Subtitling improvements to the Podcasting Service

This document outlines the work being carried out to improve the current subtitling solution which is available on the Podcast Video Portal. Documentation on new/upgraded features will become available on the [Podcasting FAQs](#) pages shortly.

The following changes are to be released Monday 14th September.

1. Greatly improved accuracy of generated subtitles

Previously, Google's standard speech-to-text service was used to provide subtitles to Video Portal content. An assessment was carried out to compare Google's standard service to their premium speech-to-text service, and it concluded that the accuracy of the subtitles using the premium service (87.5%) significantly outperformed that of the standard service (41.2%). Further benefits include an increased ability for students to follow the lecture through reading the text, and also reducing the time required by lecturers to rectify any subtitling errors.

2. Generation of subtitles for all uploaded content

When content is uploaded to the Video Portal, a 'generate subtitles' option will be checked by default – ensuring that subtitles will be available with all published content going forward (this option can be disabled if appropriate). This will allow video content to conform with accessibility guidelines.

3. Support the uploading of subtitle files with additional formatting (such as those produced by Youtube)

The Video Portal supports uploading of subtitle files in the .VTT file format, however there was an issue with these not displaying when a video was embedded into another web page (or Blackboard, for example). This issue has now been resolved - so when a valid VTT file is uploaded, it will display on both the Video Portal and the embedded player.

4. VTT subtitle files can be downloaded from the Video Portal and embedded player

All users can download subtitle files for individual videos (in VTT format) to their own devices. This is available as part of the Options under a video on the Video Portal, and will be detailed in our FAQs.

5. Transcript can be downloaded from the Video Portal and embedded player

All users can download a transcript file (in TXT format) to their own devices. This is the content of the subtitles VTT file with the mark up and formatting removed.

6. Upload/replace subtitles after a video has been published

It will be possible to upload a VTT subtitle file after a video has been published.

Users who originally uploaded a video will be able to achieve this from the My Videos tab.

If a subtitle file already exists, it can be replaced with an updated version. Note that the subtitle file must be a VTT file with valid formatting – we will be providing guidance on this in our FAQs.