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Volume 1 - Issue 7 - November 2014

Mark your calendars! UCET 2015 will be held April 2-3, 2015 at Herriman High School in Salt Lake City, Utah!

The Utah Coalition for Educational Technology will be holding its annual conference at Herriman High School, in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 2-3, 2015. As with previous UCET conferences, there will be a huge selection of presentations to attend, exciting keynote speakers, food, and prizes. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendars.

On the UCET website (http://www.ucet.org) you’ll be able to watch the conference take shape over the next few months. If you’re interested in presenting, we’ll email everyone on the UCET mailing list when that opens up, as well as information for vendors and sponsors, and for our attendees.

To subscribe to the UCET mailing list, create a new email in the address you’d like UCET to use.

TO: SYMPA@lists.usu.edu
SUBJECT: Subscribe UCET

Make sure there is no text or signature in the body of the email, then click send. If you ever want to unsubscribe, just change the subject to Unsubscribe UCET. As a list subscriber, you’ll receive weekly or bi-weekly posts about education technology resources we post on our blog, as well as information about the upcoming conference or other UCET sponsored events.

More information on the conference will be coming soon! Please watch the following pages on UCET’s website:

ATTENDEES - http://www.ucet.org/attendees/
PRESENTERS - http://www.ucet.org/presenters/
VENDORS & SPONSORS - http://www.ucet.org/vendors-sponsors/
CONFERENCE - http://www.ucet.org/conference/
Mapping the 2010 U.S. Census

For students and teachers looking for U.S. Census data, the New York Times has provided this interactive, informative map. In it, you can browse population growth and decline, changes in racial and ethnic concentrations and patterns of housing development.

You can zoom in on any part of the map by selecting “Zoom to a State” dropdown menu at the left of the page. The statistical information for the entire state will be shown at left, and you can hover your mouse over any county for a pop-up of county statistical data.

Learn Keyboarding Skills
http://www.keybr.com/html5

Touch typing is the ability to use muscle memory to find keys fast, without using the sense of sight, and with all the available fingers, just like piano players do. It significantly improves typing speed and eliminates errors.

There are several features in Keybr.com that set it apart from most of the typing practice software out there. In short, it employs statistics and smart algorithms to automatically generate typing lessons matching your skills.

You can use the site without logging in, but you’ll want to create a free account if you want to track your progress. You must be 13 or older to obtain a login.

Instructional Videos that are Actually Coherent
http://www.howcast.com

From mundane tasks like washing your hair to complicated ventures like how to finance a home, Howcast hosts instructional videos that can help you get by in life. User-shared videos are well produced and get straight to the point, unlike the junk you’ll find on YouTube.

However, just like with YouTube or any other video site, you will want to preview any video completely before sharing it with your class. The How-To topics range over a broad spectrum of activities.

Using Voice Dictation in iOS 8 and Your Macintosh...
by Nathan Smith, UCET Board of Directors

I believe that most of you have noticed that little microphone symbol next to the spacebar whenever you are about to type text on your iPad, iPhone, or iPod. Touching that enables voice dictation - you can speak, and your device will type what you say. I love this feature, because it’s much faster than typing.

Did you know that there are other commands you can use as well? For example, if I say, “Hello comma my name is Nathan Smith period new paragraph I live in Smithfield comma Utah period.” - dictation will type, “Hello, my name is Nathan Smith.

I live in Smithfield, Utah.”

All you need to do is speak your punctuation marks. Here are some other commands you can speak...

Say “all caps” right before you want to dictate a title.

Say “caps off” to resume regular dictation and typing.

Say “new paragraph” to add a paragraph break.

Say “tab key” to advance the cursor to the next tab stop or text window.

Say “open parenthesis” followed by dictated text, and then say, “close parenthesis”.

Say “dollar sign” for the $ symbol.

Say “Quote” for an open quotation mark.

Say “Close Quote” for an ending quotation mark.

You can also use this same dictation feature on your later model Macintoshes. To enable dictation, you must open System Preferences - Dictation & Speech. Click Dictation - ON. Choose the shortcut key you wish to use. Since my iMac does not have a Function key, I’ve chosen to press the Command key twice to start dictation mode.

Here are some links to help you learn more...

Mac Basics: Dictation lets you speak text instead of typing

Dictation commands you can use in OS X

Take advantage of this real time saver! Use voice to comment on student assignments, etc.
Upcoming NASA Educator Professional Development Webinars – November, 2014

https://paragon-tec.adobeconnect.com/admin/show-event-catalog

Know Your Earth Series-Part 1: Studying Earth’s Changes
Event Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2014 4:00 PM EST - 5:00 PM EST
Audience: In-service, Pre-service, Informal, and Home-school Educators, grades K-2.

Know Your Earth Series is a two part series designed to help educators understand NASA’s newest Earth Science Missions and how to utilize their educational resources. In Part 1: Studying Earth’s Changes, participants will get an overview of Earth Science at NASA and the educational opportunities offered by NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility, one of the oldest launch sites in the world located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Planet Earth is an ever-changing world that NASA continues to explore in order for societies to meet the challenges of the future. Join this webinar to learn more about how you can bring NASA Earth Mission activities to life within the walls of your classroom. While this webinar is presented as a part of a series, participation in the other webinars of the series is not required.

Know Your Earth Series-Part 2: From Satellites to Students
Event Date: Thursday, November 6, 2014 4:00 PM EST - 5:00 PM EST
Audience: In-service, Pre-service, Informal, and Home-school Educators, grades K-2.

Know Your Earth Series is a two part series designed to help educators better understand NASA’s newest Earth Science Missions and how to utilize their educational resources. In Part 2 – From Satellites to Students, participants will receive information from NASA experts on satellite missions including the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM), Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2) and Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellites. Discover various resources and hands-on activities that have been developed to help your students learn about Earth Science and how these missions will benefit society. While this webinar is presented as a part of a series, participation in the other webinars of the series is not required.

EarthKAM–Teaching Students How To Take Pictures of the Earth
Event Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 6:30 PM EST - 7:30 PM EST
Audience: In-service, Pre-service, Informal, and Home-school Educators, grades 6-8.

Educators will examine NASA’s Sally Ride EarthKAM (Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students) program and learn how to teach students to schedule images of the Earth from the International Space Station (ISS) using NASA’s EarthKAM camera! There is a Fall 2014 EarthKAM missions scheduled November 18 – 24, 2014. Educators must register in order to participate in EarthKAM missions. Middle school students around the world will have the opportunity to remotely operate an electronic still camera from the International Space Station (ISS). This is a unique educational opportunity for students to operate a science instrument in space. Learn how to use the entire EarthKAM image collection and other accompanying hands-on EarthKAM related education resources. Use the images and educational resources to enhance learning and address Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Launch America: Human Space Exploration Beyond Boundaries
Event Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:30 PM EST - 5:30 PM EST
Audience: In-service, Pre-service, Informal, and Home-school Educators, grades 5-8.

U.S. astronauts once again will travel to and from the International Space Station (ISS) from the United States on American spacecraft. By encouraging private companies to handle launches to low-Earth orbit -- a region NASA’s been visiting since 1962 -- the nation’s space agency can focus on getting the most research and experience out of America’s investment in the ISS for deep space missions, including human flights to Mars. In this NASA STEM webinar, we’ll utilize this new Launch America collaboration to “launch” students’ interest and excitement in forces, motion and energy by exploring rockets to integrate exciting lessons that include designing, building and launching simple rockets while recording, analyzing and graphing data. This webinar will also integrate the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into teaching strategies that will help guide educators to “blast off” into an exciting learning journey.

MAVEN: Red Planet – Read, Write, Explore!
Event Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:30 PM EST - 6:30 PM EST
Audience: In-service, Pre-service, Informal, and Home-school Educators, grades 3-5.

Join us as we look at the MAVEN mission to study the Martian atmosphere and a set of educational activities called Red Planet: Read, Write, Explore! The resources include six standards-based science lessons incorporating reading, writing and art activities for grades 3-5. Participants will learn about the MAVEN mission, get an overview of the resource activities and engage in a discussion about classroom implementation.

NASA’s New Horizons Mission: Pluto Up close and Personal
Event Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:30 PM EST - 5:30 PM EST
Audience: In-service, Pre-service, Informal, and Home-school Educators, grades 5-8.

Pluto has always been widely unknown and an interesting mystery. First a planet, then not. Why was it “demoted”? What is Pluto? How is Pluto both different and alike from other objects in our solar system? These are some of the questions investigated by NASA’s first, upcoming robotic mission to Pluto, New Horizons. This webinar will discuss these questions by exploring the New Horizon mission, NASA STEM education curriculum and online resources. Pluto has fascinated us, and students, since it was first discovered. Join us in this webinar to learn exciting ways to bring the fascination of Pluto into your classroom, while also integrating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into your curriculum.
Microsoft Office – Excel - Introduction to Functions
by Rob Wilkins, Utah State University

For those that know how to use Excel, it has the potential to be a very powerful tool. It provides a wide range of functions that aid the finance world as well as any organized individual. In my personal use of Excel I have found many ways to apply it in my life. I have loved the ability to build personal programs even without knowing any technical computer language. My purpose in this article is to introduce functions that can be performed in Excel while exploring ideas of application.

Starting off, I will briefly cover some of the very basics of excel in order to better understand functions. If you are familiar with excel feel free to skip past this first paragraph. Following is a picture of a workbook from excel. Each box on the spreadsheet is called a cell and contains a specific row number and column letter as coordinates. Each cell has the ability to contain a variety of information ranging from numbers, dates, and words. In addition they can contain functions to manipulate these numbers, dates, words. These Functions can be any sort of mathematical formula or logic statement. One such logic statement can cause a particular cell to “mirror” any other cell in the workbook. This is done by simply typing an equals (=) sign followed by the “to be mirrored” cell’s row and column coordinates. This is portrayed in the picture below. The equals sign with an imagination are the basics of building functions.

Okay, let’s talk about conditional functions. When introducing these more complex functions into your workbook you open up many doors to possibilities. Conditional functions allow you to display a certain element in a cell based off logical statements or even simply by what another cell may contain. To start a conditional function select a cell and type “=IF(“. Every formula in excel starts with an equals (=) sign. The “IF” function takes 3 parameters, a condition, an effect if the condition is true, and an effect if it’s false. In every function multiple parameters are separated with commas. So, in practice, if we had a cell (A3) containing a numerical value and we wanted an adjacent cell (B3) to tell us if that number was greater than 50 we would use the IF function. By typing “=IF(A3>50,TRUE,FALSE)” into cell B3 we would get the results in the picture below. We can actually fill these two effects in with almost anything to display. By filling them in with “is greater than 50”, “is not greater than 50” Excel will display the custom message instead. However, using quotation marks is required when using words. For the condition parameter we are free to compare any cell, multiple cells, or even sums of cells. When exploring the effects parameter we find that we can actually even get complex by adding in another IF function!

Continued on the next page...
We are now going to explore the idea of conditional formatting. Formatting is simply how the document looks in regards to font style, size, and color. In Excel formatting also applies to the way the individual cells look in regards to the cell fill color and border styles. Amazingly we are granted the ability to automatically change these formatting settings based on conditions within the workbook! At the top of Excel click on the “Home” tab. Just under the tabs find the button “conditional formatting” and click it. In the drop down menu hover the mouse over “Highlight Cells Rules” and click the appropriate condition. Though there are countless possibilities to explore within Excel I’m going to stick with presets for now. In the picture below I added conditional formatting to our previous examples by selecting the “Text that Contains” condition. In the window that pops up the left side is for the triggering condition, in this case a word, and the right side is the formatting to be applied. Be aware that you need to create conditions for every possible situation. In the example here I’m showing the FALSE condition being made but the TRUE condition still needs to be made as well. We can check the conditional formatting applied to an individual cell. Click the desired cell then click the “conditional formatting” button and click on “Manage Rules”. This brings up a window with all the applied conditional formatting. As we apply this conditional formatting to our workbook we see that as the value in cell A3 changes to above 50 the FALSE changes to a TRUE and thus the formatting changes to green as well.

We can apply these things we have learned here in many ways. I would like to demonstrate one way by building a simple classroom spreadsheet. For my spreadsheet I would like to take all the students in a classroom and record their test scores. I want to make a visual representation of the results so I don’t have to sift through raw numbers. Finally I want to sum up the students individual scores and give them a letter grade. The resulting program follows:

Continued on the next page...
To further help understand the potential of Excel I’ll demonstrate one last example. I personally like to hide all my raw data (like these test scores). I usually put that kind of information on a separate sheet within the workbook while I reserve the first sheet as a nice and clean ‘work area’. For this though I’ll have to introduce one last concept. A workbook has the ability to reference just about anything including other cells, cells on different sheets, and even cells in different workbooks. I’ll be demonstrating referencing cells in a different sheet. In order to do this you must declare where the cell is you want. For example: A1= Sheet2!A2. This is saying that we want the A2 cell from “Sheet 2” not the A2 cell from the current sheet “Sheet 1”.

Okay, putting this into practice. From our workbook holding our students grades I want to be able to show students their grades while keeping the other students grades hidden. To do this I have decided to move everything to Sheet 2. Now going back to Sheet 1, set it up exactly how it was before with the exceptions of only making it one row this time and each test score is a function instead. The idea is to mirror the desired student’s data into this row. In order for this to work we must compare the name on Sheet 1 with every name in Sheet 2. If we find a matching name we then need to display that cells data on Sheet 1. This comparison test becomes our function for the cells on Sheet 1. For an example cell E8 looks like this: F(B8=Sheet2!B8,Sheet2!E8,F(B8=Sheet2!B9,Sheet2!E9,F(B8=Sheet2!B10,Sheet2!E10,IF(B8=Sheet2!B11,Sheet2!E11,IF(B8=Sheet2!B12,Sheet2!E12,""))))). Complicated? Let’s look at the photo for a visual interpretation:

Continued on the next page...
Excel can be a very powerful and fun tool to use. As you explore deeper and farther into its potentials remember that Google Search is a vast archive; and it remains a great source for learning how to implementing Excel functions.

**Hulu**

[http://www.hulu.com](http://www.hulu.com)

Hulu.com is a great, FREE site for entertainment purposes. It offers a wide range selection of TV shows, clips, movie trailers, and more. It is a legal way of watching TV shows that are most recent within a season. They do have advertisement breaks like a normal TV show, but they are usually much shorter. It is worth using because it offers the most recent episode in a season, along with a few of the older episodes within the most recent season. It also offers Latino, British, Anime, and Korean Drama TV shows. It gives information on the most recent video games and video game entertainment such as Comic-Con. If Hulu's free subscription isn't enough, viewers can upgrade to Hulu Plus that offers more full seasons, ad-free kids shows and movies, and the ability to watch on TV and mobile devices. The subscription fee is $7.99 a month. This is a great way to keep up with your favorite TV shows!

**WonderShare Video Editor**

*by Joe Bainbridge, Utah State University*

WonderShare Video Editor is a video editing software that is packed with a lot of incredible features. Just to name a few; Picture-in-Picture, filter effects, dynamic transitions, intros, credits, and great sound effects. When it comes to making adjustments, editing, or spicing up your videos, WonderShare Video Editor provides a large variety of options to help enhance creativity and make professional looking videos.

WonderShare Video Editor has a clean interface and allows for easy access to your videos, pictures, and documents. There are three main areas in the Editor. Located at the top left, is the media selection area, which allows you to select, navigate, import, export through files and documents and more. The top right is the media preview. This area allows you to view and preview the media you have selected or made edits to. The bottom portion of the layout is the timeline window. This area allows you to drag and drop your files, effects, text, and sound on to the timeline, which makes for ease of managing your media. You can rearrange, cut, copy, expand, shrink, and many other options to your video.

The video editor also comes with a large variety of built in features to help polish your next video project. There are over 300 built-in effects! You can add effects consisting of, but not limited to; snowing, raining, blur, bubble, cartoon, and many more. It is as easy as dragging the effect and dropping it on the timeline. You can also drag and drop stylized text into your video for a nice clean introduction or credits for a smooth ending. You can choose from over 50 different built-in transitions to aid in switching between scenes.

What makes the WonderShare Video Editor stand out from the rest of the video editors, is the ease of access to options. There are no convoluted drop down menus to get lost in. You can just click the style you want, and drop it on the timeline. Additionally, each style has a small preview picture and video clearly indicating what it looks like and any animations it may contain. Based on a drag and drop interface, all of the options are literally a click away. If you are looking for a clean, robust, easy-to-use video editor, that can make professional-looking videos in a matter of a few minutes, then WonderShare Video Editor is a perfect choice. It's available for both Mac and Windows. Price - $40 at present.


**Atlas Obscura**

[http://www.atlasobscura.com](http://www.atlasobscura.com)

Atlasobscura.com gives the viewer a sensational visual of places around the world that are significant, mystifying, creative, influential, and unknown. Each place is sure to create lasting memories for the traveler. They have three beliefs; one, “There is something new under the sun, every day, all over the world”, two, “Around the corner is something that will surprise the heck out of you”, and three, “Atlas Obscura is for people who still believe in discovery”. They are determined to create a site that holds curious facts about the world and shows amazing places to visit. Not only do they show a highlight picture of a possible trip, but they also give detailed history of the significance of the area.
Introduction to Using the Terminal Application on Your Macintosh

By Jordan Haws, Utah State University

If you have a Mac, you have a great machine that can do a lot of things. What a lot of people don't realize, though, is that there is so much more that you can do! Terminal on your Mac is a great tool to get a lot done, and change things that before you couldn't!

There is a lot to working Terminal, and this won't come close to covering it all. However, hopefully you will be able to see what some of the possibilities are, and help you to get started learning on your own!

Getting Started

Some basic things to know about Terminal. Terminal is the real power behind your computer. You can use your mouse for many things, but you can actually do all of that and more with just the keyboard, Terminal, and a little know how!

So, to get started, you will want to pull it up by going into Applications, then Utilities, and finding the Terminal icon. Like mentioned above, you won't use your mouse in it, just your keyboard. You will be typing in text commands, and hitting the return key to run the command that you type in. Keep in mind that every key counts in Terminal, so be sure you put in spaces, capitals, and special symbols correctly!

Useful, Fun, and Interesting commands!

If you ever forget what a command does, or just curious about learning more of one you already know, simply type in

man command

where command is the command that you want to know more about. The instructions will then pop up! Press ‘q’ when your done to get out of the instructions.

A basic very useful command is to clear the screen. After you start playing around a lot, your screen starts ton fill up, so at any time, just type in

clear

and you will get a cleared screen! You can still scroll up to see the past commands by using the up arrow.

Screenshots (Command+shift+3 or 4) are great, but automatically they get saved as PNG files. Now that's not bad, but instead of having to convert those to other formats, you can simply change a setting to make it whatever you want!

defaults write com.apple.screencapture type extension

where extension is whatever file type you want, for example JPG, PDF, or GIF. This one will take effect after the system is rebooted.

Do you have multiple people who use the same Mac? The simple command of

who

will display who is logged in and when. Very simple, and very straightforward.

As a purely fun side note, your computer can talk to you! say “Whatever you want the computer to say.”

If you put this in, the computer will speak whatever you have in between the quotes.

Did you know you have hidden arcade style games on your computer? By typing in “emacs” and hitting enter, then a lot of instructions will pop up. Simple hit ESC, then “x”, followed by the game, such as gomoku (five in a row), pong, snake, tetris, or a number of other classics!

If you work with something, then seem to have difficulties finding it again, this should be very helpful. You can add a Recent Files stack to your dock.

defaults write com.apple.dock persistent-others -array-add '{ “tile-data” = { “list-type” = 1; }; “tile-type” = “recents-tile”; }'; killall Dock

This will add in a stack that contains recent items, and you can right click on the icon to adjust what’s in it.

Do you want to organize your Dock better? Try putting in spaces!

defaults write com.apple.dock persistent-others -array-add '{ “tile-type”="spacer-tile"; }'; killall Dock

This will put a blank space into your dock that you can drag around to different spots, or drag out if you don’t want it anymore.

Hopefully this has shown you a glimpse of the useful things you can do with terminal. Give some of them a whirl! There are lots more things you can do, the least of which is file manipulation and comparison, watching a version of Star Wars (telnet towel.blinkenlights.nl) made up of characters, remote accessing other machines, and much more!
**Introduction to Zotero**  
by Jeff Moss, Utah State University

https://www.zotero.org

Zotero is a research tool that automatically senses data in your web browser and with one click allows you to add it to your personal library. This data consists of all the information needed to correctly cite a research source in any format. It is an add-on that can be downloaded from the Zotero site and added to the Firefox browser. There is also a plugin for Microsoft Word so you can transfer your research citations directly from Zotero to your word document. This program requires you create an account with their website. This allows your personal library to be stored in their system so as to be accessed on any computer with internet access.

Here’s how to get it:

2. Download the Zotero add-on- https://www.zotero.org/download/
4. Create an account with Zotero so you can store and access your citation library: https://www.zotero.org/user/login/

Now that they are downloaded a “Z” icon should appear on your Firefox browser (may differ with mac users):

And in Microsoft Word these icons should appear under the tab “ADD-INS”:

Once this is downloaded you can now learn how to use the program. Here is a link to some quick tutorials:

Click Here - Tutorial 1 - Tutorial 2

**NewsMap**  
http://www.newsmap.jp

The internet has become our main channel when it comes to breaking news and what is happening all over the world. Newsmap has developed this website as a way present the latest news stories pictorially. The means the most important stories will take up the most space on the home screen. This site is free to use but a login can be created in order to further customize the news you want to see. The news stories can be customized by an individual country or a mixture to meet your desires.

**eHow - Learn how**  
http://www.ehow.com

Life has many challenges but luckily with ehow we have help when it comes to overcoming them. It offers more than 30 categories covering almost any challenge you may come across. This help and support comes from more than two million articles and videos, the ehow online community, and ability to share and seek feedback. This collection is updated daily and allows your life to be made a little easier each day. So the only question is what do you want to accomplish today?

**What Should I Read Next?**  
http://www.whatshouldireadnext.com/

What should I read next is a book database that enables to you type in a book you have recently read in order to find other books you might enjoy. The database draws from real readers’ favorite books to provide you with an extensive analysis to provide valuable suggestion and recommendations. These suggestions are listed by priority with the highest result being the best recommendation. The service is free but you can create an account with the site in order to save specific lists of recommended books.
PurposeGames

Purpose Games allows you to create your own games, host your own groups / classes, study for a test, or just dazzle them with your knowledge. PurposeGames is a completely free service!

While trying out the site, I played games such as identify the countries in Europe (I didn’t do too well). The site lets you create multiple choice quizzes, shape-based quizzes, and dot-based quizzes.

The about section of the site says, “PurposeGames is a web site for learning and having fun at the same time. Not possible? Think again.

It all started while playing a famous trivia game with friends and family, realizing how little I knew about Geography. I wanted to get better at it, but could not achieve this by simply studying an Atlas. So I created a game. The countries of Africa. Little did I know that it was to become the very first PurposeGame. After a little while, I published the game to challenge my friends, and so it all began. Two years later, PurposeGames.com now hosts over 70,000 public games created by its over 150,000 fantastic members.

So what are you waiting for? Go create a game, challenge a friend, or participate in tournaments created by visitors like yourself.

All the best,
David Andersson, creator of PurposeGames.com

Audacity Tutorial - Converting Cassette Tapes to Digital Audio

By McKenna Vernon, Utah State University

Audacity is a great free app that will convert any old cassette tape into digital audio. With this simple guide, you will learn easy steps to do so. Start the process by placing the cassette into the machine. Make sure Side 1 is facing towards you, and not in towards the machine. Rewind the cassette to the beginning. While it is rewinding, open Audacity. At the top right, you will see a drop down option that says “Built-in Microphone”, choose the drop down option and select “Built-in Input” so your computer is reading the device that is plugged into the computer. Go to your Sound preferences, select input, then select Line-in. This allows you to adjust the volume on your computer you avoid distorting your audio. Once the sound has been adjusted push play on the device to start the cassette. As soon as you have pushed play, in Audacity, click on the record button. You will soon begin to see the cassette audio playing in the designated waveform area. Allow this to run until the tape is over and you are seeing a flat line, which indicates there is no more audio. Press stop in Audacity. Highlight the flat line from the end of visible audio to the end of the recording and press delete. This will eliminate the long pause at the end of the audio.

In “Edit”, choose select and select all. This will highlight the entire recording. Choose “Effect” then “Normalize...”. Normalize will assure the audio levels are just right. As soon as the audio is normalized, go to “File” at the top of Audacity. Drop down to and select “Export”. It will ask you what to save it as, in which you will input the title of the cassette and the side number/letter. You will then select where you want it saved to. A box will pop up with areas to input the Author, Title, etc. Input whatever information you would like saved. Audacity will then export the audio into the designated saved area. Once that is finished you can exit out of Audacity. It will ask you if you want to save the file and you will select no. The audio has already been exported and saved. You may now select the file on your desktop or in your documents and it will open in your default program for the filetype you saved it as. Great job! You have successfully converted the cassette tape into digital audio, which you can listen to on your devices at any time. Audacity is simple, quick, and very useful.

If you desire to save your audio file as an MP3 file, there are a few steps you need to take to do this. Go to the Preferences menu, select libraries, and you’ll see this dialog. Locate and install the two libraries.

PurposeGames

http://www.purposegames.com
Project-Based Engineering for Kids

http://www.instructables.com/id/Project-Based-Engineering-for-Kids/

This is a collection of project-based engineering lessons for kids. Project-based learning allows students to control the direction and pace of their learning. Activities that promote investigation, critical thinking, and hands-on subject matter are also central to project-based learning.

These project-based lessons focus on basic principles of physics, structural, and mechanical engineering. Physical models are built from a similar set of materials that can be easily sourced online (links are provided in-lesson).

All of the project plans in this collection are designed to be used in an after school enrichment setting, though you may use and modify these ideas for other not-for-profit purposes provided you cite The Workshop for Young Engineers.

This is a growing and improving collection of lesson plans. Please comment to share your ideas to improve lessons and photos of your designs.

November Days...

1) National Author’s Day, All Saint’s Day, National Family Literacy Day
2) Cookie Monster’s Birthday, National Deviled Egg Day
3) National Sandwich Day
4) National Candy Day
5) Guy Fawkes Day
6) National Nachos Day
7) Hug-a-Bear Day
8) X-Ray Day
11) Young Reader’s Day, Remembrance Day In Canada, Veteran’s Day
13) Mom’s and Dad’s Day
14) National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day
15) America Recycles Day, Pack Your Mom Lunch Day
16) Button Day
17) Homemade Bread Day, Take A Hike Day
18) William Tell Day
20) Mexican Revolution Day
21) World Hello Day
22) Stop the Violence Day
23) National Cashew Day
26) National Cake Day
27) Thanksgiving Day, Pins and Needles Day
28) Black Friday
30) Stay At Home Because You’re Well Day

Other happenings...

National Fig Week (1st Week)
American Education Week (2nd Week)
National Geography Awareness Week (2nd Week)
Daylight Savings Time Ends (First Sunday)
Aviation Month
Child Safety & Protection Month
Good Nutrition Month
International Drum Month
Latin American Month
National Epilepsy Month
National Model Railroad Month
Native American Heritage Month
Peanut Butter Lover’s Month
GradeCam - Grade Multiple Choice Tests with your Document Camera, Laptop Cam, or iPad/iPhone.

http://www.gradecam.com

Remember using Scantron forms to grade tests? The forms were expensive, and the reader also. Technology has moved forward to the point where one company - GradeCam - lets you create and print out your forms for free. These forms can then be instantly graded, analyzed, and recorded to a grade book. It can use your document camera, your built-in laptop or desktop camera, even your iPad or iPhone camera. Watch the short YouTube videos linked below to see it work.

GradeCam comes in three pricing plans, including a free one...

Insight BasicFree - 10 multiple choice questions, multiple version exams, credit/no credit assignments, scored assignments, print free plain paper forms, instant item analysis, class reports.

Insight Plus - $15/month per teacher - 100 multiple choice questions, multiple version exams, credit/no credit assignments, scored assignments, print free plain paper forms, instant item analysis, class reports, Common Core Standards, transfer to gradebook software, CSV export. 60-day free trial.

Insight School/District - $2.50/year per student - 100 multiple choice questions, multiple version exams, credit/no credit assignments, scored assignments, print free plain paper forms, instant item analysis, class reports, Common Core Standards, transfer to gradebook software, CSV export, share assignments, benchmarks, custom standards, state standards. 60-day free trial.

Videos:

GradeCam Overview - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4O4xGs3ptk

Scanning with GradeCam - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTIzV78nsNw

Creating Forms with GradeCam - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HqgQ7Qilw0

Getting Started with GradeCam - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HdunZioQig

iPad App Test in our Office: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEWN6ToqUWc

This application of technology in schools has some real benefits, I believe. The one that stands out is the ability to instantly grade and analyze a quiz or test so you can reteach misunderstood concepts. Give it a try! Nathan Smith, UCET Board Member