

 | elearning

CERN IT "rapid e-learning" project

Where we are now, what next - status and plans

What are we talking about?

- A "rapid e-learning" project to promote features, tools, applications via very short videos.
- Recording is done by the CERN audiovisual services and/or screen capture tools at the content owner's desk.
- The investigation of such alternative tools is also part of the project.
- There is no overlap with the HR L&D training activities. We held a meeting to make this clear.
- Original project description [here](#).

Today's discussion is on:

- Products found, evaluated, configured, documented and how to expand their use without a complex support structure.
- Experience from videos made using these tools.
- Plans for further investigation and deployment via additional use cases' recordings.

The recording tools' choices

They clearly depend on the use case:

- Stable video content (or with 'historical' value) should rather be recorded by the **CERN audiovisual** services
- Short-living content, a tool's brief demonstration, a web site navigation are "cheaper" to **screen capture** on your desktop
- Installation instructions can be shown via a **terminal recording** tool.

The tools we found and used

- A number of screen capture tools for navigating through your web pages or through installation procedures.
- A teleprompter for you to talk without stress
- A simple to use from a terminal tool that records/replays what you type.

All free with your preferred OS or on the web.

All documented on our e-learning twiki

Paraphernalia to organise the work

We have:

- E-group for internal discussions of the interest group.
- Vidyo portal for meetings and recording rehearsals.
- Dedicated indico category for rehearsals and recording links.
- Dedicated CDS category for final tutorial versions.
- Hashtag in social.cern.ch for announcements. Should we make a 'mattermost' in addition?
- CERN service account for storing scripts and documentation.
- Contact email for questions.
- CERN e-learning logo and standard tutorial cover slides.
- Video library Edutech with the use cases with
- e-learning twiki with all these links and more.

CERN-specific instructions for speakers

- Monitor progress with your rehearsals by creating entries *with vidyo* in the e-learning indico category.
 - Remote participants give very useful feedback, as they are very similar to the public who will follow the tutorial.
 - Valuable to see how many rehearsals are needed to achieve the end product. Also for watching the rehearsals' material to see what needs to be corrected.
- Book recording, if the video is done by the CERN audiovisual support. More tips on 'how to do this right' here.
- Display the tailor-made e-learning logo before starting and the CERN logo at tutorial closing. Ready cover slides here.
- Even if the final version is done by the CERN audiovisual team, use a screen capture tool for your rehearsals. By recording yourself, you can see what needs improvement.
- To publish a self-made video in CDS, it is best to record in mp4 container with H.264/MPEG4 codec. Open a SNOW ticket and you'll be guided by the CERN audiovisual team.

What needs to be done now (I)

Concerning the screen capture **tools**, some more *documentation* enhancements, some encapsulating *scripts* (if worth the maintenance effort):

- **ffmpeg** - free, open source and cross platform command line tool.
- **shotcut** – also free for all (not yet in the doc).
- **QuickTime** for Mac
- **kazam** for ubuntu
- **ActivePresenter** for Windows users.

Documentation in the [Edutech VideoLibrary](#) covers ffmpeg & QuickTime so far.

What needs to be done now (II)

Concerning the **Use Cases**:

- Complete the on-going ones, e.g. *AtlasSpecificTutorials*, *AliceMasterClasses*, *CernConfigInfrastructure* and publish final videos in CDS and/or the Video Library.
- Start rehearsing the ones already defined and not yet started, especially popular IT services, e.g. *indico*, to get more experience with the screen capture tools and enhance the documentation.
- Fill the template to describe a Use Case, for those not yet done.

How to do it

- Maria Dimou continues with the:
 - coordination
 - All web presence of the project (twikis etc)
 - Setting priorities with the content owners
- Alexandre Racine continues as an unpaid collaborator and participates in the pedagogical aspects of the project as long as this matches his research objectives at HEG.
- Two new Univ. of Geneva students come in the autumn for 4 weeks each, one for work on the tools and one on selected Use Cases.

Conclusion

- In a few months of existence, this project showed it can cover an existing documentation, dissemination, educational need.
- It also helped establishing contact amongst experts and across departments.
- If we keep the momentum now, in a few months the tools will become better known and their use will more easily become part of our culture.
- Why bother? Because ‘an image is worth a thousand words’.

How was this achieved?

Thanks to the contributors!

Everyone in the e-learning-interest e-group gave valuable advice.

I would like to especially thank:

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