

What Happens When Turn Off the Audio Console?

Building Web-Based Multimedia Tools for Language Learners

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Like all language centers, ours was faced with the question of how to move into the digital era. Five years ago we began streaming audio and video, but speech remained both a technical and pedagogical challenge. We investigated many alternatives, vendor-supplied as well as open source. Our goals for a web-based speech tool were: 1) to make speech as easy to work with and assess as text, 2) to give teachers and students task-appropriate tools, and 3) to build a cross-platform infrastructure that will grow with us over the next five years. So far we've worked on three aspects of the new VLL:



1) **Virtual Tape Recorder**—basic recording and playback component that appears with all of our listening activities. Designed to be used with pronunciation exercises, drills, etc. Figure 1.

2) **FL Message Board**—a multimedia messaging system that allows teachers and students to communicate via text, audio, or video, Figure 2.

3) **Quiz/Survey Maker**—allows speech and other media to be incorporated as an item type in a web-based authoring tool for, Figure 3.



NEW! Record your voice!

A recording device now appears on each page of the VLL.

Slider bar to rewind and fast forward the listening exercise

NEW! Attach a microphone and record your voice as you do the exercise!



Figure 1. Adding listen and repeat capability to our existing audio materials: <http://babel.uoregon.edu/YLC-AV>



Figure 2. A message system that allows teachers and students to communicate via text, voice, or video: <http://babel.uoregon.edu/messageboards>

Figure 3. A quiz/survey tool that will allow for collecting and assessing speech. Ss can listen and respond to the prompts (text, image, spoken language); Authoring system allows T's to include a variety of question types. System grades MC items and stores media content for easy retrieval and assessment. <http://babel.uoregon.edu/surveys>

4) On the Drawing Board

1) *Amiga*, a chat client/matchmaker/LL primer written for language students working in LCTLs; 2) Blackboard speech plug-ins. We intend to use Flash Com Server to develop speech-based analogs for Blackboard's communication tools: chat and threaded discussion lists.

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