



Thommen’s Timely Technology Tips “Get Your PowerPoint On” Posting PowerPoint Presentations

Many instructors post PowerPoint presentations on their course web site. Commonly, the entire presentation is uploaded unmodified.

Posting an unmodified presentation to an online course site has a number of drawbacks:

1. The entire presentation must be downloaded before it can be played.
2. If the student doesn’t have PowerPoint installed, they must download and install a player program. Both of these issues may be beyond the technical expertise of some students.
3. PowerPoint presentations can be large, making for slow downloads and “eating up” disk quota on the course site.
4. Students can “share” these PowerPoint presentations via the web, with very little effort.

The CTE offers a solution to all of the above problems: Impatica or ISpring. Both of these programs convert PowerPoint slides to a format that is “playable” inside a browser. When students click on the presentation, the first slide appears in the browser window. Further playback is then controlled using familiar on-screen icons. Both conversion programs are available on select computers in the CTE’s Faculty Technology Center (inside TLC 324).

ISpring

The ISpring program works as an add-on to PowerPoint and once added all of the conversion controls are set using menus found under the ISpring tab. The final product is a Flash file that is playable on any device which supports Flash, excluding iPads and iPhones. ISpring offers a number of different interfaces (skins) that provide some variety regarding the look and feel of the presentation it produces.

Impatica

Open Impatica, drag and drop the PowerPoint file into the program window, set the conversion parameters, and let the program perform the conversion. Impatica can convert multiple presentations at once, which speeds the conversion process considerably. Impatica produces JAVA files that should be playable in any browser or device that supports JAVA, allowing the presentation to run on a wide variety of devices. Impatica is recommended if the initial PowerPoint is large; its ability to compress large files can be impressive.

Quick Comparison

	<i>ISpring</i>	<i>Impatica</i>
Control Interface	PowerPoint add-on	Stand-alone program
File Format	Flash (.SWF)	Java (.JAR)
File Compression	2:1	2:1 to 100:1
File Streaming	No	Yes
Animations & transitions	Yes	Yes
Narration allowed	Yes	Yes
Look & Feel choices (skins)	Yes	No

This timely tip can also be found at:

ANGEL: Faculty Community Group > Content > Thommen’s Timely Technology Tips
http://www.lcc.edu/cte/resources/thommen_tips/

