

# Create a Podcast

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Podcasts are like today's scrapbooks. They allow people to share insights about themselves through music, photos and video files. It's so easy to do; virtually anyone with access to the Internet can create a podcast.

In its basic form, a podcast is an easy way of distributing media files over the Internet. To create a podcast, you first need to establish a domain and get a host on which to store the media files. Getting a domain is simple, as there are many domain registrars that will register your domain name for a small fee. Dotster, Network Solutions and GoDaddy.com are good choices for domain registration. If the name you choose is not already in use, the domain register will charge you a small fee for entering the domain into the computers that form the backbone of the Internet. These computers will be told the name of the host holding domain information, as well as where the domain is located on the Internet.

Once your domain is in place, you need to find a good host. The host you choose should offer a large amount of disk space, and a much larger amount of bandwidth. Ample disk space is required because the site holding the podcast will be storing large media files. These audio and video files take up a lot of space and are difficult to compress. A large bandwidth is necessary because transferring these large files many times to many different people will quickly use up your quota. As a rule, look for several gigabytes of disk space, and a bandwidth of tens or even hundreds of gigabytes. After your host has been set up, it should offer you a couple of addresses called nameservers. You'll complete the domain setup by inputting these server addresses into the site where the domain was registered. At this time, your site will be found on the Internet.

The next step to create a podcast is installing the necessary maintenance software. A small piece of coding called dircaster.php can be used to set up a basic level podcast. Dircaster.php can easily be found using any search engine. Once it is located, dircaster.php should be edited to reflect the particulars of the domain, and then uploaded to the site. Dircaster.php will generate an RSS file, or feed, that tells the subscriber about new files available for downloading.

To begin podcasting, create the audio files that you'd like to share. Next, fill in the information about the file such as date, author and title, and upload them to the same directory that contains dircaster.php. You now have a podcast, and all that is needed is to publicize the address of dircaster.php. To update the podcast with new information, just upload the new files. While not necessary, you can personalize your site by adding additional information about your podcast.

That's how easy it is to create a podcast. If you have a computer, a few dollars and a list of favorite songs, you can create a podcast and share a bit of yourself with your friends, and the entire world.