Audio Recording with

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Audacity®

NMC 2006 Pachyderm Users Conference Hands-On Session
Wednesday, Dec 14, 12:45 – 2:00 PM

1. Recording For Pachyderm
2. Getting to Know Audacity
3. Plan, plan, plan! *Task 1: Write out your outline, script –either an interview or narrative intro*
   a. Introduce yourself by name, affiliation **"Hello, my name is Alan Levine, a techno geek with the New media Consortium"**
   b. Short intro of your topic. **"Today we are chatting with reknown photographer Frittz F-Stop, who is going to share some of his insight in formalism and composition"**
4. Recording Basics
   a. Audio Sources / microphones / levels
   b. Save as high level (Audacity Project file) repeated mp3 compression degrades quality
   c. Leave Space
   d. Voice, intonation, be human
   e. Attend Joe Lambert's session on Interview Techniques
5. Editing
   a. Playback controls / space bar
   b. Zoom tools
   c. Cutting / pasting
   d. What an "ummm" looks like
   e. Increase effect with dramatic pause
   f. Inserting another track: *Task 2: Ask 1-2 interview questions or record some prepared remarks.*
   g. Effects- fade in / fade out
   h. Remove pops
6. Inserting music intros / exits (use samples stored on lab computers)
   a. Avoid copyrighted music! Samples for today's workshop are Creative Commons licensed from
      i. http://www.opsound.org/
      ii. http://ccmixter.org/
   b. Trim, Levels, fades.
7. Export as MP3
   a. Settings
   b. ID3 tags
8. Upload to Pachyderm and Use!

Audio Recording with

Installing Audacity on Your Own Computer

- Audacity is free, opensource software available for Mac OSX, Linux, and Windows. Download the latest version from http://audacity.sourceforge.net/
- To export as MP3, you will also need to download a compression library (LAME): http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/faq?s=install&item=lame-mp3
  - MacOSX download is a single file; for Windows, you need only the file lame_enc.dll
  - We suggest you save this file to a location such as the /Users/Shared directory on your computer.
  - The first time you try to export an Audacity project as an MP3, you will be asked to locate this file (just once)

Advanced Tool: Levalator

A common problem in recorded interviews is a mis-match of audio levels between the interviewer and the subject. The Levalotor is a Windows and Mac OSX tool, provided for free by GigaVox Media (producers of ITConversations), that performs expert level adjustments on your sound files.

- Get the Levalaror from http://www.gigavox.com/levelator
- Perform your edits in Audacity, but export as an uncompressed audio format (either WAV or AIFF)
- Drop this file on the levelator- it will create a new version of the file.
- Open this new file in Audacity, and now export as your final MP3

More Resources

- **Audacity 101 for Pachyderm Creators** – a recorded screencast with an overview of the tasks in this workshop
  http://www.nmc.org/marcus/audacity101.html
- **Audacity Tutorials**
  http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/tutorials
- **Editing Wants to Be Free! (Transom)**
  http://www.transom.org/tools/editing_mixing/200404.audacity.html
- **Creating a Podcast with Audacity (Penn State University)**
  - http://podcasts.psu.edu/pcaudacity
  - http://podcasts.psu.edu/macaudacity