true for teachers

BJB2: there is one other discussion taking place right now, Brandi

BrandiSa: I'm wondering if I should go to that one

BJB2: up to you, but I'd wait for Rushton for a few more minutes

BrandiSa: what is it called

BJB2: . o O (especially since he's probably frantically trying to get back)

BrandiSa: are you guys going to stay in this room?

BrandiSa: true

BJB2: the other one is called Teaching Teachers

BrandiSa: hmm...doesn't sound as interesting as this one

BJB2: depends on whether you teach teachers ;-)

BrandiSa: I'm just afraid I won't have much to write about...which is totally my fault for waiting till the last minute

BrandiSa: I still have awhile until I become one myself actually..so no

BJB2: what do you hope to teach, Brandi?

BrandiSa: elementary level

BrandiSa: perhaps 2nd grade

BJB2: nice age.

BJB2: Rushton is in reception...hopefully he'll be here soon

BrandiSa: I sure hope so

BJB2: Just relax, Brandi...we'll give you lots to talk about

JeffC: yup

BrandiSa: thanks :)

JeffC: join the K to 3+ group here at some point... and attend Susan's session.

RushtonH joined the room.

BJB2 cheers

JeffC: next one is on the 9th at 5p.m. Pacific.

BrandiSa: thanks..will do

RushtonH: We'll see how long it lasts - argh!

StephaniM joined the room.

RushtonH: Brandi, I didn't catch where you are at the moment.

RushtonH: Hi Stephanie!

BrandiSa: Texas

BJB2: Brandi, the purpose of the events in Tapped In is to sustain Professional Development even after you have your teaching credentials

StephaniM: sorry I am late as usual

BJB2: no problem, Stephanie...we're running a little late

RushtonH: Y'all ready to start?

BrandiSa: yup

RushtonH: I'm Rushton Hurley, and I teach Japanese at Wilcox High School in Santa Clara, California. I also run the nonprofit NextVista.org, which is trying to save the world from ignorance, one cool, amateur, educational video at a time.

RushtonH: I juggle nonprofessionally, pet cats whenever they wish, and play too much Spider Solitaire. I also married a wonderful woman who would roll her eyes if she were here, but that may be more info than you need.

StephaniM: my major question of the night is how do you down load a movie from YouTube?

RushtonH: By the way, if the connection dies again, I think I have a possible solution. Hopefully we won't need it.

JeffC thinks Rushton should look into cat juggling.

BJB2 groans

BrandiSa: lol

RushtonH: Stephanie, you can do that at Zamzar.com

BJB2 doesn't think that cats can juggle

StephaniM: great, so you have to pay?

JeffC: I have a program that can download youtube videos (looks around on his harddrive for it).

RushtonH: nope - it's free

StephaniM: good info thanks

RushtonH: I should mention that we're 'broadcasting' today from beautiful Monterey, California, where the CLMS/CLHS Technology conference is about to get started. If you're curious, you can learn more about the conference at:

<http://clms.net/conferences/tech.htm>

StephaniM: Initials stand for...

BrandiSa: hmm..so you can record a video and upload it on that website you mentioned?

RushtonH: I'm assuming my connection will continue to be happy, but just in case it turns out we have a totally lame wireless setup here, and I disappear not to return, you can contact me for info at rh@nextvista.org.

RushtonH: BJ, correct me if I have any of this wrong: whenever you get a link in Tapped In, you can follow it by pressing CTRL and clicking. Is that just a PC thing, or do Macs work the same way?

BJB2: it's a pc thing

JeffC: Best thing for regulars Rushton is to accept popups from Tapped In with your browser.

RushtonH: Okay, let's get started!

RushtonH: Last month I showed how to use a computer's screen shot function to get pictures of parts of a screen, add arrows and circles in Paint, and bring it together into a video with voice-over in Photo Story. I finished by saying there is another free way about this, and that's what we'll look at today.

RushtonH: The software is a free product from Techsmith called Jing. It's much easier than doing everything by hand, though there are some limitations.

JeffC: found it... miro... <http://www.getmiro.com/>

RushtonH: As a reminder about how Tapped In works, you can get a transcript for everything we do today. I believe that if you're a member you get it sent to the e-mail address TI has in your info, and if you're a guest, just e-mail me at the address above (rh@nextvista.org) and I can send it to you.

RushtonH: From time to time, I'll ask a question, and it's best for everyone if we can get quick responses, even if they're short ('yes', 'no', etc.). If I send you out to see a picture or video, I'll ask that people type "I'm back" or similar once done, and that will help me know when to restart.

RushtonH: Back to Jing! To get the software, go to <http://jingproject.com/> and download the version you need (Mac or PC). There is also a video tour, a blog, and a FAQ you can access from this page.

RushtonH: Once installed, you'll see a little sun-like thing appear in the upper middle of your screen. Take a look at my desktop and note the yellow semicircle at the top to the left of the recycle bin: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-01.jpg>

RushtonH: Given the picture on my desktop, you would be forgiven for not noticing it. A closer look: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-02.jpg>

RushtonH: How's everyone so far?

BrandiSa: whoa...totally lost sorry

BrandiSa: do we got to jingproject.com first

StephaniM: good

RushtonH: Follow the links to the pictures, so you can see how the program works. I don't expect you to do this right now.

RushtonH: I'm guessing that if you're interested, you'll download it later.

RushtonH: How does that sound?

BrandiSa: good

BJB2 . o O (remember that the urls will all be in your transcript)

RushtonH: Jing loads with startup, and can be moved to other places, but if the presence of a lightbulb-ish doodad on your screen bothers you, you can close it down from the system tray or set the preferences so it doesn't load at all.

RushtonH: Moving your mouse pointer over this doodad prompts three options:
<http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-03.jpg>

RushtonH: The one on the right is the preferences, which provides help and startup options. The middle one shows you the history, which are the most recent captures (videos) you've done.

RushtonH: The one on the left is the one I use for screen capture stuff. <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-04.jpg>

RushtonH: How are we doing?

StephaniM: ok

BrandiSa: Are we supposed to have this opened?

RushtonH: Brandi, are you able to open the links that I'm putting in the text? If so, you're doing everything you need.

JeffC has had Jing for a while and likes moving the little sun around his screen (when he's bored... which is quite often).

BJB2: Brandi, did you detach your chat...that makes it easier to follow the rapidly scrolling text

BJB2 . o O (go to Actions in the top right of the chat and select DETACH)

BrandiSa: thanks bj

BJB2: are you able to open the urls Rushton is sharing?

RushtonH: Try clicking on one of the links (CTRL-click) to see if you can get the pictures I'm talking about.

RushtonH: When I say 'screen capture', by the way, I'm talking about recording what is happening on my screen in order to help the viewer understand (typically) how to do something on the computer. Hence the 'how-to' in our session title.

RushtonH: The left one, when you click it, provides a set of crosshairs you can use to select the portion of the screen you want to record. It will snap to the window or portion of the window you move it to, which is useful, but takes some getting used to. Here's a picture: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-05.jpg>

RushtonH: Please let me know if you can see the picture okay.

BrandiSa: I clicked on one and it showed me a small part of what looks like a sun

BrandiSa: it isn't a complete picture though

RushtonH: That's okay - I'm focusing in on certain parts of the screen.

BrandiSa: oh ok

RushtonH: Have you seen a video before that shows how something is happening on a screen? That's the 'screen capture' video I'm talking about.

StephaniM: I have several photos: leaf pile snow turtle...

RushtonH: Cool.

RushtonH: You'll see that the screen is gray except for the window I've selected, which is the Windows Movie Maker window. I moved the cursor to the blue in the upper left and it selected the whole window. Click and drag to extend beyond what it guesses (I did this for the demo you'll see). Also note that it will tell you in the upper left of the selected area how large the selected window is, in pixels.

RushtonH: Not that you'd do this now; the idea is to get a sense of how this program works.

RushtonH: Stephanie, have you ever used any screen capture software?

StephaniM: just print screen on the keyboard

RushtonH: Shall I continue? I can answer any questions beforehand if you wish.

RushtonH: I've made a (very) simple tutorial about Windows Movie Maker for this session, so when I show you the final product later, those of you who have no experience with Movie Maker might learn something cool!

RushtonH: Once you've selected an area, you'll get a set of tools in the lower left:

<http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-06.jpg>

RushtonH: The one on the left is a fancy screen shot tool to get a picture of the selected portion of the screen. Click this, and you then get some more tools you can use to highlight parts of the picture, put arrows or text in, or put a rectangle on some part of the picture. Good screen shot stuff, this!

RushtonH: After you mark it up however you want, you can save the picture to your drive (.png file), or upload it to screencast.com. If .png files aren't your bag, you can convert it to a .jpg using a free online tool (<http://zamzar.com>) or the free graphics program I showed last time (free download from <http://irfanview.com>).

RushtonH: The second button you see after selecting part of the screen is the video button. This is the one we'll concentrate on, but quickly, the other two are a 'redo' button (a start-over, giving you the selection crosshairs again) and a 'cancel' button (when you want to toss this attempt completely - this gets you out of Jing).

RushtonH: Clicking the video button will initially make all the Jing stuff disappear - don't panic. The computer is just setting up to do the video record. After a few moments, it will start a three-second countdown to let you know you're about to launch! Take a look: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-07.jpg>

RushtonH: The "Mic on" part is important, of course. Without a working microphone (either built in to your laptop or connected to your computer), you obviously can't record your voice. You can create a demo without adding your own sound, but that's not usually the point.

RushtonH: While it's recording, it'll give you time info at the bottom, as well as buttons for stopping pausing, muting, restarting, or canceling: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-08.jpg>

RushtonH: The time info is either how much time has elapsed or how much time remains, and it will specify that, as in the picture I showed you. You are only able to do up to five-minute pieces at a time with this free product, by the way. For anything longer, they want you to buy the full version (\$299 from the techsmith.com site - a bit steep, I'm thinking). Of course, if you get into using the tool, it might be worth it if what you are creating is really helpful to your work.

RushtonH: Once you finish (by clicking the stop button), you'll get a screen where you can preview your video: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-09.jpg>

RushtonH: This provides another set of buttons: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Jing-10.jpg>

RushtonH: If you don't like what you did, click the cancel button (the circled 'x') in the lower left and start over.

RushtonH: If you do like it, one option is to upload it to Screencast.com. Here's the info from their FAQ:

RushtonH: "Screencast.com is TechSmith's media hosting solution that Jing uses to securely host your content. It's perfect for the kind of images and videos you'll want to make with Jing. We use Screencast.com to ensure everyone has access to a free, secure hosting option that enables the fastest visual communication possible. We include a complimentary Screencast.com account with 2 GB of storage and 2 GB of transfer bandwidth per month. You can upload or save your content in lots of other places too!"

RushtonH: Personally, I find the use of "solution" as a synonym for "product" or "service" a bit annoying. It seems to imply I have a problem that needs a solution, when in fact the problem is with the vendor for not having made a sale yet. But I digress.

RushtonH: Still, it's nice to have a place to put your videos, and 2GB isn't bad. The finished piece I'm about to show you ended up being between 10MB and 11MB, which is good for a five-minute video. As I haven't used the service, though, I'll leave that to you to explore.

RushtonH: My choice (getting back to the finishing options) has been the save button (the one with the floppy disc - remember those?). What you'll get when you save is a flash file (.swf). Assuming you have some reasonably recent version of Flash installed, you should then be able to play the file in your browser. I do so by right-clicking the file and choosing "Open with" and then choosing Firefox (my BBF - Best Browser Forever, or at least until a new BBF comes along).

RushtonH: I'm about to show you the resulting video, but I want to highlight a weakness of software like this before doing so.

RushtonH: The video I made is about using Windows Movie Maker, which includes a video playing in the WMM preview window on occasion. Because screen capture, at least at this level, is not capturing every single moment, it can't capture a video playing. You'll notice this in the video: http://nextvista.org/TI/WMM_Intro.swf

RushtonH: Please type 'back' once you've finished watching the video.

JeffC: still loading

RushtonH: As in, you can't see it at all?

JeffC: well... I have a screenshot but no video yet.

RushtonH: Did you click the play button in the middle?

BJB2: Brandi, did you get the video?

BrandiSa: yes I'm viewing it

BJB2: great. Thanks

BrandiSa: it's really neat!

BrandiSa: I've never used this before

RushtonH: For those of you curious about how the video I was making in Movie Maker turned out, you can watch all twenty or so seconds of it at: <http://nextvista.org/TI/Winter.wmv>

RushtonH: So there you go!

RushtonH: What questions do you have?

RushtonH: (Sorry for all the challenges!)

BrandiSa: So the main link for the movie maker was which one?

StephaniM: sorry had a phone call, just trying to open the last link

RushtonH: The video is at <http://nextvista.org/TL/Winter.wmv>

RushtonH: Is that what you were curious about?

RushtonH: Welcome back, Stephanie!

StephaniM: Rushton, how do movie maker and premiere compare, is it worth the extra dollars

RushtonH: They are very different. Which you choose depends on what you want to do (and how much time you have to learn to do it).

RushtonH: What is it you want to do?

StephaniM: acquaint my students with different media

RushtonH: Stay with the free stuff. Have you tried using Photo Story?

StephaniM: yup, really like it too

RushtonH: Great piece of software. The pieces you create with it can go into Movie Maker if you want to get the best of both programs!

StephaniM: cool.

RushtonH: Audacity is another free tool that can help you overcome the audio limitations of Movie Maker. Is that something you've used?

StephaniM: thanks, I have heard of it, and should explore it, I teach middle school

BrandiSa: what is the link for premiere

RushtonH: Send an e-mail my way (rh@nextvista.org), and I can work with you on putting together some simple projects if you wish.

StephaniM: It is from Adobe

BrandiSa: thanks

StephaniM: Thanks, Merry Christmas and talk next year.

RushtonH: It's also very expensive. If you're new to video editing, it's much better to work with the free stuff first.

RushtonH: Merry Christmas to you, too!

BJB2: Will there be a Next Vista discussion in January, Rushton?

RushtonH: Brandi, I have to go, but if you wish, I'd be happy to help you identify some good free tools to get you going. Send me a note (rh@nextvista.org), and I'll send you a set of resources I created.

BJB2 . o O (January 8)

BrandiSa: thank-you

RushtonH: Not in January (I'll be driving north for Macworld), but we'll do one in February. The 7th, is it?

BJB2: February 5

BJB2 . o O (first Thursday in Feb.)

BJB2 hugs Rushton. Be safe and happy holidays.

RushtonH: You, too. Take care!