

The Podcaster

The Wimba Podcaster provides a simple method to create a course podcast: audio recordings distributed over the Internet based on subscription to a syndication feed, with the option of permitting student contributed materials to the podcast.



The mp3 audio files comprising the podcast are hosted on Wimba servers, and the Podcaster tool automatically creates the syndication feed for subscription to the Podcast. Students, once subscribed, can automatically receive downloads of podcast postings, play them on their computers, and transfer them to their portable mp3 players if they wish.

Though it is possible to create multiple podcasts within each Blackboard course using the Wimba Podcaster, it is probably not advisable to create more than one per course, since students might find this confusing.

How to Create a Podcast Using the Wimba Podcaster

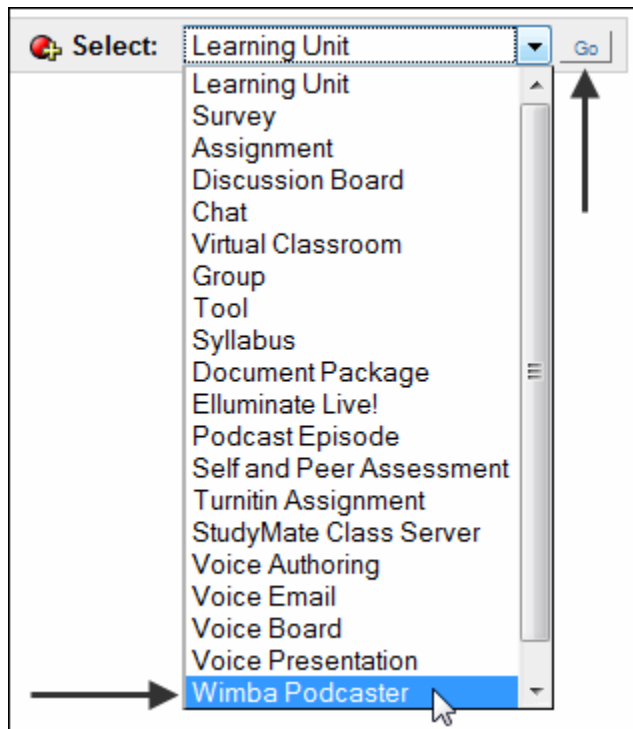
As with Voice Email and Voice Boards, there are two methods for creating a podcast within a Blackboard course:

1. Create the podcast within a course content area using the Select drop-down in Edit View;
2. Create the podcast in the course Communication area.

Since both methods work almost identically, it really does not matter which you use from a technical point of view. If you rely on the Communication area of your course for discussion boards or other content, then use that. If you would rather place the podcast in a course content area, or a content area of its own, then use method 1.

Method 1 – Creating a Podcast in a Course Content Area

1. Login to Blackboard and enter the course content area where you wish to place a voice recording. This can be any area except the Announcement area. (Note: there is a Wimba Voice Announcement tool accessible through the Control Panel, but we strongly recommend that you do not use it).
2. Click “Edit View” in the upper right of the content area screen;
3. Click the “Select” drop-down;
4. Choose “Wimba Podcaster”;
5. Click “Go”.



The following screen will appear:

Add a link to the Wimba Podcaster for this course

1 Information

*** Title:** ***Required**
Best practice: Use "course_name - podcast_name", eg. "Biology 101 - Extra Help Podcast", 80 characters maximum

Description:

Color:

2 Settings

Display short message titles

Allow students to post to podcast

Audio quality

Podcast auto-published after Teacher can edit his last post before it is published

3 Options

Make the content available Yes No

Open in new window Yes No

Track number of views Yes No

Choose date and time restrictions Display After Display Until

<input type="text" value="Oct"/> <input type="text" value="31"/> <input type="text" value="2008"/>	<input type="text" value="Oct"/> <input type="text" value="31"/> <input type="text" value="2008"/>
<input type="text" value="09"/> <input type="text" value="20"/> <input type="text" value="AM"/>	<input type="text" value="09"/> <input type="text" value="20"/> <input type="text" value="AM"/>

4 Submit

Click **Submit** to finish. Click **Cancel** to quit.

*** Required Field**

1. Information.

A podcast title is required. A description is optional.

2. Settings.

Display short message titles. Message titles, that is, podcast post titles, by default contain subject, name or individual making the post, length of recording, and posting date. If you check “Display short message titles” only the subject and name of individual making the post will be displayed.

Allow students to post to podcast. Unless this box is checked, only instructors can post to the podcast.

Audio quality. As with most of the other Voice Tools, setup allows for a range of audio qualities. We recommend picking the highest quality, which is still not too high to be easily supported by users with 56k modems. Select “Superior Quality – 29.6 kbit/s – Braodband usage”.

Audio quality	Standard Quality - 12.8 kbit/s - Modem usage
Podcast auto-published after	Basic Quality (Telephone quality) - 8 kbit/s - Modem usage Standard Quality - 12.8 kbit/s - Modem usage Good Quality (FM Radio quality) - 20.8 kbit/s - Broadband usage Superior Quality - 29.6 kbit/s - Broadband usage

Podcast auto-publish after. This setting refers to the time it takes for new messages to reach the syndication feed. The default is 5 minutes, but you can make it shorter or longer, if you wish. If you are publishing something in class, as a demonstration to students, you might want to set this to 0 minutes (i.e., immediate publish), otherwise leaving it at the default 5 minutes is fine unless you have some reason for setting it longer. One possible reason might be to leave more time to edit the audio file before it is published.

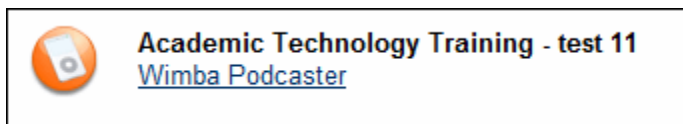
3. Options.

The standard Blackboard availability and tracking options can be set.

4. Submit.

Click Submit to create the podcast.

After you click Submit, a link to the Wimba Podcaster will be created in the course content area.



Click the link to access the podcast form.

Academic Technology Training - test 11

[Edit Settings](#) ← Click to edit settings for message titles, student permissions, audio quality, and auto-publish period.

Academic Technology Training - test 11 **Setup Wizard**
Click to be sure your computer has required hardware and software and is configured correctly. Run the *setup wizard* to make sure that your computer is ready to use the Wimba Voice

New Edit Delete Import Export Options Subscribe RSS Feed Help

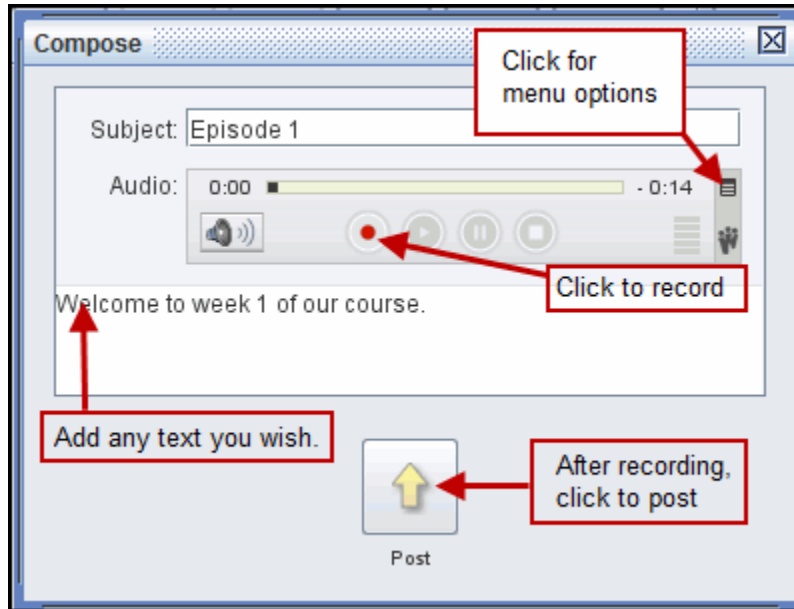
Click to create a new podcast post, or "episode".

Subject:
Date:
From:

0:00 -0:00

Wimba Podcaster
POWERED BY WIMBA
[Setup Wizard](#)

Clicking the New button will bring up the Compose form, similar to the Compose form in other Wimba Voice tools.



Note that maximum record time is twenty minutes, regardless of the audio quality setting you chose for the podcast. If you are importing a sound file rather than recording it (see below to learn how), maximum file size is 10 MB.

You can click the pause button to pause while recording, and click it again (or click the record button while paused) to resume. Once you click the stop button your recording is finished and you cannot add to it within the Wimba Podcaster software (though, you could export it, edit it with audio editing software, and import it again).

You can type any explanatory text you wish in the field below the audio recorder, but URLs or other HTML code placed in this field will not be "hot".

If you begin to record and do not see the audio meter move, you may need to click the menu options button and select the correct audio input.

When finished with your recording, click the Post button.

After clicking Post, you will see your post listed in the Podcast contents pane:

The screenshot shows a web interface for managing podcast content. At the top, there is a header for 'Academic Technology Training - test 11' and a 'Setup Wizard' section. Below this is a toolbar with buttons for 'New', 'Edit', 'Delete', 'Import', 'Export', and 'Options', along with 'Subscribe', 'RSS Feed', and 'Help'. The main content area displays a list of posts. The first post is 'Episode 1 from Terry Gray (0'14") 10/31/08'. Red arrows point to various parts of this post: 'Subject' points to 'Episode 1', 'Name of individual who posted' points to 'from Terry Gray', 'Length' points to '(0'14")', 'Date of post' points to '10/31/08', and 'Icons for audio and text' points to the small icons at the end of the post title. Below the list, there is a detailed view of the selected post. It shows the subject 'Episode 1', date '10/31/08 12:31 PM', and from 'Terry Gray'. Below this is an audio player with a progress bar from 0:00 to 0:14, a play button, and a volume icon. A red arrow points to the play button with the text 'Click to play audio'. Another red arrow points to the volume icon with the text 'Click to Save the audio file, or change audio output options.' The text 'Welcome to Week 1 of our course.' is visible at the bottom of the detailed view.

The Edit button. Click the Edit button to re-record the audio for a post, or to modify some of the accompanying text. Only instructors can edit posts, not students. Bear in mind that if the period for podcast auto-publish has expired, edits you make to a post will not be received by those already subscribed to the podcast. Only those who subscribe after the edit will receive the latest post.

The Delete button. Select the post(s) you wish to delete and click the Delete button. Only instructors can delete posts. If the podcast auto-publish period has already expired, those subscribed to the podcast may have already received it as a download. Deleting it will not delete it from their local computers, or mp3 devices that they have placed it on.

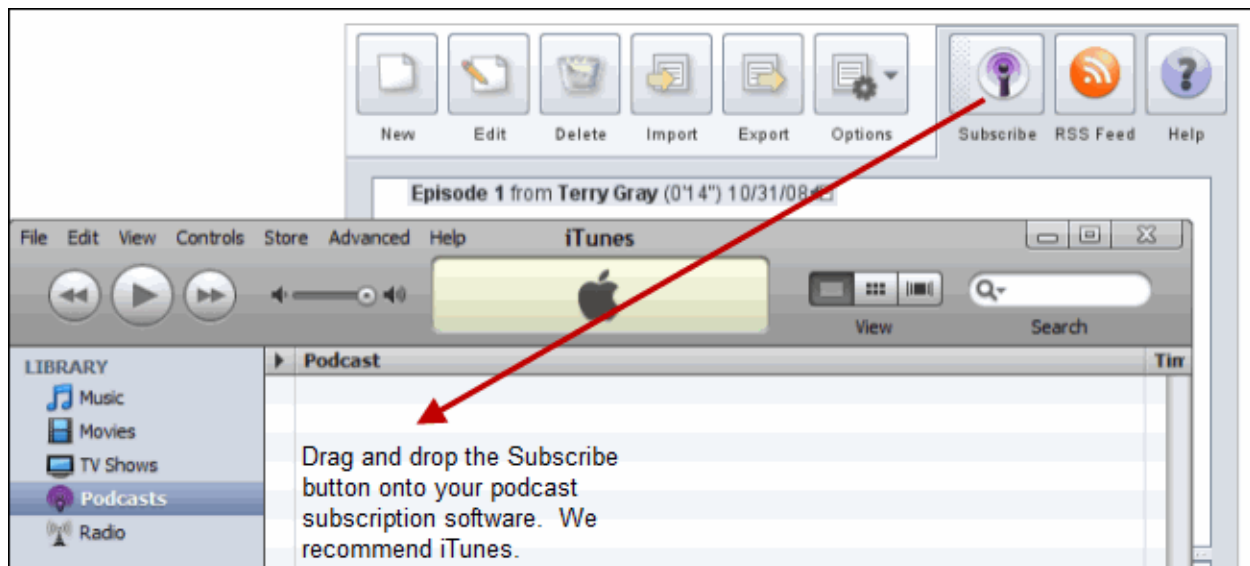
The Import button. If you wish to import an audio file, rather than record it in the Wimba Podcaster click the Import button. Locate the file on your file system in the resulting java Import dialog box, and click OK. Note that the file must be one of the supported file formats: mp3, wav or spx, and it must be smaller than 10MB in size.

The Export button. If you wish to save one or more messages locally, or, in fact, all messages simultaneously, click the Export button. If you want to export selected messages only, select them by clicking on their entry in the podcaster before clicking Export. Choose the audio format in which you wish to download them. Supported formats are, as with imports, mp3, wav or spx. You may also choose Wimba Voice Board format (wbv), but would probably only choose this if your aim is to back up the entire board, or transfer it to another Wimba implementation. It is a format that can only be read by the Wimba Voice Tools. If you choose mp3, wav or spx, the download files will be combined in a compressed zip file before downloading. You will have to unzip the file if you wish to listen to individual messages or edit them on your local computer. We recommend mp3 format.

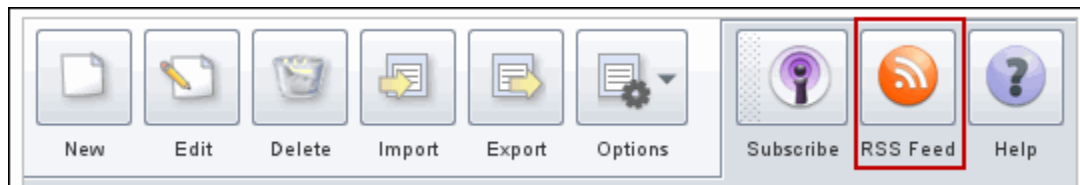
How to Subscribe to a Wimba Podcaster Podcast

There are several possible ways to subscribe to a Wimba Podcaster podcast. There are also says that are supposed to work, according to the Wimba documentation, but do not for various reasons. We recommend using the following subscription techniques which we have tested in multiple environments and have found to work.

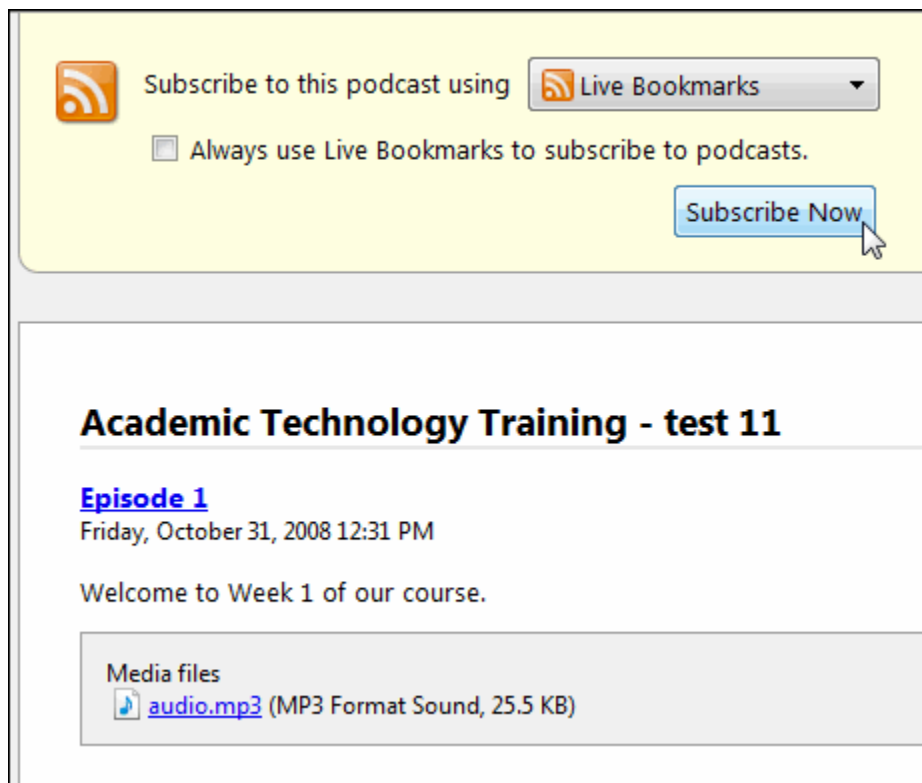
1. Open instances of the Wimba Poscaster and your podcast subscription software, like iTunes, side-by-side and drag the Subscribe button from the Wimba Podcaster to your subscription software.



2. If you wish to subscribe using your browser as subscription software—the three major browsers, IE, Firefox and Safari all have the built-in ability to receive RSS feeds, which are what syndicated podcasts are—click the RSS Feed button.



Depending on the browser you are using, you will see a screen similar to the following:



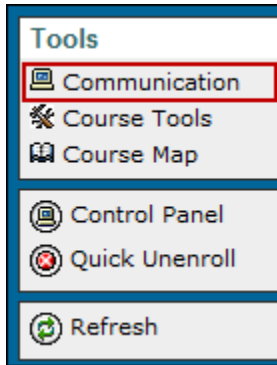
Click the Subscribe Now button—or your own browser’s equivalent of this button, and you will begin receiving the podcast in your browser.

3. To use any podcast software to receive the podcast, click the RSS Feed button. In the resulting screen (which will look like the one illustrated directly above) click the address bar to select the RSS feed address. Copy this URL, either by right-clicking the selected address and choosing Copy, or pressing Ctrl-C (Mac Command-C). Now, open your podcast subscription software and paste the URL into its subscription function. In iTunes, this would be on the Advanced menu under the Subscribe to a Podcast... command.

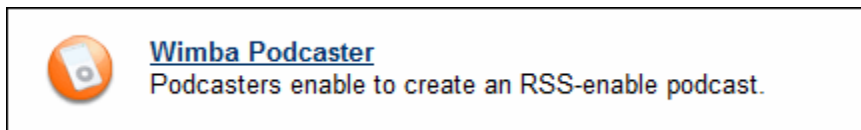
Method 2—Creating a podcast in the course Communication area

Assuming you have not turned off access to the course Communication area, and that you are going to have a single podcast for your course, it may be easiest to create it there.

Click Communication on your Tools menu.



On the next screen, click the Wimba Podcaster link.



On the next screen, click the Add button to add a new podcast.



From this point on, the procedure is exactly the same as that described for method 1 above, except that the standard Blackboard availability options do not apply. Podcasts created in the Communication area are always available and remain present in the Communication area until the instructor removes them.