

February, 2008

Using the New Wirecast Software for Broadcasting the Service

This month we installed Wirecast. This software replaces the old RealProducer. Its job is to compress the video and send it to our server. From there, customers can stream the video to their computers for viewing. The best way to learn to use Wirecast is to download the free trial version from their website, <http://www.varasoft.com>, install it and do the tutorial.

Here is a checklist for Sunday mornings.

1. Start the computer. It is set to start up Wirecast automatically when it boots up.
2. Click the "Title" selection on the lower left of the Wirecast window, then select "Next 8:30" from the 4 or so iconic selections. This will put an overlay on the video announcing the next service is at 8:30.
3. Click "Normal" on the left and select "USB Video Bus II. This selects the camera feed for the video. You should see the picture in the view above the menus.
4. Click the "Audio" selection and pick "Sound MAX". This will select the audio signal to go with the video. Next, double click on the "Sound MAX" icon and this will pop up the audio control window. In that window, select the "Playback" tab to reveal a sound meter. Put this window behind the main Wirecast window so that the sound meter can be seen to the right of the screen. This way you can monitor the sound level. Note, the sound level in Wirecast is pretty much automatic and will need little if no adjusting. This is a great improvement over RealProducer.
5. At the top of the Wirecast window, click on "Broadcast" and select "Start Broadcast". This will start the broadcast.
6. Then, click on "Broadcast" again and select "Start Recording". This will start the recording.
7. Enjoy the new capability to manipulate titles and overlays as described in the tutorial.