Tony & Jon-

In one of my HHS231 lecture sections I had a student request to use voice to text software to generate a "transcript" of each class. Without knowing a lot about this I was hesitant to grant him permission and in discussion with Melinda she suggested that I contact both of you. Is there any University policy on using such software in class? Is there any risk to allowing a student to use this? The only risk I could think of was if he attempted to sell the transcripts. I would appreciate any insight either of you may have on this.

Thank you!

From: Dorbolo, Jon  
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 9:24 AM  
Subject: RE: Student Request to Use Voice to Text Software

That's one I've not fielded before!

The speech-to-text recording has similarities to audio recording of lectures. Students do tape, and now Mp3, lectures.

Our Academic Success Center encourages students to do so if they are audio learners; "Use tape recorders to document lectures and for reading materials."
http://success.oregonstate.edu/learning-styles

Some schools have policies about recording lectures, usually with regard to gaining permission. I am not aware that OSU has such a policy. Attached is a fairly elaborate policy and permission process from the University of Indiana. The practical part in this case is the Agreement Form. I think that your concerns may be covered with a modified version of that form, especially focused on "I will not distribute in electronic or paper form, with or without compensation." Or something like that.

That will cover audio, video, and speech-to-text recording, I think. I'm not stating a legal opinion. My amateur opinion is that if you want to copyright a lecture (I'm not sure if we even own our own words by Oregon Administrative rules!) then write it out before hand and/or record it yourself.

Intuitively, given that the student asked permission, they are likely on this side of the good line already :-)

I have doubts that speech-to-text will work in the lecture environment. If so, I'd sure like to talk with the student to find out how they did it.

It is a good idea to have some policy on this at OSU. I'll take it to the Computer Resources Committee for consideration.
A statement in your syllabus; e.g. "You may audio record lectures so long as you agree to the following conditions.....or with expressed permission.......or with a signed agreement which is online at....etc."

In good spirit,

Jon

See also http://tlt-swg.blogspot.com/2011/10/text-to-speech-for-tablets-phones.html