

## Getting Started

If you've been using Microsoft PowerPoint, then you'll already be familiar with making presentations, and the benefit that having accompanying words and pictures can be to your talk or presentation.

One drawback to using PowerPoint was that you really had to be present at the time to get the most out of the presentation. In a school setting, if your students were absent, then giving them the presentation to view on their return was nowhere near as good as them being there when you delivered it in class.

Another drawback was that you couldn't identify whether your audience had understood the content of your presentation without having to assess them using another tool. This assessment you would then have to spend time marking, collating and analysing the data to take your students forward in their learning.

Welcome to Macromedia Breeze presenter then - it solves these problems simply for you - and does a whole lot more besides.

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## An Introduction to Macromedia® Breeze™ Presenter

Breeze Presenter is a plug-in for Microsoft PowerPoint that allows you to turn a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation into a web ready flash based format that can have an accompanying audio track.

You don't have to worry whether the person viewing your presentation has the correct fonts on their computer, or even a version of Microsoft PowerPoint - they don't even need a Microsoft PowerPoint viewer to see your presentation. All they need is an internet browser and the flash player - which is free and found on the vast majority of internet connected computers.

Better still if you are an educator, Breeze Presenter allows you to add quizzes into your presentations that can test your students as they work through the presentation. You can add in multi-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, matching and rating scale questions - all of these give instant feedback to your student as they answer the questions, and if you like give a summary of their performance once they have completed the presentation.

I thought I'd save the best feature 'til last though - if you have access to a Learning Management System - a Breeze server for those of you in Argyll and Bute, or Glow for almost anyone else in Scotland - then you can collate all the data you wish from your presentation. You don't have to mark it, as the computer has already done that for you, and the Learning Management System will collate all the information such as how your students answered each individual question, how long they spent on each slide and their overall score.



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At present, there is no Breeze Presenter option for Apple Mac OSX, so you'll need to use a computer running a Microsoft Windows operating system (Windows 2000 version or higher) to create content. Note that's just to create content though - anyone with an internet browser and the Flash player can view and use the content. That can be on a Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac or Linux computer.

Is it difficult? In my considered opinion: no. Over this series of tutorials on Breeze Presenter, I'll show you how to easily make resources that could be of great benefit to you, your colleagues and your students.

Do you need anything to take this course? Other than a good working knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint, no. 16 lessons in all, this is a short course that builds on your Microsoft PowerPoint skills. If you don't feel that you have the Microsoft PowerPoint skills already, or you're not sure whether you do or not, then check out the [www.swict.com](http://www.swict.com) course on Microsoft PowerPoint.