Glasgow Caledonian University

Caledonian Club

Audio Challenge

You have received an encrypted message telling you if you have been infected from the disease epidemic during your time on campus so far. Your task is to use the tools at your disposal to find out your fate from the audio message provided.

First, log onto the iMacs using the username and password provided to you. Once logged in please open the *Message Decode* folder on the desktop by double-clicking on the icon. There you will find a file called *'Message Decode.ptx'.* Double-click this icon and Pro Tools should load. You are now ready to begin the challenge!

Upon loading on you will be presented with this screen (the EDIT window) -

First listen to the message by pressing the spacebar to start/stop the message. Press return to set the play-head to the start of the message. You will notice the message is not understandable.

First you must switch to the other window (the MIX window) – do this by pressing the *cmd + =* buttons at the same time. You will now see this screen opposite:

Plug-In Manipulation

Begin by clicking on each name in 'INSERTS A-E' and change the settings presented in the resulting window. Do this until the message comes more clear for each different plug-in. These all do different things to the sound – try to listen to what each of these is actually doing - the first for example will change the pitch of your message.
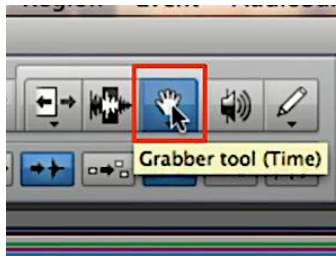
Static Noise

However, it is still not entirely clear due to static. To fix this, see if you can find the hidden audio tracks which contain the noise and try and lower their volume.

Reverse Audio

If you managed to eradicate the noise, you will now notice one part of the message still makes no sense. Switch back to the EDIT window (*cmd + =).*

You will see the message has been split into three parts – these are not in the correct order. Before proceeding, select the Grabber tool at the top of the screen (see below):

To put these in the right order just click and drag a section into the correct place. While doing this play each part separately – one still does not make sense!

To fix this look at '*Audiosuite*' menu at the very top of the screen, try and find a process called '*Reverse*' in here, click on the correct part of the audio so it is highlighted, then click '*Render*'. You will now have an understandable audio message.

Extra Task

If you finish decoding the message, try and revert it back to how it sounded prior to beginning the challenge. Think about the processes you learned during the task and how you managed to hear the message.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT SAVE YOUR PROGRESS AS OTHER STUDENTS WILL BE CARRYING OUT THIS TASK AFTER YOU!

So were you infected or not? Do you carry the antibody? Either way, we hope you had fun manipulating and decoding the audio signal and using Pro Tools.

Enjoy the rest of your day at GCU!