Web Radio and Audio Streaming Primer

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Abstract

This tutorial will cover the ins and outs of internet radio, from setting up your own station, to understanding current copyright law and putting together the proper equipment for an effective webcast.

Tutorial/Lecture

As the founder of the New York City Independent Media Center's Sound Collective (http://www.nyc.indymedia.org/sound-v2.php3) I will teach an introductory tutorial on the basics of web radio and web streaming. In our two year history we've interviewed filmmakers , Activists, Intellectuals and Radio Pioneers. Guests have included free software pioneer Richard Stallman, Filmmaker Stephanie Black, Radical thinker Noam Chomsky and Microradio veteran Tetsuo Nogawa.

Web Streaming comes in many guises. From expensive proprietary systems like Real Audio to cheap and free systems like Quicktime Streaming Server and Icecast. The tutorial will cover the differences between systems and will weigh the pros and cons of each. I'll explain how and why Indymedia has settled on the Icecast model for web streaming.

Recent changes in US copyright law, as currently defined in the Digital Millenium Copyright Act (DMCA) will have an ongoing effect on the future of internet radio. Some time during the tutorial will be devoted to discussing the ramifications of the current legislation as well as pointing to future paths for people and organizations interested in continuing to webcast their content.

The class will conclude with a demonstration, setting up an Icecast stream and hosting a short 5 minute show from the ISEA conference in Nogoya and going live to the netoworked world at large.

If time permits I'll explain some of the necessary audio equipment and field questions from the audience.