

Interview with a podcaster

Scott: I know you got into podcasting pretty much at the beginning. How did you first hear of it?

Dave: I was an avid reader of blogs, and I was aware that some bloggers were starting to attach audio files. That excited me. I had never written my own blog – I'm not really much of a writer – but I knew that doing something with audio would be my kind of thing. I read a newspaper article early in 2004, February, I think, which mentioned podcasting. So I started to look into it, but I didn't feel that I had the technical capabilities. I was also busy with work, I'm a graphic designer, so I sort of forgot about the idea for a while.

Scott: But you came back to it and started your own podcast early in 2005.

Dave: That's right. In January, to be exact. By then all the tools were available, and I had enough free time to devote to my own podcast. Of course I didn't know if anyone would listen to it, but just being able to broadcast something was enough for me.

Scott: Did you get any reaction from the public?

Dave: Yes, I was surprised and gratified to find that not only were people listening, but they were interested enough to email me with their thoughts on what I'd said.

Scott: What do you find to talk about?

Dave: Current affairs, music, travel, you know, the things I'm interested in. I find it quite easy to just ramble on about things in general, like something I've read about, and as I began to hear from people I could imagine that I was talking to a real person, I could visualise my audience, if you like. I must admit that I'd always had ambitions to have my own radio show. I'd dabbled a little in community broadcasting, but of course never had my own programme. With podcasting I found that I could have just that, my own show three times a week.

Scott: Nowadays your podcasts aren't just all talk, are they?

Dave: No, I include quite a bit of music in them. People in bands send me examples of their music, and if I like it, I'll play it in my podcast. I also actively look for new music to play. Lots of people nowadays publish their music on the web, and they're very happy to have it publicised more in podcasts.

Scott: At the moment this is just a hobby, but do you see yourself making money from podcasting in the future?

Dave: No, not really. I know that some podcasters are talking about charging a subscription to their podcasts, but I like the idea that it's for free. If you start charging people for something they can start making demands on you, and I like to be able to do and say whatever I want.