Student guide

Creating screencasts

Screencast software

There is a range of screencast software available. You may use a tool you are familiar with or which is already available on your computer or you may source a tool for use. The following website lists some tools that may be suitable; these offer free trials or are free/open source tools:

http://www.techradar.com/news/the-best-free-screen-recorder

You can also search the internet for other tools that you might like to try. Ensure that you run any downloaded files through your anti-virus software before opening / installing on your machine.

Tips for keeping screencasts brief

Screencasts should be limited to 5 minute or less each.

There are a couple of strategies that will increase the speed with which you can demonstrate tasks:
- practice the task a few times in order to get your demonstration and explanation to fit within that time limit. Your goal is to prove that you understand the concepts and can execute the tasks detailed in your Unit Assessment Guide.
- having multiple applications open before you commence may assist, however be mindful of whether the task you are completing specifies that you must open or close software as part of your screencast.

Minimising file size

Whatever you choose to use, make sure you are cognisant of the resulting file size. The length of time your screencast takes will be a significant factor in file size but there are other factors below that you should consider too.

Vendor recommendations
Refer to the product materials for the screencast tool you have chosen they may have some product specific tips

Screen size and detail
When appropriate, limit the capture to just the part of the screen that is relevant and reduce that window size as much as is practical. If for some reason you need to do a full screen capture, consider setting your desktop background to a solid colour, minimising unnecessary background windows, and possibly reducing your desktop resolution for the duration of the tasks.

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Audio

Voice over may add significant value to your screencast or may be required for your assessment task. If it is not required and the visual is sufficient to demonstrate all that is required avoid capturing audio with you screencast.

Compression must not be too aggressive - screen text must be readable.

File naming

Unless specified otherwise in your Unit Assessment Guide files should be named YOURNAME_unitnumber_taskN.EXT substituting "YOURNAME", "N" and "EXT", as appropriate.