Screencasting Tips and Best Practices

1. Before recording, disable all of your notifications. These include from your operating system, browser, meeting reminders, text notifications, and any other program that may get in the way of your recording.

2. Screen recording typically needs a lot of computer processing power. Shut down all unnecessary programs that aren't needed while you record. This helps with performance,and eliminates visual distractions ("Ooohhh, what apps does she use?")

3. Clean off your computer's desktop if you will be showing it on-screen. Hiding all of the icons and change the background image to eliminate distractions and match organizational branding. Subtle backgrounds are usually best.

4. Gather and prepare all of the files you need to make your recording. Know exactly where they are at and have them open if you don't need to show opening them during the recording process.

5. After gathering the materials, practice slowly going through the recording step by step. Make sure the process and steps work as you anticipated. Also, take note of where any new windows open. If possible, try to get everything positioned where you need it.

6. If you're recording your browser, clear your browser history, extensions, and bookmarks. Some browsers make it easy to create profiles - set one up that is clean to make screen recording easy.

7. Not sure what size to record? Try recording full screen, then adjust the production size in your editor. Just remember to keep the sizes proportional.

8. During your recording, you can use your mouse cursor to direct viewers' attention by moving to the button or area you're talking about. But, don't use your cursor like a laser pointer and move it frantically to point out an object or area.

9. You may want to change your system settings to slow down your mouse cursor speed. It will feel a bit unnatural at first, but it will help you have deliberate and intentional movements.

10. You may want to change the size of your mouse cursor, although some screen recording software will let you do this in editing.

11. Even when you record your computer or mobile device and aren't on camera, remember to gesture with your hands. This can make you sound more natural as you speak.

12. Record and edit your audio first, then record your screen content to match. This way you can edit the recording to have it look perfect.

13. Make a mistake? Snap twice or double tap the microphone to create visual cue in the audio waveform of the problem.

14. Make your screencast only as long as it needs to be. Cut out anything unnecessary, and focus on key information.

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