

Yackpack

Audio Recording

Talk to your Peers and your Instructor

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Overview of Yackpack:

Yackpack is an amazing piece of software designed by a team of programmers at Stanford University. It is **fully web-based**, and allows students and instructors to communicate by microphone-recordings and written notes.

For example, this tool will allow you to create numerous audio recordings of yourself speaking in Spanish, practice until it's perfect, then instantly submit the results to your instructor, who will in turn be able to reply to you in either written or spoken format.

Once YackPack is open . . .

- You can click anything in the YackPack interface to explore. You won't break anything, so have fun.
- You can move the buddy icons by dragging them.
- You can "right click" on buddy icons to see more options.
- You close YackPack by clicking the "X" in the upper right corner.

What makes YackPack special?



Privacy & Safety

You decide who enters your circle. The closed network locks out unwanted people and messages.

Simplicity

YackPack is easy to use. Just click and talk. No menus, no typing required, no complexity.

Fun

Send voice messages, text, pictures, and personal stories.

The following tutorial will assist you install the software and get you up and running.

Step 1: Getting Started in YackPack

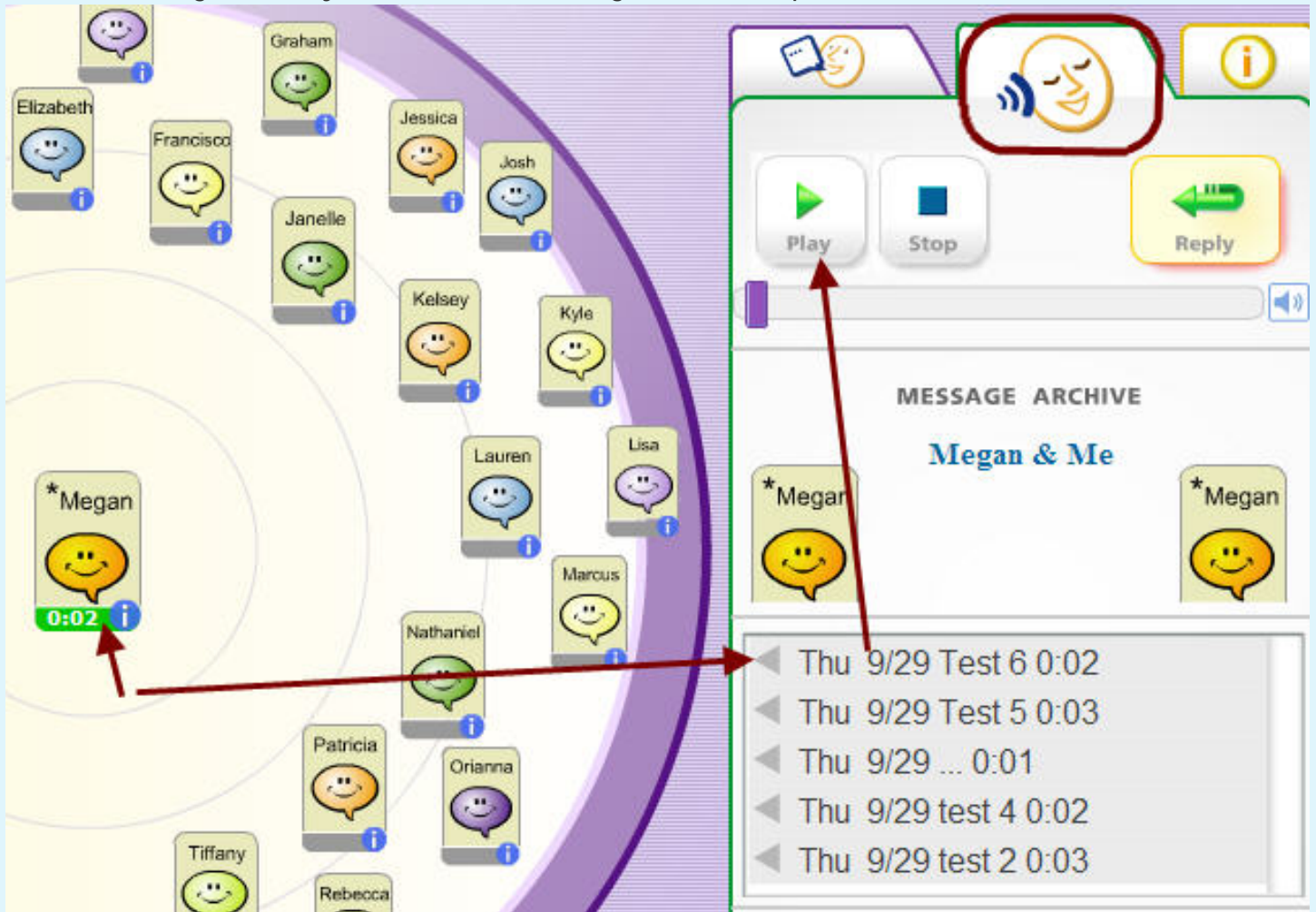
- Because this is a fully web-based product, there is no proprietary software to install. The latest versions do work best with Flash 7, which integrates into your browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox,

Opera, etc.).

- Getting started is very simple. Your instructor will send you a Yackpack Username; a Password; and the web address (URL). The web address will be different for each course, so ask your instructor.
- Your Username for YackPack will be your SK Online EMail address. EXAMPLE: joebrown@skoclass.org
- Simply login and you're on the way ...

Step 2: Retrieving Messages

- After launching YackPack, you can see if new messages are waiting for you. A green bar underneath someone's image means you have a new message from that person.



- To listen to new or old messages, do the following:



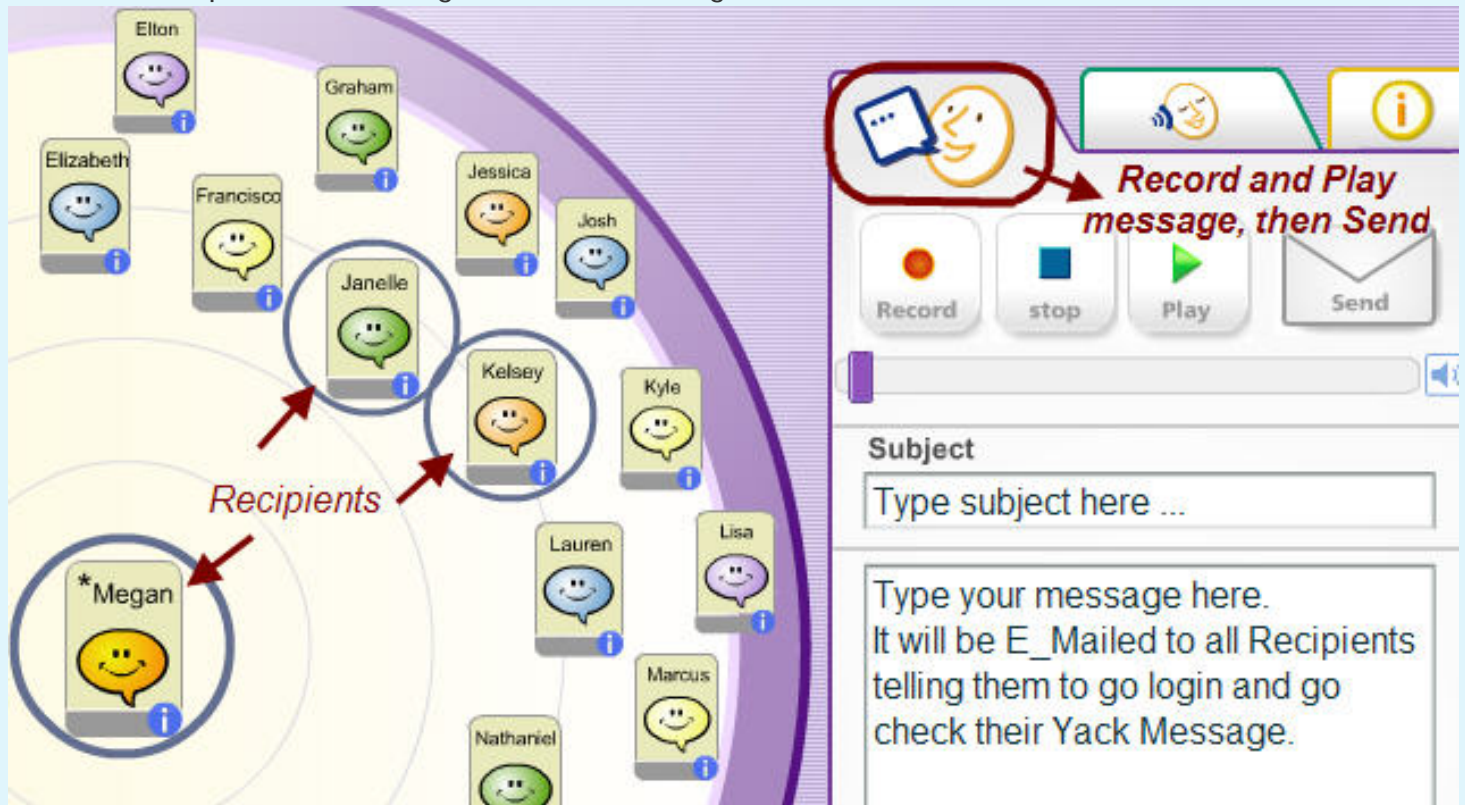
1. Click on the Message Bar underneath someone's photo or smileface.. This opens an archive (list) of messages sent between you and that person.
2. Click on a message inside the archive.
3. Click on the "play" button (look for the green triangle), and make sure your speaker sound is on..

Step 3: Configuring your Microphone

- How do I connect and setup a [Microphone](#)?

Step 4: Sending Audio Messages

- You can send audio or text messages using YackPack.
- To create an audio message, you need a microphone plugged into your computer. See www.audiohelp.info for help.
- To send a simple audio message, do the following:



1. Click on the images of people you want to send a message to. (in the example above, this is Megan, Janelle, and Kelsey).
2. A circle (ring) will appear around each person you select.
3. Record your message by clicking the "Record" button (look for the red circle).
4. Begin talking, singing, or whatever you want to record.
5. Hit **Stop** when you are done, and hit the "Play" button to listen to your message prior to sending, and re-record if you wish.
6. PLEASE be sure to fill in the **Subject line** and/or additional text with your audio message, as an Email will be sent to all recipients saying "You've received a Yack".
7. When you're done recording, click on the "Send" button (look for the envelope), and you'll see:

Message Sent

Step 5: Other Things you can do in YackPac,

- Click the "i" button to enter profile information about yourself for others to see.



- Rearrange the images inside the circle by dragging them around.
- Put music into your message by playing music while you record.
- Send a message to yourself.

Ok, everything should be installed and working properly by this point. Practice recording and testing your Yackpack, and be prepared to submit a short recording to your instructor.

Assessment:

1. Select "**Assessments**" from the left hand navigation menu.
2. Locate and open an assessment titled "YackPack Introduction".
You will be sending a message to your instructor confirming that you have Yackpack installed and working properly. Keep the message between 15 and 30 seconds, and include some text in the available text box.

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