

# NCast at College of the Rockies

NCast is a lecture capture system used by College of the Rockies for distance education. Even if you attended a lecture in person, NCast is useful for reviewing the material afterwards.

## How does it work?

All the elements of a lecture - sound, video, graphics - are mixed into a single web 'movie.' After the lecture is complete, your instructor posts a link to this movie on your Moodle account.

In order to play the movie at home, you must have a modern computer with Quicktime installed. Quicktime is a free media framework by Apple. It is designed to work with Windows and Macintosh computers. Linux computers are not supported at this time.

Your internet connection needs to be fairly fast. Dialup is too slow. What network speed is fast enough? Some users have reported acceptable performance with satellite and 3G networks, although a cable or ADSL connection is preferred.

## Installing Quicktime

You must have Quicktime installed on your computer. Macintosh computers already have it; Windows computers often don't. If you're not sure, go ahead and re-install it from Apple's webpage:

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

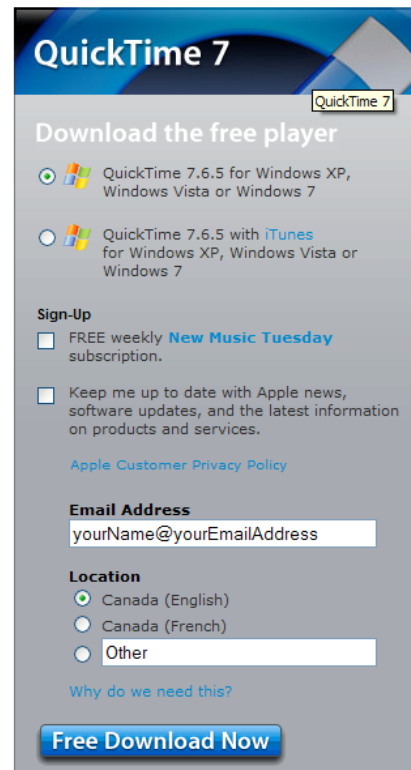


Fig 1: from the web page.

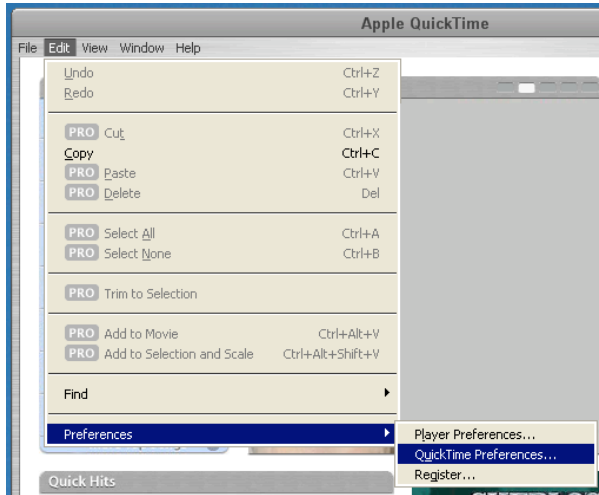
When you download the Quicktime player, don't bother with iTunes (unless you own an iPod) or the free email subscriptions. Who wants more spam mail in their inbox? You may notice an optional 'Pro' version on the same download page; it's unnecessary. Click the 'Free Download Now' button and follow the defaults.

After Quicktime has finished installing, try to watch one of the lectures on Moodle. Did it work? If it played, great, that's all you need to do. If, however, you experienced problems with the sound or picture you may need to 'tweak' the settings a bit.

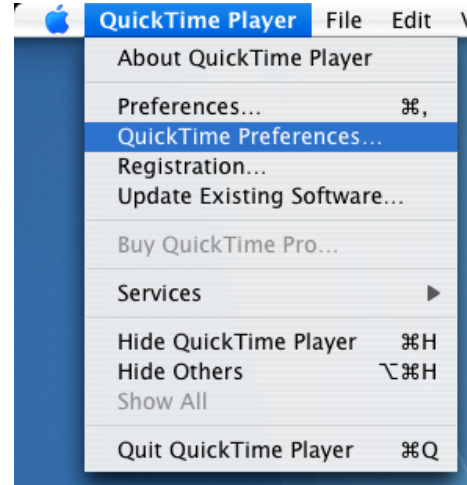
## Configuring Quicktime

First, start Quicktime Player, and then open Quicktime Preferences:

On Windows:



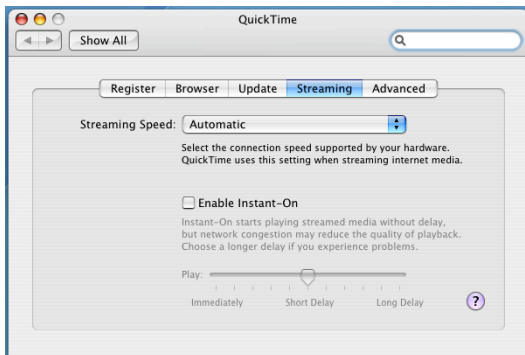
On a Mac:



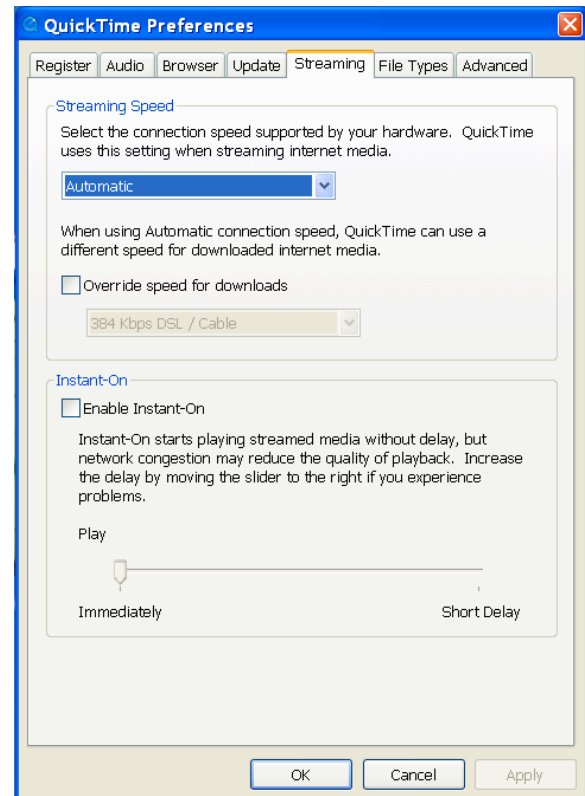
Sometimes Quicktime attempts to play the movie too soon; not enough data has been downloaded and the video plays in fits and gasps. A good way to prevent this is to turn 'Instant On' ... OFF.

On both Mac and Windows computers you'll find this under the Streaming tab:

Mac:

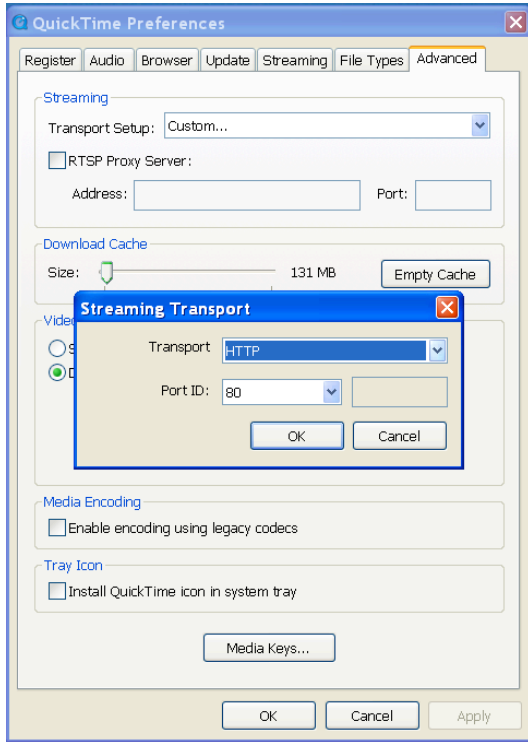


Windows:

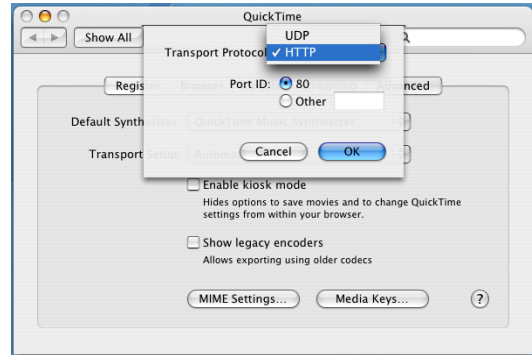


As a final touch, it may be necessary to change the streaming method. Click the Advanced tab and choose 'Custom' under Transport Setup. From the popup window, select HTTP and a port ID of 80:

Windows:



Mac:



Click OK and you're done!