Online Python Presentation Instructions, 2020

Benjamin Noble

The goal of this exercise is twofold. First, we want you to practice your python skills (that's the project part). Second, in a non-COVID world, the goal was to simulate a friendly poster session (similar to what you would encounter at a conference). Since we cannot do that this semester, the new goal is to give you all practice creating and delivering a super-short academic presentation. The target length is five minutes. I would recommend that you practice a few times before recording, and time yourself during these sessions to ensure you're hitting the target length.

With that said, I would encourage you (even though it might be slightly frustrating), to create your short presentation in Beamer (a LaTeX presentation, rather than PowerPoint or Keynote) as you will be using this in the future to create presentations. This is not a requirement, but it is for your own benefit (I will leave it to you to figure out how to do that).

A word of caution: On the one hand, don't obsess over every little detail in the video (for example, if it takes you 5 seconds to get started or if you say "um" once that is OK). On the other hand, remember that the faculty will be watching these—this is an opportunity to show off your skills (python and presenting) and leave a good impression. Be professional and conduct yourself as you would if you were giving a presentation in Seigle Hall.

Submission Details

The due date for the videos is 10/02/2020 by 10 AM. Please upload your video to the shared box link. This will be shared with faculty for two weeks and then deleted. We will also be letting faculty know that if they have a question or comment for the presenter, they can email you directly.

Using Zoom to Record Your Presentation

To record a presentation using zoom:

1. Open Zoom and sign in.
2. Go to the "Meetings" tab.
3. Click "start" under "My Personal Meeting ID." This will open a zoom meeting with just yourself.

4. Unmute your audio and camera.
5. Open your presentation slides, make them full screen, and share your screen.
6. Hover over the now-tiny toolbar that says "You are screen sharing." At that point, you should see a menu. Click on the three dots, then click "Record on this computer." This will begin the recording—which will include your shared screen and a small window with your face. At this point, you can deliver your presentation by talking and using the slides. When you're done, again hover over the "You are screen sharing," when the menu appears, click the dots, then "Stop recording."
7. End the meeting (but not the Zoom application). You will get a notice that Zoom is converting the meeting to a video file. I believe the default is to save the video to your documents folder under the Zoom folder, but to check where the file is saving, go to your Zoom preferences > Recording, and it will show you the file path.
8. If you are satisfied with your video, upload it to Box. If you want to try the whole thing again, return to step 2. If you'd like to do some simple edits to your video, you can use QuickTime or iMovie on Mac or Windows Movie Maker on Windows (all installed by default).

Jacob has also recommended an app called Screencast-O-Matic. This app allows you to record the video as in Zoom (but with some additional features and more control), and it has a built-in editor. I believe you normally have to pay for the editor, but there is a 30 day free trial so that would be sufficient for this project.