Viewing KentPlayer Videos

KentPlayer is the University’s lecture recording and educational multimedia service, which can be used to capture audio and (optionally) video of the lecturer along with anything displayed on the computer screen, including PowerPoint presentations. Once recorded, the content is automatically made available in Moodle. **Please note:** Not every module will use KentPlayer, and not every lecturer in a module may be willing to be recorded. Technical issues can occur and so it may not be possible to record every lecture, despite best efforts.

Accessing recordings

Modules using KentPlayer will display the KentPlayer block (right), which has the following features:

1. **Links to all recordings** in the module.
2. **RSS feeds for podcasts.** This allows you to subscribe to the recordings, via iTunes for instance. Any new recordings will then download automatically to your computer as soon as they are published, to sync to a mobile device. The audio feed provides an MP3, the video feed format depends on the module’s settings but by default displays video sources side-by-side in MP4 format.
3. **Links to training documentation and the Terms of Use**
4. **If a recording is in progress when you view the block, it will appear under “live sessions” and you can take notes, linked to the specific timing of the recording, using a mobile device in the lecture and, if the recording is being broadcast, watch “live” (with a delay of a few seconds).**

Quick Tip: Double-click on the presenter video or screen recording to display in full-screen**
To view a recording, click on the link in the Moodle block. This will open the KentPlayer Viewer (screen shot on previous page). The viewer displays the presenter video, where used, in the top-left corner, with the computer screen (often showing PowerPoint slides) to the right and playback controls below. The playback bar can be used to jump to different points in a recording in the same way as any video player. Depending on your browser, a playback speed setting will appear within these controls, allowing you to speed up or slow down playback. Above the playback controls are the slides or screen recording, depending on the sources recorded, with thumbnails below. Clicking on the appropriate thumbnail takes the viewer to that point in the recording. Depending on the sources used, further content tabs for secondary video (such as a whiteboard or document camera) may be available. Below the controls you will find several tools:

1. Contents – Displays the title of each slide for navigation (only when PowerPoint is used).
2. Captions – Displays text-based captions of the audio where these have been supplied.
3. Notes – Allows you to create private or public (visible to all other viewers) text-based notes within the recording, which are associated to a specific point in the recording. Useful for revision purposes.
4. Search – Allows you to search through all text in the presentation file (where used) to find a specific phrase, and then jump to that point in the recording.
5. Info – displays information about the recording such as the session title and description, and the presenter.
6. Bookmark – Type a bookmark at any point in the recording to save that position.

*Acceptable Use Policy
You can only use recordings for your own study as a supplement to live lectures. You must not share these recordings, even with friends studying at other universities.
You must not upload copies to any public website (such as YouTube); to do so will be treated as a serious breach of academic integrity and IT Regulations http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/general.html

Subscribing to mp3 or mp4 podcasts
You may subscribe to the podcast feed, which will download new recordings as they become available, from within Moodle. The KentPlayer block contains two links, for mp3 (audio) and mp4 (video) podcasts. Click the relevant one and your device will open whichever program or app is setup to deal with podcast feeds. If the podcast link does not work, try the RSS one.

Seeing all shared recordings
New for 2016, you may login to the main KentPlayer server to see all recordings shared with you, which should include recordings from any module on which you are enrolled. This does not affect access from within Moodle.

To see this view:

- Browse to player.kent.ac.uk (note, no www).
- Check the drop-down box says ‘your Kent IT account’.
- Click Sign in.
- If you have already signed in to a Kent system, such as Moodle, you will not have to enter your username and password.
You will see the most recently created available recordings on the right of the screen.
Click on ‘Shared with Me’ on the left to see all available recordings; this view can be ordered by date, duration etc.

Older recordings
You may be given access to recordings made before the 2015/16 academic year. These recordings will not play back properly in the Chrome or Edge browsers – you will see a message like that in the screenshot, below. For best results, use a different browser.

If this causes a particular problem please contact the elearning team with the name of the recording and we will re-process it to put it into the newer format, which will work with the aforementioned browsers: elearning@kent.ac.uk.

Troubleshooting
Some of the lectures aren’t listed in the Moodle block.
• Ask the lecturer if the session recorded successfully. In some situations, lecturers will keep the session hidden until they’ve had chance to check or edit the recording.

The “Lecture Recordings” block doesn’t appear in the module.
• Not all modules are using the service. Check with your lecturer.

The viewer isn’t working properly
• Ensure that your internet connection is fast enough to stream the content. If you have one installed, try an alternate browser, such as Chrome or Safari. If you’re having further problems displaying the content in your web browser please contact the IS helpdesk at helpdesk@kent.ac.uk.

Please help us to improve our documentation by emailing elearning@kent.ac.uk with feedback.