

# Podcasting



## Audio Compression

The audio file that you're editing is very high quality, which translates to a big file size. MP3 provides great quality compression for about a 10<sup>th</sup> the file size of uncompressed audio. And most people can't hear the difference between the MP3 and uncompressed audio. Any computer or portable player can play an MP3 file, so it's a universal file format that makes it perfect for podcasting.

With the LAME MP3 encoder you can export your audio project as an MP3 right from Audacity. Once you've finished editing your audio, save your project. This creates a project file that preserves your tracks and other editing information, so if you need to go back later and do some more editing you can easily do so.

Go to the File menu and then choose Export as MP3 to make an MP3 copy of your audio. The first time you do this you'll need to let Audacity know where to locate the encoder. Export your MP3 file and save it to your hard drive. This is your podcast episode, the file that you'll eventually upload to your web server.

You can, however, use this MP3 file in other ways. If you want, you can upload it to your course management system and play it as an embedded audio file within your online course. Or, you can link to it from a web page. Since you've spent the time to make the audio file, you'll want to try to get as much use out of it as you can – so look for ways to reuse your media whenever you can. Students like options.