Title of Session: Next Vista for Learning - Powerful Tools for Multimedia Projects
Moderator: Rushton Hurley
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Room: Next Vista for Learning Group

BjB : Welcome to this month's discussion of Next Vista, everyone!

BlairM : Thanks

RushtonH: Hi Emily!

RushtonH: BJ, I'm ready to go when you are. Would you like to introduce TI to the group, if any of them needs it?

BjB : We usually start all discussions with introductions...

BjB : please tell Rushton where you are located and what you teach

EricFi: Sidney, OH. I teach 4th grade mainly math.

BryanSC: Milwaukee, WI. 6th Grade.

EmilyO: Port Washington, WI. 9-12 Math

EricO: I am a special education teacher at Cedarburg High School

MeganJ : Hi! I am from Port Washington, WI. 9-12 English.

LaurieS: Milwaukee, WI--special ed.

MikeGst4: Colby WI science 10-12

RyanGC: I am Ryan Cowen and I teach 6th grade in Port Washington WI

JosephA: I teach AP US History at Port Washington High School in Wisconsin

AnnaV: I am a student teacher in 4th grade in Houston, TX

BjB : quite a group you have here, Rushton!

WilliamK: Hi, from Port Washington, WI teaching technology education, both automotive and welding

MeganJ: Mike...I have family in Colby! Love Colby Cheese Days!

MikeGst4: Cool.

RushtonH: What a group! I'm planning to cover several tools today, and then I'll try to help you identify some tools to match your interests.

BlairM: Sounds great

EricFi: great

RushtonH: First, for all you Wisconsin folks, are you connected somehow, or is this wildly mathematically improbable?

LaurieS: masters program meeting tonight

MikeGst4: I am not connected to anyone in here

MeganJ: masters class

BryanSC: Hey, I have class with someone named Laurie...

LaurieS: I know Bryan, hey

MeganJ: we are here to learn...yay!!

BjB: welcome, Daniel

EmilyO: We are here to learn and few things are mathematically impossible

BryanSC: This is a weird coincidence...

RyanGC: We are here to learn...

RushtonH: First, I'd like to get an idea of any multimedia you already use - video, podcasts, slideshows, or similar. Chime in!

MeganJ: slideshows, video, sometimes podcasts

BlairM: Elmo, Smartboards...does that count? ha

MikeGst4: LCD projector

EmilyO: slideshows

LaurieS: I use a lot of video and slideshows. I tried podcasting once.

BryanSC: Projector, Smartboard, laptops

EricFi: streaming video, slideshows, smartboard

DanielLa: smartboard, lcd projector

AnnaV: slideshows, video

WilliamK: PPt, videos, elmo, projector, diagnostic tools

MikeGst4: I am thinking of getting a PC tablet with my projector

EricFi: soon to try a tablet pc to compare features to a smartboard

BlairM: I'm trying to work more Multimedia

AnnaV: I am too

RushtonH: Before we get going full throttle, let me point you to a link. (BJ, do you want to explain links?)

BjB: ahhh...good idea, Rushton...

BjB: when Rushton shows a hyperlink, make sure you hold down the ctrl key when you click, or turn off your pop up blockers

RushtonH: On my nonprofit's website (http://nextvista.org), you can sign up for a newsletter. I'll follow this session (over the next few days) by sending each of you a link to a boatload of resources I've collected.

BlairM: Awesome!

BlairM: Thanks!

LaurieS: Sounds good

EricFi: Cannot wait

RushtonH: The newsletter is info, not discussion, so it will never explode in your inbox. I send it out about once a month or so, and typically include new videos that are on the site, cool tools I've run across, and the like. If you don't like it, of course, you can just let me know and I'll remove you as soon as I can. Also, we certainly never share names and e-mail addresses with any other organization; our goal is pretty much to get whatever feedback we can to make the online library better.

SuzanneZ: Thanks for including our group. We'll be able to participate until approximately 7:30 Central Time.

BjB : Welcome, Marla. A reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of your chat and select DETACH

RushtonH: Feel free to sign up anytime during the presentation.

BlairM : All signed up

RushtonH: Folks that need to leave at 7:30 central time, stay in touch and I'll send you the full transcript.

MikeGst4: the link didn't work unless you put www in front of it

LaurieS: thanks

AnnaV: I've signed up already

RushtonH: First, I want to talk about finding good pictures to use with projects. What have you used in the past to get pictures from the web?

AnnaV: I'm excited

AnnaV: google

BlairM : Google

BlairM : Wikipedia sometimes

MeganJ : google images

LaurieS: google or yahoo images. or personal photos

EricFi: google images

AnnaV: yeah, some personal photos

MikeGst4: google or yahoo images

RushtonH: For any project that you want to post to the web, to do it right, you need to have (at least) two things in mind:

DanielLa : google images, nettrekker

RushtonH: First, they need to be large enough not to go pixellated on you when in a

video.

RushtonH: Second, they should be either public domain or copyright friendly, under such licensing as Creative Commons.

RushtonH: Creative Commons means "some rights reserved".

RushtonH: Loads of info on what they do at: http://creativecommons.org/

RushtonH: Do check that out later.

RushtonH: The problem with Google images is that it's hard to know exactly what you're getting in terms of size and copyright status.

RushtonH: Don't get me wrong, I'm a Google Certified Teacher and love the company. That said, there are better options for your projects.

RushtonH: Let's take a minute and have everyone take a look at http://search.creativecommons.org and make sure to click on the Flickr tab.

BlairM: wow, lots of images

EricFi: not a big flower guy, but I see a math project in the flower of milkweed

RushtonH: Sometimes people worry that when restricting oneself to copyright friendly material, there won't be many choices. But a filtered search of "India" at search.creativecommons.org just turned up over 400,000 hits. Time to get more specific!

RushtonH: Pick any term that interests you and put it in the search field in the GREEN area at the top. Important for keeping the copyright filter you want in place.

RushtonH: Great, Eric! Pictures are a fantastic way to get students to talk about the topics you teach.

AnnaV: I agree

AnnaV: they are always much more interested when they can see it

RushtonH: Pick a search result, and then open it (ideally, in a new tab or window). You'll then notice that the new page has above and to the left of the picture an "all sizes" choice. Click that. (most pictures have this)

BlairM: 14,000 pictures on farm animals! I have been looking for pictures to use all week for my lessons!

EricFi: 4245 BUCKEYES!!

RushtonH: By right-clicking (CTRL-click on a Mac) the larger picture, you can download a photo that will be great for video pieces.

BlairM: Too Cool!

AnnaV: wow, I like the "all-sizes" features

RushtonH: One big hint: when you are prompted to save the picture, rename it with the title of the picture (at the top of the browser window) and the name of the photographer/uploader - that allows you to have the info for crediting that person properly later.

EricFi: 113, 301 computers!! Amazing variety. Very easy on the size

AnnaV: I am always having to click on each picture on google to see if it's the size I want

MeganJ: 83,109 cows!!

BlairM: Good idea

RushtonH: The creative commons license usually requires one simply to do an 'attribution' - say where you got the picture (flickr.com), who created it and what it's name is (which you now have in your filename).

EricFi: makes sense

RushtonH: Another good site for pictures is http://Morguefile.com .

MikeGst4: I noticed google on creative commons

MikeGst4: So it is okay to use pictures from google that are on creative commons?

RushtonH: There are fewer pictures, but the ones that are there are often of very high quality. It's part of their rules that all photos uploaded have a minimum size (Yay!) and are licensed under creative commons.

AnnaV: what if the person who uploaded the pictures has a "screen name" instead of a real name

AnnaV: do we just credit that "fake" name?

RushtonH: Yes, Mike - it's fair to assume that the license has been applied properly. Just make sure to credit the one who uploaded it. You also typically can't use it for any commercial purpose.

RushtonH: The handle (fake name) is a proper identifier, so it's fine.

AnnaV: ok

RushtonH: Other questions about pictures?

BlairM: I don't think so

EricFi: not at this time

SuzanneZ: Thank you for your time, Rushton! You gave us a good start on our topics for next week. Have a great night.

BryanSC: Thanks for the newsletter!

EmilyO: Bye Bj

LaurieS: Thanks Rushton

MeganJ: Goodnight, Rushton

RushtonH: Often, folks need some good audio files to go along with the pictures in their projects. Let's start with some sound effects. Take a look at http://partnersinrhyme.com

RushtonH: Goodnight to those leaving!

LisaGa: Thanks!

EricFi: check out the classroom link. It gives ideas and lessons

JenniferRl: thanks!

WilliamK: Sorry, but we must get back to class. Have a good night

RushtonH: Partners in Rhyme has a section with free files to download. It's good form to credit the site, of course.

BlairM: Again, too cool

EricFi: I can definitely use this!!!

RushtonH: For music, students often want to use their favorite artist's songs, but that's a no-no, legally.

BlairM: Is it easy to add these sounds to other multimedia?

AnnaV: this is really great

RushtonH: You can mix and match, no problem!

EricFi: This would make my movie maker videos even better!

RushtonH: For music, take a look at http://podsafeaudio.com and http://jamendo.com

RushtonH: All this is great for Movie Maker! Yet more good thoughts on that front on the way.

RushtonH: Be careful with the term "royalty-free", by the way. Sites like "Free Play Music" sound like they're perfect, but the rules there require you to buy whatever you are going to use (but you won't have to credit them after paying).

RushtonH: Jazz fans in the room, I highly recommend Robin Stine's songs in PodSafeAudio. Great stuff.

EricFi: I think I used podsafe audio before for a college class for a podcast, and it is very easy to download songs.

RushtonH: All these artists (at podsafeaudio and jamendo) essentially want people to learn about them and tell others. Like with the photos, make sure to properly credit those artists whose songs you use in your projects.

RushtonH: How are we doing so far? Any major questions leaping forth?

RushtonH: Or minor ones, for that matter.

BlairM: None here

EricFi: No questions, just hard to jump back and forth in the chat! I will have to explore more later for sure!

AnnaV: none

RushtonH: Remember that as long as you sign up for the newsletter, I'll be able to e-mail you the free resources and answer questions in the future (via e-mail).

RushtonH: Let's do a quick poll. Are you using a Mac, a Linux machine or Windows (and which one - Vista, XP, 2000, etc.)?

EricFi: Right. the copy of the transcript will also be sent to me as will right?

EricFi: xp

RushtonH: That's right, Eric.

AnnaV: windows xp

BlairM: oops

MikeGst4: I have never use movie maker before. What advantages does it have versus PowerPoint?

RushtonH: Welcome back.

RushtonH: Movie maker is about the presentation of images, footage, audio, and graphics as a self-contained piece (YouTube style). Power Point is much more about clicking through a presentation.

AnnaV: you said that students are not allowed to use their favorite artists' songs, so are we not allowed to use them even if it is on the websites you gave us such as jamendo?

EricFi: a ton of advantages. i.e. real time movie, add photos, video clips, titles of videos, etc

RushtonH: Very interesting question - did you notice a commercial artist on Jamendo? That's not how it normally works.

RushtonH: Another big difference between presentations and videos is the cool factor.

RushtonH: Crafting something visually tends to be much more interesting to students.

EricFi: just watch the space it fills though!

AnnaV: well I'm on jamendo and they have the Beatles, coldplay, death cab for cuties, etc.

RushtonH: True.

RushtonH: Anna, I'll have to check that out; I'd never seen that before. Unless they have a new feature selling songs, I can't imagine those songs are there legally.

AnnaV: yeah, me either

AnnaV: ok...sorry about that

AnnaV: anyway, windows movie maker is great!

RushtonH: For putting together REALLY simple videos (and given that everyone

answered that they are using XP), I recommend a free download from Microsoft (you read that right) called Photo Story.

AnnaV: I've used that before!

BlairM: I'm intrigued

AnnaV: it's great

RushtonH: Download it from: http://tinyurl.com/3ygxmw

AnnaV: it's so easy to use

MikeGst4: does it work with vista?

EricFi: I will have to check it out

RushtonH: It's mind-numbingly easy to learn. Far more so than anything else I've run across. It does work with Vista!

MikeGst4: Great

EricFi: what about windows 7 ultimate. I just got a machine in my classroom to be a beta tester?

EricFi: I have other machines, but just curious

RushtonH: One quirk with it, though. The codec for the file it produces is unusual, and sometimes it won't play on certain players (such as the windows media player for the Mac). You can fix that by taking a piece you create in Photo Story, pulling it into Windows Movie Maker, and then saving it as a movie from there. That will work fine.

RushtonH: Two huge strengths of Photo Story:

EricFi: great

RushtonH: First, you can control motion (such as panning across a group, or zooming into someone's face).

RushtonH: Second, you can create music in it. It's a funky, elevator-like thing, but completely legal for projects.

BlairM: I will have to check that out

RushtonH: So, folks - we're 3/4 of the way through the hour. I can toss out some more cool tools, but if there is something you've been looking for, sing out now.

RushtonH: Maybe I can point you to the perfect spot! Maybe.

BlairM: Go for it

EricFi: I am sure you can.

RushtonH: Based on what you want, that is. 8^)

BlairM: Toss out some more cool tools

RushtonH: If a thought strikes, let me know. I'll just keep going!

RushtonH: A great tool for presentations (since they were mentioned), is Google Presentations, which is part of the free Google Docs suite. How many of you use Docs?

EricFi: nope

MikeGst4: What advantage does a smart board have over a LCD Projector with a PC tablet?

RushtonH: The real benefit of any of these apps (Docs, Spreadsheets, Presentations, and Forms) is that they are free, saved online, and highly collaborative. Probably a full Tapped In session all by themselves.

RushtonH: The SmartBoard is more powerful in that you can control it AT the board. It's also more expensive, of course.

EricFi: I will let you know Mike when I get the tablet and try it out.

MikeGst4: I know a teacher who has a smart board but never uses it but uses a pc tablet instead

EricFi: Since I train others on SB, my tech coord wants me to investigate! I have heard positives for both

RushtonH: One huge piece of advice I have for young teachers in particular is that if you are arguing for a new piece of equipment, you are coming from a much stronger point of departure by showing what you are already doing, and how you want to expand it, rather then simply saying what you think you'll do if given something.

BlairM: Maybe she feels more comfortable using the tablet

AnnaV: a lot of schools I know have smart boards

RushtonH: I'd like to finish by having you take a quick look at the Light Bulbs collection of NextVista.org: http://www.nextvista.org/collection-list-light-bulbs/

AnnaV: but are very hesitant on using it

AnnaV: I don't know why

AnnaV: I've never used one before but it looks neat

RushtonH: Your students can teach their peers around the world.

RushtonH: Vendors like Smart are very happy to talk to you about their products, and it's a good move to ask them where you can go to try out these things (or when they can come visit you).

RushtonH: Final resource for tonight: to get good at multimedia projects, it's a good idea to find a good online community with which you can share ideas. Here come a few:

RushtonH: http://classroom20.ning.com

EricFi: wow. the LightBulbs collection is huge

RushtonH: Classroom 2.0 has thousands and thousands of folks sharing ideas about educational technology.

BlairM: I need ideas

EricFi: I have blogged on classroom 20. good variety topics!

RushtonH: The Light Bulbs collection needs to grow, but it's on its way. It's all copyright-friendly, screened, student-audience content.

RushtonH: Another community is http://windowsmoviemakers.net

RushtonH: For those specifically interested in Movie Maker, of course - there are plenty of tips, tricks, and such.

RushtonH: Another all-purpose group is at: http://vidsnacks.ning.com/

RushtonH: Any last questions or thoughts?

BlairM: No. Thanks for all the great information!

BjB . o O (Rushton is a gold mine!)

AnnaV: no, thank you for all the resources!

MikeGst4: Thank you very much Rushton for all of your great infor

EricFi: vidsnacks.ning looks like more for mac users since I see garage band etc

BjB : The next Next Vista discussion will be March 5, same time

RushtonH: Thanks to everyone for coming! I'll stick around a few more minutes, so if you have any thoughts to share, feel free.

RushtonH: The next one will be broadcast 'live' from the CUE conference in Palm Springs!

EricFi: thanks for the great tour Rushton. I cannot wait to get more free resources!

RushtonH: When you do get the resource packet, please make sure to let me know what you think of it - we're working to make it as useful as we can.

BlairM : Will do

RushtonH: Happy February to everyone!

EricFi: Thanks again. I am signing up for the newsletter now!

RushtonH: Direct link to the signup is at: http://www.nextvista.org/newsletter/

BjB : Thanks, Rushton. Remarkable as always!

RushtonH bows humbly.

BjB waves goodnight