Using KentPlayer to webcast (live stream) an event

It is possible to use KentPlayer to live stream a teaching session enabling participants to view the contents of a session remotely using any web browser. Live streaming can be set up on the fly, that is, it can be enabled at the beginning of a teaching session, or alternatively, a KentPlayer webcast can be set up in advance in order for the viewer link to be publicised ahead of the session.

Setting up a webcast in advance

To set up a KentPlayer webcast in advance of a session, you must first create a webcast event on the KentPlayer server. To do this, go to https://kent.cloud.panopto.eu and, from the ‘Create’ dropdown menu, choose ‘Webcast’.

On the page that follows you’ll be prompted to give the webcast a name and, where appropriate, a description. You’ll also be required to choose an appropriate folder in which to record into. Webcasts work like a regular KentPlayer recording, hence why you’re required to select a folder in which to record into, the only difference being that the session is live-streamed whilst it is recording.

Once you’ve given the webcast session a name, description and selected a folder, click ‘Create’.

A settings window will then appear on screen. The majority of these settings can be left as is, however, if you plan to make the viewer link available to users in advance then you should copy the URL from the ‘viewer link’ field and send this to your participants as this is the link they will need to use to access the webcast.
Note: Any users accessing the viewer link before the session goes live will see a message explaining that the session is not yet live and that the page will update as soon as webcast begins.

Starting a webcast

As mentioned previously, a webcast works very much like a regular KentPlayer recording, so many of the following steps may be familiar.

On the lecture theatre PC (or your own laptop, where applicable), open the Panopto Recorder software.

Log-in to the software using your University of Kent username and password. Once signed in, set up the recording interface to suit your needs, i.e. choose which sources you’d like capture. Remember, any items you choose to capture will also be available to viewers of the webcast.

In the ‘Folder’ dropdown menu, select the folder in which you created the webcast session (see 'Setting up a webcast in advance' above).

Once you have selected the relevant folder, click ‘Join Session’. You should see the webcast stream you created earlier appear in the dropdown list (see screenshot below). Click on the name of your webcast stream to link it to your session.

You’ll now be returned to the Panopto Recorder interface and, when ready, you can begin recording your session. As soon as you click the ‘record’ button the webcast stream will begin and participants will be able to view the session on their own computer (using the viewer link shared previously). Helpfully, when recording begins, the viewer link also appears at the bottom of the Panopto Recorder interface.

Pressing ‘stop’ will bring the webcast to an end. Your recorded session will process in the usual way.
Accessing a KentPlayer webcast (live stream)

Participants can access a KentPlayer webcast in any internet browser using the viewer link provided above (see ‘Setting up a webcast in advance’).

When accessing the viewer link, participants will be asked to enter their University of Kent username and password.

If the webcast hasn’t yet begun, a holding message will appear on the participant’s screen stating that the ‘page will update once the webcast begins’. When the lecturer begins recording the webcast will automatically start and the participant will be able to see/hear the contents of the session on-screen.

Note: Some web browsers have ‘autoplay’ disabled, meaning that the user must click on the play icon for the webcast to begin. There may be a lag between when the session began and when the user clicked play, therefore, it is recommended that the user drags the horizontal slider bar to the far right of the screen in order to bring their feed up to date (see screenshot, below)

Depending on which sources have been captured, the participant can double-click to full screen either the slides, webcam video or presenter screen.

A message will appear on the participant’s screen once the webcast has ended.

Help and support

For general help using Moodle, contact your Faculty Learning Technologist (FLT). If you are having problems accessing Moodle, contact the Helpdesk on 01227 82 4888, or email helpdesk@kent.ac.uk. Other training guides are available on the E-Learning website.