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Learning Technologies Information Sheet

1. iPod Nano 4GB

What is it?

The iPod Nano is a portable media player using flash memory, the model demonstrated comes with a 2.2 inch display and a click wheel interface. The model demonstrated by the RSC West Midlands is a 4gb generation three device which features a 2-inch (51 mm) QVGA (320 x 240) screen. Features of this device include video playback, audio playback and image galleries. The battery lasts for approx. 24 hours on audio playback and approx. 5 hours on video playback. When fitting an additional external microphone to this device (not supplied) it becomes an effective audio recording device. The iPod Nano has gone through six models, or generations, since its introduction. The sixth and current generation supports video recording, a microphone for voice recording, FM Tuner, and a slightly larger screen.

Potential uses for Teaching and Learning:

The iPod can help to facilitate the mobile and media-rich learning styles of today's students to access and continually review course materials, supporting resources and assessments when they need to. The iPod extends teaching and learning beyond normal classroom hours, allowing students to easily and continuously learn. iPods allow tutors to more easily engage and match the individual needs of diverse learners and it can be a great way to help students acquire new skills and improve their academic achievement.

Typical uses include:

- Audio playback (Podcasts of lectures; audio books; interviews; forums, instructional content, foreign languages).
- Audio recording (external microphone required) (Podcasts of lectures; interviews; forums; assessment evidence gathering; self measurement/evaluations).
- Review video media (coursework, demonstration of new skills/evidence)
- Review digital imagery (coursework, demonstration of new skills/evidence)
- Media storage (PC profile information: desktop settings; files, folders, outlook emails preferences, cookies).

Pros and Cons

Pros

- Ability to continually review content at any time of the day.
- The user is able to create simple audio content (external microphone required) with no additional software required.

Cons

- The small screen of the Nano is not be as flexible as the larger screens of the larger iPod models.
- The Nano lacks the wifi and 3G connectivity of other Apple products