

9-22-2010

Video Recording Law School Classes - Options and Issues

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Recommended Citation

Ginsberg, Debbie, "Video Recording Law School Classes - Options and Issues" (2010). *Presentations*. 36.
http://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/lib_pres/36

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Video recording and sharing for the law school classroom

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September 22, 2010

What is Lecture Capture?

A lecture capture system is “technology that allows instructors to record what happens in their classrooms and make [the recordings] available digitally.” From “7 Things You Should Know About Lecture Capture,” EDUCAUSE,

<http://www.educause.edu/ELI/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutLectu/163555>.

Benefits

- Invaluable for students who need additional time to process class concepts
- Classes are available when students must miss a day
- Faculty can record classes in advance when needed, or can prerecord routine materials
- Students do not need to attempt to “take dictation” in class
- Post favorite lectures on the law school website to attract prospective students
- Faculty can build a library of lectures to supplement courses
- Record faculty events and other special lectures

Tools for recording classes

Recording only: Using available equipment, faculty can record audio into PowerPoint slides and upload them to course websites. These files are difficult to work with and their sound tends to be choppy.

Equipment needed: Microphone, PowerPoint slides

Lecture capture system: To record and share classes using a lecture capture system, faculty click a link or button on a computer to start the recording. The system then records the class and syncs the audio to the slides. At the end of each class, the faculty stops the recording. The program then uploads the recordings to a server where authorized students can view them on their desktops, laptops, or mobile devices.

Additional equipment needed: software to record, upload, and share recordings, media server, authentication system

Advanced lecture capture features include:

- Integrating live video of the faculty with the audio and slides
- Ability to search the slides in the recordings
- Specialized laptop and mobile applications which students use during live classes to select sections to review when watching the recording later

- Annotation features for students to take notes when reviewing recordings and share them with other students

Lecture Capture Systems

Tegrity: a full-service system that records classes and stores the recordings on a server hosted at the law school or by Tegrity. Includes the advanced features noted above.

Cost: \$50,000 for one year for a system that the law school hosts; Tegrity can host recordings for an additional cost. Alternatively, for \$15,000, Tegrity offers a lecture capture system and 250 hours of hosted recordings.

Camtasia Relay: a less robust system that records classes and uploads the recordings to a server (not included in the cost). Includes some of the advanced features noted above.

Cost: \$5000 - \$15,000 for the lecture capture system – the more expensive versions of Camtasia Relay can upload recordings to a server more quickly.

Matterhorn: An open source (free) system which records lectures and uploads them to sever (not included in the cost). Includes some of the advanced features noted above.

Cost: Free, but support is limited.

Additional costs of lecture capture systems:

- Media server, server software, and server configuration (unless we pay for a vendor to host recordings)
- Time and expertise to set up system to work at Chicago-Kent. Matterhorn would be more difficult to configure than Camtasia, and Camtasia would be more difficult to configure than Tegrity.
- Training to record, edit, and access videos.