

Getting into podcasting

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Not long ago I decided to take the plunge and buy an Apple iPod. It was a great decision and now I love having all my music and photos on one small, portable device that I can take with me walking, running, and driving (while using the **iTrip** attachment).

One of the best advantages to the iPod is being able to listen to **Podcasts**. Podcasting is to Radio what blogging is to Publishing. Many individuals and organizations are now providing audio programs as attachments to blog entries. The programs might be a live interview, **a tech show**, a recorded keynote speech, a short newscast, or even **a couple** just hanging out.

There are several podcast directories where you can search categories and topics of interest. The two that I use are **PodcastAlley** and **iPodder**. PodcastAlley for example even has a **Linux podcast category** where my favorite there is from **Linux Questions**.

The convenience of listening to podcasts comes from blog aggregator software that is podcast aware. I ~~use~~ used **Feed Demon** (\$29) from Nick Bradbury, maker of the Top Style CSS editor. With Feed Demon you just configure it to **add the podcast channels** that interest you and add specific podcasts to queue for download. Feed Demon can then synchronize podcast downloads with your iPod. Another popular podcast aggregator is the freely available **iPodder**, by Dave Winer and Adam Curry. I've just switched to using iPodder because I find it easier to use than Feed Demon, and I like its scheduling service a lot.

Podcasting was **first envisioned** by Dave Winer, who added it to the **RSS 2.0 specification**. In fact, just today I listened to a great **IT Conversations podcast interview with Dave Winer** where he discusses the origins of RSS, Podcasting, and his vision of how they serve the public by lowering the barriers to publishing so that the *little guy* can compete toe to toe with large publishers.

If you want to make your own podcasts like **I've done**, check **this engadget blog**.

For more on what podcasting is all about, check out the Boston Globe's **Computer, microphone, iPod make broadcasting personal**, and also Wired Magazine's **Adam Curry wants to make you and iPod radio star**.