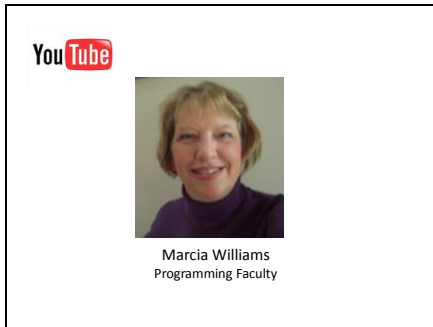


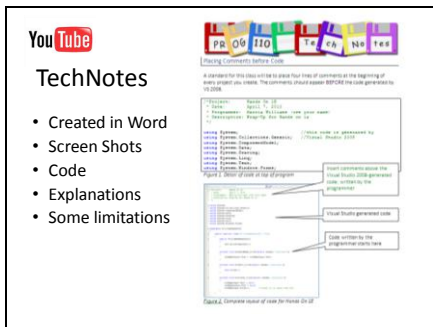
Using YouTube to Distribute TechNotes



Music Introduction



My name is Marcia Williams and I have taught **Introduction to Programming** at Bellevue College for about 30 years. Some of my classes are fully online and others combine classroom instruction with an online component.



For some students, learning programming is a difficult task. I had long used printed “TechNotes” to reinforce complex concepts. These might include screen shots, code, and an explanation of the concept. I create them in Word and save them as .pdf for publication.

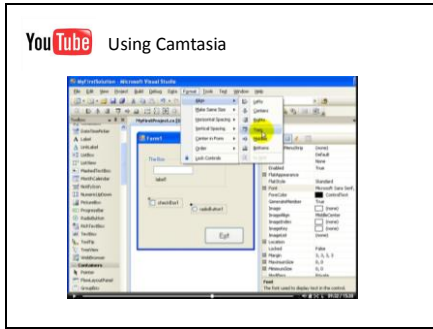
However, there were some limitations related to screen shots, including navigation among the complex file structure.

It was more difficult to show how a small change in code impacts the running of the application, as I switch between the code and the execution of the program.

And – with the length of code, it is sometimes difficult to show where to put some code lines.

Thus, TechNotes serve a purpose, but they had some limitations.

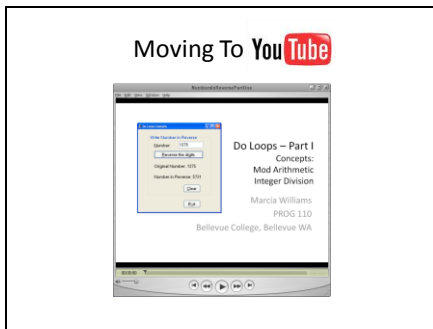
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I added Camtasia videos to my instructional tool set.

With Camtasia, now I could explain more complex concepts and show the code, and how changes might impact the running of the program. This enhanced both my hybrid and online classes.

Camtasia allowed me to show menus, something that was lost with screen shots. This allowed me to tell the whole story of a concept in a highly visual way.



Then I wondered, "What would happen if I published my videos on YouTube? Might this increase the visibility of the course and attract new students to our college?"

It wasn't that easy. For one thing, YouTube videos can't exceed 10 minutes, and some of my Video TechNotes were longer. This meant thinking about smaller "bits" of content, and breaking complex ideas into multiple videos.

Next, YouTube has strict copyright rules, so I had to be sure that any code I posted as part of a video was mine, and not adapted from other authors.

Both of these ideas meant that some of my current videos were not candidates for YouTube, either because they exceeded the 10 minute limit, or because the example was one I had used for so long, I could not vouch for the source of the code.

Using YouTube to Distribute TechNotes

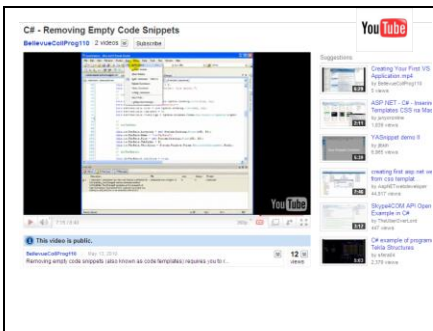


So – as part of this project, I created some new videos.

The project manager gave me additional hints about Camtasia and how to take advantage of Camtasia’s Features with YouTube in mind.

I picked topics that beginning students struggle with, like:

- Removing Empty Code
- Creating your first application
- Showing the complex file structure and the importance of saving correctly



One of the best parts of the project was access to a highly skilled technical resource.

We established a YouTube channel, which we named BellevueCollProg110. With help, I was able to select the correct set-up options.

And so I happily uploaded my first video, created expressly for both my students and the new YouTube channel. It had taken me hours to create and edit.

After I uploaded my video, I checked out YouTube’s suggestions for other videos I might like to see.

Some of these can be seen to the right of my video. I was curious about “the competition” and watched several of them.

- Some were extremely well done – with “studio voices” and for the MTV generation. I was impressed.
- Some were videos using a newer version of the software, while we have decided to delay the upgrade for a year. I wondered if this would be counter-productive to my initial goal – to attract new students to our college.
- Finally – I noted that some had thousands of views.

These observations both deflated my ego – to see how well they were done – and inspired me to do more and better.

Using YouTube to Distribute TechNotes

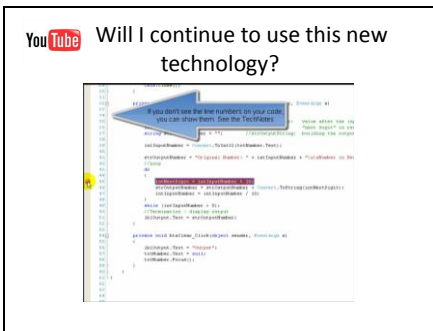


To increase the number of views, I will place links on my Blackboard website courses.

In my Blackboard site, I have a discussion topic where students can request new videos and comment on existing ones. The feedback to date has been very positive for students who watch them.

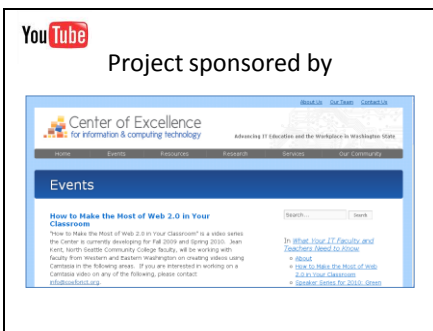
To improve my own creations, I will view more of the related videos.

And ... I will continue to seek out critiques from designers to give me feedback on how to create better videos.



Will I continue to use this new technology? YouTube and Camtasia? Absolutely Yes!

- It's too early to know if using YouTube will expose Bellevue College to more students, but the experience has been good.
- The more I use Camtasia and YouTube, the better and faster I get.
- Adding more video content enhances the course, and with 5 sections per year, the impact is about 150 students.
- Going to the YouTube area for C# Videos helps me see what others have done, and this enhances my experience.



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