

Information Technology

Meet, Present, Teach Online

Use Breeze to deliver content and facilitate communication and collaboration

Distance, time, resources, and costs can often be a hindrance when it comes to delivering information or getting people together.

Adobe (Macromedia) Breeze can help overcome these barriers by offering tools for delivering online multimedia presentations and for web conferencing.

Breeze is currently available to eligible members of the University of Minnesota community as a centrally supported service provided by the Office of Information Technology.

What is Breeze?

Adobe (Macromedia) Breeze has two components: Breeze Presenter and Breeze Meeting.

Breeze Presenter

Breeze Presenter — only available for the Windows operating system (OS) — enables you to use Microsoft PowerPoint to quickly and easily turn PowerPoint presentations into dynamic, multimedia content for the web.

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Tech Talk on TV

TechTalk, where University of Minnesota and local experts discuss the digital technology we encounter in our daily lives, began its fourth season in November 2005 and ends it on March 26 with "Traveling with Technology." Watch TechTalk on Sundays at 9 p.m., TPT channel 17.

Archives available at techtalk.umn.edu



Content created with Breeze Presenter is delivered via the Flash format (SWF file), so it is cross-platform and is available on-demand if published to the Breeze Server.

Presentations can also be published locally to your hard drive and uploaded to another web server, WebCT Vista, or burned onto a CD-ROM for delivery.

See Figure 1 for some of the features that can be included in a Breeze Presentation.

Breeze Meeting

Breeze Meeting — available for use on the Windows OS, the Macintosh OS, and Linux — is a web conferencing tool that facilitates real-time communication and collaboration. It can be used for web conferences between small groups of people or it can be used for webcasting events to large audiences. Breeze meetings occur in online meeting rooms, which contain the necessary tools – called pods – for communication and collaboration. Meeting room layouts can be customized to fit your needs.

See Figure 2 for some Breeze Meeting features.

Figure 1

Breeze Presentations, like the one shown here, can include:

- voice-over narration
- synchronized animations
- interactive quizzes and surveys
- imported audio files (MP3 and WAV format)
- images (JPEG files)
- Flash files (SWF format)
- Flash video files (FLV format)

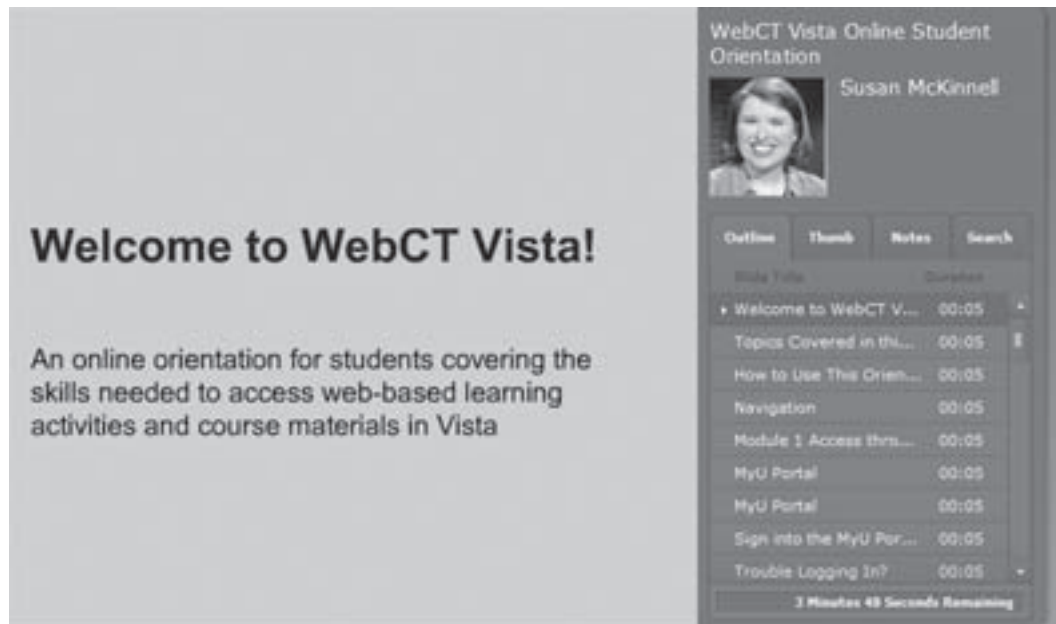


Figure 2

In Breeze Meeting, like the one shown here, you can

- broadcast audio and video
- use text chat
- gather feedback through polls
- display PowerPoint presentations and other content
- display your desktop or an open application
- share files



How can Breeze be used?

Breeze Presenter and Breeze Meeting can be used in a variety of ways. The following are a few situations in which each of these tools can be, or are being, used.

Using Breeze Presenter

If you have new training or information that you need to deliver quickly to a large audience, a Breeze presentation would allow them to view and listen to the presentation on-demand over the web. The University Technology Training Center (UTTC) has used this approach to develop self-paced, online orientations for myU Portal, UMCAL, and the WebCT Vista Student Orientation.

These orientations are available to view in the *Free Orientations* section on the UTTC website; see <http://uttc.umn.edu/>.

Using Breeze Meeting

Suppose you have a student who needs help with an assignment but she cannot get to campus for your office hours, or you work on a project with people from the coordinate campuses but find it hard to get everyone together for a meeting. In both of these situations, you could create a Breeze meeting to meet individually with the student or collectively with the larger group.

The Digital Media Center (DMC) uses Breeze Meeting to deliver the Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) Seminar Series to coordinate campuses and others who are unable to attend in person. The seminars are also recorded and available to view on-demand from the DMC's website.

What's new in Breeze 5.1?

The latest version of Breeze — Breeze 5.1 — was released to the University community on February 6, 2006. If you previously used Breeze 4.1, some of the new features in Breeze 5.1 that are available include:

- New quiz questions, such as fill-in-the-blank, matching, and Likert scale
- Authenticated presentations through the U of M's central authentication
- Security, i.e. SSL encryption for presentations and meetings
- VoIP (Voice over IP) for audio delivered during Breeze Meetings



Training: UTTC offers an orientation on Breeze as well as hands-on courses for Breeze Presenter and Breeze Meeting. See <http://uttc.umn.edu/>.

A complete list of new and enhanced features is available on the Breeze website in the Support and FAQ section; see <http://breeze.umn.edu/>.

Both versions will be available to our Breeze 4.1 users during the transition period of spring and summer 2006. New users who are eligible will have access to create new content and meetings in Breeze 5.1.

Need training or support?

UTTC offers an orientation on Breeze as well as hands-on courses for Breeze Presenter and Breeze Meeting. For a schedule of available Breeze training courses, please see the UTTC website at <http://uttc.umn.edu/>.

The Breeze Support Team can answer your questions about Breeze. They provide support for Breeze via e-mail at breeze@umn.edu. On-site support for Breeze events is also available for a fee. A complete list of support options is available on the Breeze website at <http://breeze.umn.edu/>.

■ Hope Johnson, Academic and Distributed Computing Services and Lance Cunningham, Digital Media Center

Web 2.0: Promoting Collaboration and Student-Centered Learning

Each month, the Digital Media Center (DMC) publishes a “Spotlight Issues” article on our web site about a current technology-enhanced learning (TEL) issue highlighted at sessions of the TEL Seminar Series, in our classes, or at our program or project meetings. This month’s article by David Ernst — College of Education and Human Development and the Office of Information Technology, with contributions from Christina Goodland, Digital Media Center — is below.

Web 2.0

Proponents of constructivist and socio-cultural models of how people learn recognize that students’ perspectives and prior understandings are important, that context is essential, and that learning is a social activity.

Recent changes in web application architecture, referred to as Web 2.0, have created opportunities for using the web to focus on student perspectives and social interactions. Sites designed as Web 2.0 enable users to self-publish content such as photos, opinions, citations, calendars, artwork, bookmarks, interests, theories, or anything else that can be transferred into a digital format. Users retain control of their content and decide with whom to share it.

When content is shared with others who have related interests, a rich pool of perspectives develops in such a way that collaboration and community can arise around topics of interest. This can occur by multiple users collaboratively working on a single piece of content (e.g., a wiki), or by individual users describing, or “tagging,” their content so that others can easily connect to that content through metadata.

April TEL Seminar

Please join us to discuss how Web 2.0 technologies, including blogs and wikis, can be used for teaching and learning:

Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 12:00 P.M.–1:30 P.M.
145 Peters Hall, St. Paul, Twin Cities campus

The seminar also will be available live online via Macromedia® Breeze™; sign up at

<http://dmc.umn.edu/series/tel-seminar-breeze.shtml>.

David Ernst from the College of Education and Human Development and the Office of Information Technology, Twin Cities campus, will moderate a discussion among the following panelists:

- Shane Nackerud, University Libraries, Twin Cities campus;
- Clancy Ratliff, Department of Rhetoric, College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences, Twin Cities campus; and
- Tim Wilson, Hopkins School District.

Access the TEL seminar presentation wiki and contribute your own comments, questions, or resources to help the panelists prepare for the TEL presentation. See <https://wiki.umn.edu/twiki/bin/view/TelPresent/WebHome>.

Bibliography

The following readings may help you prepare for the TEL seminar.

Giles, Jim. “Internet Encyclopaedias Go Head to Head.” *Nature* 438 (15 December 2005): 900–901. <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v438/n7070/full/438900a.html>.

Nature investigated the accuracy of science articles in two online encyclopedias: Wikipedia and Britannica. “The exercise revealed numerous errors in both encyclopaedias, but among 42 entries

tested, the difference in accuracy was not particularly great: the average science entry in Wikipedia contained around four inaccuracies; Britannica, about three.”

Lowe, Charles, and Terra Williams. “Moving to the Public: Weblogs in the Writing Classroom.” In *Into the Blogosphere: Rhetoric, Community, and Culture of Weblogs*, edited by L. J. Gurak, S. Antonijevic, L. Johnson, C. Ratliff, and J. Reyman. University of Minnesota (accessed 20 February 2006). http://blog.lib.umn.edu/blogosphere/moving_to_the_public.html.

Lowe and Williams assert that, while weblogs can be used as personal diaries, the potential value of public writing should not be overlooked. “Moving journal writing to the web using weblogs where Internet surfers can read and link to student writing potentially opens our students’ texts to the unknown outside of the classroom, but our experience with student blogging has shown that ‘less private writing’ may equally help writers to compose their lives, albeit in a social, more public way.”

Nature. “Editorial: Wiki’s Wild World.” *Nature* 438 (15 December 2005): 890. <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v438/n7070/full/438890a.html>.

The editors of *Nature* encouraged readers to look up Wikipedia entries related to their work and fix errors and omissions as a way “to push forward the grand experiment that is Wikipedia, and to see how much it can improve.”

Wikipedia, s.v. “Web 2.0.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_2.0 (accessed 20 February 2006).

This Wikipedia article describes the history of, issues related to, and technologies associated with, the term Web 2.0.

Campus resources

The following campus services and sources may help you further explore how Web 2.0 technologies can be used for teaching and learning:

- Meet with a Digital Media Center consultant. See <http://dmc.umn.edu/consultations/>.
- See these DMC handouts:

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Recent changes in web application architecture, referred to as Web 2.0, have created opportunities for using the web to focus on student perspectives and social interactions.

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- Using Blogs in the Classroom (PDF) at <http://dmc.umn.edu/etf/blogs.pdf>,
- Podcasting in Education (PDF) at <http://dmc.umn.edu/etf/podcasting.pdf>, and
- Using Wikis in the Classroom (PDF) at <http://dmc.umn.edu/etf/wikis.pdf>.
- Read about how Tim Gustafson, the associate director of the Department of English composition program, has used blogs and wikis in his classes in the April issue of the *Umart* monthly (in newsstands around campus) or on the DMC site at <http://dmc.umn.edu/projects/gustafson/>.
- Take the short course TEL: Using Blogs and Wikis to Enhance Learning, or sign up for the Podcasting Orientation offered through the University Technology Training Center (UTTC). See the Short Courses Alphabetically page at <http://uttc.umn.edu/training/courses/alphabetical.jsp>.
- Use a wiki in your class with the UMWiki tool provided by the Office of Information Technology at <http://wiki.umn.edu>.
- Access and create blogs, or ask students to do so, using the University Libraries UThink blogging system at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/>.
- David Ernst, College of Education and Human Development and the Office of Information Technology, with contributions from Christina Goodland, Digital Media Center

Program and Curriculum Approval System

PCAS is live!

PCAS (the Program and Curriculum Approval System) went live in February and is in use on all four campuses!

PCAS is a system designed to do three things:

1. PCAS is a comprehensive database of all the requirements needed to complete each undergraduate degree program offered on the four University of Minnesota campuses.
2. PCAS is a web-based approval system that automatically routes all new programs, and any changes to existing programs, to the correct approvers and approval levels. It replaces the old paper-based program approval process.
3. PCAS also is a resource for the Graduation Planner, a developing application that supports students' timely progress toward graduation. PCAS includes information about when students should take each course in order to graduate in four years. This information will be used in Grad Planner to help students plan degree programs.

Degree requirements for University majors and minors are automatically generated from PCAS for display in the online catalog, and this same information will be downloaded as needed for print catalogs.

Accessing PCAS

Access PCAS from the Staff section of onestop; the right-most column has a PCAS and a PCAS FAQ link. See <http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop/staff.html>.

Sample from the FAQ:

Q: How does PCAS link to other University information management programs such as ECAS and PeopleSoft?

A: Courses entered in PCAS with a designator and course number are linked to the ECAS system. PCAS is able to draw additional information about courses (e.g., number of credits, title, when it is

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offered, prerequisites, etc) from the ECAS database. For this reason, courses that are used in PCAS must first be entered into ECAS, and changes to courses in ECAS will be automatically displayed in PCAS.

PCAS uses information about colleges, departments, and term dates pulled from PeopleSoft. PCAS does not actually write program information to PeopleSoft directly; program information is entered in PeopleSoft by OESS staff once programs are fully approved.

Access catalogs and requirements

Find requirements for undergraduate and Graduate School majors and minors as well as professional school programs; click on the *Majors and Minors* link on the catalogs webpage at <http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/>.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all the people who have contributed to this project. What a great success for the University of Minnesota!

■ Jac Hoffsten, OIT, Project Management

JMP 6 Software is Available

Statistical software

JMP 6 “statistical discovery” software from SAS is now available from the ADCS Software Licensing office.

New features in JMP 6 include:

- Better data summarization
- Split plots
- Complete Six Sigma® Toolkit
- Surface exploration
- Normal mixtures
- Multivariate density

System requirements and more

For information about JMP 6’s new features and System Requirements info, see <http://jmp.com>.

You can also register for free weekly “webinars” from the JMP website.

From the JMP website:

JMP software helps you visualize and uncover data patterns that impact research, development, and production activities. JMP is used worldwide to develop products, reduce defects, streamline operations, improve quality, and optimize resources. Universities on every continent rely on JMP to make teaching and learning statistics relevant and fun.

From the JMP Academic section:

JMP provides the complete spectrum of statistical analytics to address engineering, scientific, and business needs of students. JMP is appropriate for students using the full range of statistics — from basic analytics to the analysis of the most complex problems a Ph.D. student may encounter.

JMP’s visual, interactive, and easy-to-learn desktop analytics let students master statistical concepts quickly. Our unique navigation paradigm drives students through statistics using point, click, drag, and drop, and then displays results as statistics and graphs in the same window. Students can easily subset, perform subsequent analyses, and create 3D and moving graphics to help understand the results of their analyses.

The University’s license

The University of Minnesota’s JMP license currently includes JMP for Mac OS X and JMP for Windows. JMP is also available for Linux, and we can add it to the University’s license if sufficient interest exists.

To license JMP 6 or upgrade from JMP 5 to JMP 6, please contact the ADCS Software Licensing office at software@umn.edu or by phone at 612-625-2310.

■ Curt Squires, Academic and Distributed Computing Services

Microsoft software for faculty & staff

▼ Did you know?

OIT/ADCS now offers several popular Microsoft software products at a reduced price for UofMN Faculty and Staff for use on their own personal computers. All current UofMN Faculty and Staff may purchase one software product per Microsoft family through this program (e.g. Office, Windows XP Pro upgrade, etc). Orders may be placed through an online order form. There are options to pick up the media at the University Computer Services (UCS) location or to have it shipped for an additional fee.

The Microsoft software available through this program includes:

- Office Professional Edition 2003
- Windows XP Professional Upgrade
- OneNote 2003
- Visio Standard 2003
- Project 2003
- FrontPage 2003
- Office 2004 for Mac Professional Edition (includes Virtual PC for Mac version 7). In order to use the Virtual PC software, you must have a legal Windows operating system

license (e.g. Microsoft XP Pro), which is not included in this CD packet. The Windows XP Pro Operating System upgrade CD listed above will work for this purpose.

Visit the University Computer Services (UCS) web site <http://www.umn.edu/ucs> for more information and the online order form. There is a “Faculty/Staff personal computers” link on the left-hand side of the web page.

■ Reprint of e-mail from the OIT/ADCS Software License Team

▼ **Help**

Computer Misuse or Abuse (also see Procedure 2.8.1.1)
 • Emergency Network Help Line 612-625-0006

1-HELP 612-301-4357

Dial 1-HELP. Listen to the voice menu list of options.
 Press the number of your desired option.
 • Technology Help www.umn.edu/adcs/help

▼ **Modem pool for active UM accounts**

Internet/PPP: up to 53kps if v.90 612-627-4250

▼ **Quick Guide**

- Internet/Email account options www.umn.edu/validate
- Office of Information Technology www.umn.edu/oit
- One Stop Services onestop.umn.edu
- Techmart/Umart www.techmart.umn.edu
- Computer Accommodations Program cap.umn.edu
- University Computer Services www.umn.edu/ucs
- U Libraries (MNCAT/LUMINA) www.lib.umn.edu
- UM News Server news.umn.edu

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March 2006 [pantone 295, featuring LHF Bell Boy]

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