

Briefing Document: How to add audio to a website

There are many ways to add audio to a website. You can have it playing as soon as the browser opens the page, link it to images and text, or have it as a downloadable file. For your project, you need to make the uploading of audio as simple as possible and it is probably a bit too complicated to have the audio playing as the visitors hit the site. Uploading a showreel for Project 1, or an audio track that promotes your good cause for Project 2 is probably enough to do for now! Depending on how you save your audio file, visitors to your website will be able to listen to it. Saved as WAV format, they will be able to hear it instantly. Saved as MP3, they will need a plug in, such as QuickTime or Real Player (plug ins are additional functionality on your computer that allow you to do extra tasks such as listening to streamed audio or watching a video or playing a Flash file).

Preparing your audio track for uploading

- You have probably created your audio track already using Audacity sound editing software (see **How to create a showreel using Audacity**). You probably saved your track as an MP3. Make sure (by right clicking on the track on the folder it is saved and checking **Properties**) that the audio file size isn't too big.
- You can go back into Audacity and open the original project, and export your audio track as a **WAV** (Waveform Extension) file. When you upload a WAV file to your website, your visitors won't need to have QuickTime or Real Player to play it – it will play without those plug ins. You need to decide how you want your audio to play – that will determine which format you choose for uploading and you need to think about file size, too.
- The downside of WAV is that it generates a larger file. Check the file size of both the WAV and the MP3 format that you have saved your audio file in. If the WAV format gives a large file size (over 200 KB), then you would be better with the MP3, even if it means users to your site need a player.

Adding audio to your website

- The easiest way to add audio to your website is to link it to an object on a page. Choose an image or some text, and highlight it. If you are using Macromedia Dreamweaver, go to **Properties** inspector, click the folder icon to browse for your sound file.
- When you find the file, it should appear in the **Link** text box. Click **ok** and the sound file will play when the page is published and the users click on the image or text.
- In MS FrontPage, you can add the audio as a hyperlink in the same way by clicking on **Insert > Hyperlink**. In the hyperlink properties box, either type the location of your audio file, or browse for it. Link it to an image or some text that explains what the audio file is. Visitors can then choose to listen to it. If you have linked it to the MP3 version, it will open in the visitor's default music player (e.g. Windows Media Player, QuickTime or Real Player, or on a Mac, iTunes or QuickTime).
- MS FrontPage allows you to have the track playing when a visitor opens the site. You can set this up by having your webpage in **Page view**. Click on the **Design** icon and right click on the page. A menu will open. Select **Page Properties**. Select the **General** tab, look for **Background Sound** and browse for your sound file. Click **Open** to assign the sound to the page. If your version of FrontPage doesn't allow the browsing step, just type the file path in (for example, if your sound file is called webmusic.mp3, located in your Website folder in the My Documents area, the file path you type in is MyDocuments/Website/webmusic.mp3).
- Rather than have the sound play for the whole time the visitor is on the page, which might annoy them after a while, you can make sure the **Forever** box is unchecked, and then select the number of times you want the sound to loop. Add this number to the **Loop** dialogue box. Click **ok**. Always save your web page after you've done any major work on it so you don't lose anything. Your audio file will save in a folder that sits alongside your website when it is published.