

Hacker Busters

Making Computer Music

You have been selected to prepare background music for a new movie called "The Garrulous Router & the Singing Server." The word "garrulous" means talkative. This router constantly chatters enthusiastically as it directs packets safely on their way, and the server loves a song with a good beat.

Use your computer to create the music for this movie by following these steps:

1. Think about what sounds or melodies you'd like to use for this project.
2. Check your computer to see what sound options it has such as a sound-editing program, a built-in microphone, and built-in speakers. Determine if you need to attach a microphone or speakers to your computer. Make sure the sound input and output settings will work with your microphone, speakers, and sound program. You can usually find this information in the Sound section of the Control Panel or System Folder. Don't change any sound options on a school or family computer without permission. Ask your teacher or your parents for help if necessary.
3. Once your computer is ready, you'll need to decide which sounds you want to include, such as spoken voices, recorded or live music, or sound effects.
4. If your computer doesn't have a sound-editing program, you might want to consider the Audacity Program (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>), which is free and works with both Mac and PC computers. If you are using a school or library computer, do not download anything unless you have permission to do so. Many school computers already have sound editing programs, so you probably won't need to download anything.
5. Follow the directions for the sound-editing program you are using.
6. When you are satisfied with your music, save it.
7. Although you can play your music in the sound-editing program, you may want to add it to a Web page, a word processing document, or a presentation so that you can share it with others.
8. If you are using music that is copyrighted, you can only use up to 30 seconds of a song in a school project. If you want to use more, you have to contact the company that made the CD for permission. That's the law.
9. Before using any songs in your project, make sure that any lyrics will be acceptable to your teacher and parents.
10. Have fun with this!

For directions on how to use Audacity and create MP3s, visit the Power to Learn website:
http://www.powertolearn.com/articles/teaching_with_technology/sound_education.shtml



Here are some other links that may help you:

Putting Sound on a Webpage

<http://nt.watauga.k12.nc.us/br/sound.htm>

A school site that shows you how to add sound to Web pages

Home Recording

<http://homerecording.about.com/od/basictechniques/>

Links to information about sound features

