



ppt2www

Some options for posting slide presentations to the web

You could just let browsers download your .ppt file

Advantages

- Useful for a collaborator
- Resolution and animations largely intact, though there can be problems across Macs and PCs

Drawbacks

- Browser needs PowerPoint
- Browser will have to “launch” a slideshow
- Inconvenience of downloading
- Your files will be modifiable, easy to steal, etc.
- Old versions of your presentation will be floating around

Or you could let browsers download a PowerPoint .pps “show”

Better

- Shows ‘launch’ automatically when opened
- Original still largely intact.

But not much better

- Only slightly more secure.
- Only slightly more convenient.
- Browser still requires PowerPoint
- Still leaves potentially outdated versions floating around



Convert to .pdf

Improvements

- Robust security options
- High resolution

Drawbacks

- You may need special conversion software
- Animations are flattened
- Still requires download





Convert to .html

- Viewed in browser
- No downloading
- Conversion glitches
- Missing bullets
- Unattractive look
- Resolution can be affected
- Sometimes involves multiple files



Convert to QuickTime (.mov)

- Can be streamed rather than downloaded
- Good for a self-running presentation
- Available only on the Mac version
- Conversion glitches
- Browser will need QuickTime player
- Awkward playback interface



Zoho Show flash

- Easy to upload
- Very good image quality
- Wide cross-platform viability
- No download
- Embed or link to distinct url
- Toggles to full screen
- Discourages misuse
- Extremely
- Serious flattening of animations
- Browser will need Flash player, but nearly all have it.
- Requires (free) Zoho account
- Show will be available to world, even if you embed it in Blackboard.

Thinkfree

- Rich editing, even after upload
- Document Exchange:
A forum for sharing your slideshows
- Ads in display
- No embedding on your own page
- Requires (free) Thinkfree account
- Java download
- Limited display options
- Show available to world

slideshare.net

- Social slidesharing
- Large community
- Feedback
- Search for shows of interest
- embeddable
- No post-upload editing
- Embed is fussy
- Show available to world



End of the day

Out of all of these choices, I find the Zoho embedded Flash shows to be the best, provided:

- You have no protected content
- You have no or minimal animations
- You are not trying to include other kinds of media
- You don't mind creating a Zoho account

For that matter, if you know that your presentation is destined for the web, you might even compose it in Zoho in order not to avoid conversion difficulties.

Need more?

If you need more options than these, please contact me or your Academic Computing Manager.

Link of interest: You'll find an extensive review of software and approaches for converting PowerPoint to the web at:

http://www.masternewmedia.org/2004/04/14/powerpoint_to_flash_conversion_tools.htm

