

Audio on the Web

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I. Examples of What's Available

A. Audio

1. **Downloadable Music Files** – Definition: Music files stored on the web that you can download, save, and play on your computer or portable media player
 - a. Some are Free; Some are Not
 - b. Some are Legal; Some are Not
 - c. Examples
 - (1) music.download.com
 - (2) www.ez-tracks.com
 - (3) musicdownloads.walmart.com

2. **Professional Podcasts** – Definition: Audio files (typically university lectures or commercial news reports) that you can download, save, and play on your computer or portable media player.
 - a. In many instances these will be available both as audio and video files
 - b. Examples
 - (1) Tech5.podshow.com
 - (2) www.ted.com
 - (3) www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast_directory.php

3. **Amateur Podcasts** – Definition: Audio files of a wide variety of quality on a wide variety of subjects created by a wide variety of people that you can download, save, and play on your computer or portable media player
 - a. Caution – some of these can be pretty raw
 - b. Examples
 - (1) www.podcast.net
 - (2) www.podcast.com



4. **Internet Radio** – Definition: Commercial radio stations around the world that broadcast their content simultaneously on the air and on the Internet
 - a. You can search for stations based on
 - (1) Call Letters
 - (2) Country of Origin
 - (3) City and State
 - (4) Format
 - b. Examples
 - (1) www.iheard.com/
 - (2) www.radio-locator.com
 - (3) *My favorite* – www.kcea.org

5. **Streaming Audio** – Definition: Audio that is transmitted over the Internet and

played while it is being received

- a. Much of it is the product of individuals who want to put content on the Web (audio blogs)
- b. Think of it as a sort of private radio broadcasting system
- c. Example:
 - (1) www.astreauxworld.com
 - (2) www.archive.org/details/audio
 - (3) www.songza.com
- d. Another kind of streaming audio allows you to create your own virtual radio station
- e. Examples:
 - (1) www.pandora.com
 - (2) www.musicoverly.com

II. Some Possible Problems You Might Encounter

- A. I can't find the button to start the play
 1. Believe me, it's there somewhere. Just keep looking
- B. The audio won't play
 1. Search the screen for tips on installing needed software. There's usually a button to get the download right there
 2. There is never (at least in my experience) a charge for this
 3. If it still doesn't work, It probably isn't your fault. Try a different page. This stuff is new to the web and isn't always implemented properly.
- C. The playback starts and stops in a jerky manner
 1. This is caused by the fact that the audio or video is trying to play faster than it is being streamed (downloaded in real time) to your computer.
 2. Press the Pause Button  to stop the play and wait 30 seconds or so to allow the streaming to take place, then press the Play Button  to resume playing
- D. The volume is too high or too low
 1. There is usually a "slider" that you can use to increase (slide to the right or up) or decrease (slide to the left or down) the volume
 2. If you can't find it (or it doesn't exist)
 - a. Click: Start > Control Panel > Sounds and Audio Devices > Volume Tab
 - b. Then use the slider in the Device Volume section

III. Experiment on Your Own

- A. Try to learn how to download and save the audio files to your hard drive
- B. Try to learn how to email the audio or video files to a friend
- C. Learn more about formats. Use www.wikipedia.com to look up the following audio formats

1. MGP, MPEG and MP3
2. RM, RA AND RAM
3. WAV
4. MIDI

IV. Enjoy