

The Podship Huskerprise
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Kidcast: Podcasting in the
Classroom
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Narrator: Cyberspace. The final frontier. These are the voyages of the podship Huskerprise. Our mission, to seek out intelligent discourse, to engage listeners in deep thinking and to boldly go where no podcaster has gone before.

Captain: Star Date 1.6.06 We've entered a new quadrant of cyberspace...a quadrant of unknown potential.

1st Officer: Captain, there's something up ahead. It looks to be an MP3 file.

Captain: Mr. Microphone, try to tap into the transmission.

Mr. M: Captain, wait...i need to update to the latest version of iTunes. (pause) Ok... here it comes.

Alien: We are pod. Prepare to be syndicated. Resistance is futile.

Captain: Put the firewalls up and do a scan of the area.

1st Officer: Captain, there are thousands of these files out there. Each of them different and free. They appear to be housing hours of audio content for entertainment, information, and education.

Captain: Sounds harmless...but let's proceed with caution.

Mr. Microphone: The audio files appear to be organized behind those text documents. I can't quite make out the code on them....

1st Officer: Captain. Those are XML documents!

Captain: Please explain.

1st Officer: They are just text documents that contain descriptive tags. The tags appear to be describing podcasting channels and episodes within the channel. It's really pretty slick.

Mr. Microphone: and not all that complicated. It looks a lot like HTML. Wait. We're getting another transmission...

Alien: Look. It's no big deal. These are just RSS feeds.

Captain: I don't understand.

Alien: Just use iTunes to subscribe to our RSS feed. Go to the advanced menu and type in this url. (beep beep beep)

Captain: Wow, that is Really Simple Syndication.

1st officer: Yes, Captain. Really Simple Syndication.

Mr. Microphone: Captain. I've begun entering in these RSS feed addresses and suddenly dozens of audio programs are downloading onto our ship's computers. Should I call for a red alert?

Captain: Wait. These are great! Here's Adam Curry....and Al Franken...and pod safe music...and lectures from Harvard. (picks up communicator) Engineering...we need more bandwidth!

Engineering: I'm givin her all I can captain...but these files are pretty big.

Captain: Well, I'll just have to go have a cup of coffee while these download. Then I'll fill my iPod up and learn learn learn!

Alien: Welcome to the collective... syndication is simple, really.

Narrator: Tune in next time when the crew of the Huskerprise encounters an enhanced podcast with pictures and links!