



Tuesday Tech Talk - Podcasts: Who Needs TV?

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Why Podcasts?

Podcasts are commonly described as **on-demand internet radio talks**. These tracks are typically audio recordings of a conversation between a host and a guest speaker, just like the ones you can listen to on the radio, or a single monologue of a person sharing his or her thoughts.

Besides your desktop computer, you can listen to these audios from your iPhone or Android device, mp3 player, iPod, tablet, or any portable digital device. Podcasts are on-demand listening which is the opposite of streaming real time. Podcasts were designed to fit into an active, always-on-the-go lifestyle. The episodes can be downloaded one by one and you can play them later offline.

You can download the tracks on your computer in mp3 format or make the best out of the offline listening feature of popular podcast apps like iTunes or Stitcher. For example, you can play the latest episode while driving, doing household chores, or going for a walk.

Listening to podcasts can significantly increase your time spent on learning, even if it is only for a few minutes per day. You never know when those insights and creative ideas come handy in your life. Podcasts can shower you with inspiration! You can improve listening skills, enhance focus and help your imagination as you picture the stories as they unfold.

Podcast Platforms

Apple podcast app is already on iPhones or can be downloaded from the App Store.

Google podcast app is available on Android phones or download from the Google Play Store.

You can use other platforms:

Overcast for iOS

Podcast Addict

Podcast Guru

Stitcher

Spotify and Tune In also have podcasts available if you already use these platforms

Expect ads on the platform unless you pay for a premium version. Some podcasts have sponsors and play “commercials” during the podcast.

How Do I Listen?

On your iPhone or iPad

If you have an iPhone you can use the Apple podcasts app to listen to podcasts.

- The Podcasts app should already be downloaded on your phone so search your apps for ‘Podcasts’. If it’s not, go to the app store and download it.
- Open the Podcast app and go to the search page (click on the magnifying glass button in the navigation at the bottom).
- A search box should appear at the top, next to another magnifying glass icon. Tap on this and type in the name of the podcast you want to find eg: “Pod Save the World.” Click the Search button.

- Choose the podcast you want from the search results and tap on it. This should take you to the podcast's homepage.
- Once you're on the podcast homepage you'll see a list of recent episodes. Tap on one to play it.
- If you like what you hear, a subscribe button at the top of the page lets you subscribe for free. This means the app will automatically download the latest episodes to your library.

On your Android phone

If you have an [Android](#) phone you can use the Google podcasts app.

- Search "Google podcasts" in the Google Play app.
- Install the app.
- Once you open the app, use the search box (look out for the magnifying glass icon) and type in the name of the podcast you want to find eg: Football Weekly.
- Choose the podcast you want from the search results and tap on it again. This should take you to the podcast's homepage.
- Once on the podcast homepage you should see a list of most recent episodes. Tap on one to play it.
- If you like it, tap the subscribe button at the top of the page. When you subscribe to a podcast, it'll appear at the top of the Google podcasts app, and a new section in the app will let you know about new episodes from podcasts you've subscribed to. You should also be able to listen to podcasts from the Google search app, just search for the name of the podcast.

On a website

The simplest way to listen to podcasts is on a web browser like Chrome, Safari or Microsoft Edge. You can do this from a computer or from the web browser on your phone.

- Find a website that has podcasts you like, for example Pod Save America.
- Find the player on the page, check your device's sound is switched on and click play to listen to the podcast.

Settings

Check the settings associated with your selected podcast platform. Consider:

- If you'll be listening at home, stream it. If you'll be listening outside the home, download it.
- Delete episodes that you have downloaded so you don't overload your phone or tablet. Most apps will auto delete once the episode is completed – make sure to go to the absolute end to make sure it deletes.
- You can change the audio speed – might help save some time if you inch up the speed of the speaker.
- You can create playlists or group your podcasts under categories.
- Always check FAQ page if you run into a problem.

What's Good?

There are thousands of podcasts, but the podcast platforms organize them by subject matter, so you can search for topics of interest. Or start with people or programs you already know. For instance, RadioLab, This American Life, Fresh Air, On Being, and Hidden Brain all can be heard as podcasts even though you are more familiar with them on the radio. "The Big Listen" is a podcast about podcasts, so that's a way to learn about more options. Here are some other "hot" podcasts to try:

The Crooked Media podcast kingdom includes:

Pod Save America, Pod Save the World, Keep It, Hysteria, The Wilderness, This Land, America Dissected, What a Day, Rubicon, Crooked Minis, Lovett or Leave It, With Friends Like These, Pod Save the People, Majority54 with Jason Kander

Stuff You Should Know

This podcast is exactly what it sounds like: A deep dive into topics you probably know of but not a lot about. Think bitcoin, tornados, and pop culture. The hosts' fun chemistry and down-to-earth approach to even complex subjects will draw you in and you'll take off your headphones a little smarter than you started.

The Alarmist

The sinking of the Titanic. The Irish potato famine. The McDonald's coffee lawsuit. This hysterical and informative podcast investigates some of the greatest failures of our time; how they happened, what went wrong, and ways in which they could have been prevented. For a dose of history with a side of laughter, you can't go wrong with *The Alarmist*.

Decoder Ring

For anyone who needs a little cocktail party conversation fodder, or used to collect Snapple caps for the random facts written inside, *Decoder Ring* is your new binge-listen. Each episode explores a topic that's likely part of your everyday life, but you may never have thought too much about. Think ice cream trucks, Bart Simpson, animatronic creatures, and even pillows.

Serial

The first podcast many people discovered, this insanely popular true crime podcast hit zeitgeist with its first season, in which host and journalist Sarah Koenig investigated the case of Adnan Syed who had been accused of murdering his ex-girlfriend. Now in its third season, the show now follows court proceedings in Cleveland in all its drama and scandal.

The Moth

True stories, told live without notes, make up this inspiring and compelling podcast. Some of the storytellers are polished professionals but many are everyday people who got onstage at a Moth event and bared their souls in front of strangers, which makes this podcast feel especially intimate.

Judge John Hodgman

Sometimes, disputes between friends or partners need an impartial moderator, and that's where Judge John Hodgman comes in. People bring their petty arguments, longstanding beefs, and stalemated disputes to the celebrity and comedian, who weighs in on what they should do in a funny and insightful podcast for anyone with a soft spot for Judge Judy.

Radio Cherry Bombe

Foodies, have we got a podcast for you. By the creators of the popular female-fronted food magazine, *Radio Cherry Bombe* interviews lady movers and shakers in the industry, including chefs, bakers, influencers, cookbook writers, and others involved in cooking and eating food. Grab a snack before you tune in; trust us.

The Mortified Podcast

We've all got that one embarrassing moment that happened in eighth grade that we wrote about in our diaries but still keeps us up at night. Guests on this podcast read from those childhood journals about the awkward, the mortifying, and the funny moments that make us human. Share the shame and realize that

none of our most awful faux pas were really that bad.

Who? Weekly

If you've ever seen a celebrity's name and wondered who they are, this podcast can help. Hosts Lindsey Weber and Bobby Finger spill the tea on who's who, what they're doing, and why we should care. They also take calls from listeners, so you can weigh in. Even if you think you hate celebrity gossip, give this podcast a try.

Welcome to Night Vale

Fiction fans will love this podcast that's sort of like a well-produced audiobook. The story comes under the guise of a radio broadcast in the fictional town of Night Vale, where some seriously surreal stuff is going on. Buckle up and get ready to binge listen.

Mobituaries with Mo Rocca

Emmy winner Mo Rocca is a correspondent for *CBS Sunday Morning* and the voice behind *Mobituaries with Mo Rocca*. In each episode, listeners are introduced to people and things (obit of the station wagon, anyone?) who have long intrigued him. Rocca is such a natural storyteller and shows the art that goes into telling the story of someone's life.

Room 20

Room 20, produced by L.A. Times Studios, follows investigative reporter Joanne Faryon's two-year journey to learn the identity of a seemingly-comatose man known only as "Sixty-Six Garage." As unexpected as the revelations about Garage's identity are, what Faryon uncovers about his medical condition may be the most shocking discovery of all.

Pretend Radio

Pretend Radio is back for its fifth season this year, with a new slate of addictive, stranger-than-fiction, real-life tales. Every episode of *Pretend* focuses on a real person pretending to be someone else—including riveting interviews with con artists, snake oil salesmen, undercover FBI agents, catfish, and others who have chosen to live a lie in one way or another.

On Second Thought

You can think of *On Second Thought* as an afterparty to *The Daily Show*, where hosts Trevor Noah and David Kibuuka focus on "the news that isn't happening," as Trevor calls it. The two take a humorous, yet analytical approach to a popular news story and expose its less popular, yet tangential cultural implications. Take the widely-covered burning of Notre Dame for example, and then the less popularized conversation around the ethics of philanthropy.

The Dropout

Apparently, nothing is more convincing than a woman in a black turtleneck. At least that's what Elizabeth Holmes seemed to prove when she dropped out of Stanford and convinced America's wealthiest men to invest in her sham of a medical tech company known as Theranos. New podcast *The Dropout* tells her story—it's captivating, and many times feels almost unbelievable.

Fiasco

Fiasco revisits the historical political power moves that shaped our country and society into what it is today. Season one starts out on the deep end, covering the unforgettable contested election between All Gore and George W. Bush in 2000.