Over the past six years, we have designed and managed an in-house automated lecture recording system that is used to automatically capture audio presentations. Designed and implemented before any commercial systems were available, it has expanded to include a web based scheduling system, automatic podcasts, rss feeds and full integration with our Learning Management System (a Powerlink within Blackboard Learning System – Vista Enterprise). We are exploring both in-house and commercial solutions in order to add synchronized computer screen capture and video to our automated system. The system is designed to eliminate any extra work by the instructors (all captures are done from the audio visual system), only requiring them to sign up for the service. The system has recently expanded to include 20 rooms, over 100 courses and thousands of students across 2 campuses.

Although the system is heavily used by students, some faculty members have expressed concern about recording their classes; that students will not attend class if recordings are available. In addition, with the addition of podcasts, there is some question as to if students really require (or desire) mobile access to the recordings.

This session will consist of two parts. The first part will explore the design of our automated system and some of the challenges of creating podcasts and connections with our LMS. We will also look at some of the challenges of adding media to the recordings (computer screen or video). The second part of the session will examine the results of a survey of students on their use of the lecture recording system. Questions will include: Are students using the recording system as a replacement or support to their classroom experience? Do students really listen to lecture recordings when mobile? How do they plan to use these recordings in future classes? Successful practices and lessons learned will be presented. We will examine how universities can design and implement automated recording systems and address the pedagogical issues that surround them.