Top 10 Voiceover Apps for Improved Productivity

www.essentialvoiceovertraining.com

Adobe Audition

- Without a doubt Adobe Audition is the premiere software to use when only recording a single mono voice for a voiceover project. Audition is designed to work specifically in the broadcast voice field and the plethora of included features is hands down the best for VO.

Pro Tools and/or Logic Pro

- For multi-track recording projects you have to learn how to use a multi-track DAW. Adobe Audition has multi-track abilities which are great also, but I LOVE using Pro Tools and Logic. Pro Tools is great for projects where you either need to record live audio or have all the files in place already. Logic is great for music production and development (think beats, loops etc.)

Google Drive, One Drive

- Cloud storage is a MUST these days. The best storage apps I have used are Google Drive and Microsoft One Drive. And yes I do use both simultaneously. The best rule of thumb is that you can really NEVER have enough copies of your files (OK sure, you can go overboard). But be sure you have SOME KIND of storage off your computers hard drive. Please trust me on this… you WILL need to restore your files someday.

iDrive Backup

- iDrive backup is what I use to backup my files OTHER THAN a cloud storage app. Cloud storage is great. An additional true off-site backup utility is even better. I do use it for portions of my cloud storage and I also use it for those files that are NOT on cloud storage. Every application (i.e. my Apollo interface, your DAW, others) always store some kind of information on your hard drive like configuration settings, or templates, or favorites. BACK THESE UP WITH something like iDrive.

WeTransfer

- Yes you WILL need some way to transfer files to clients other than email. Email is great for small files less than 20Mb. But it won't take long to figure out that an audio file can go way beyond 20Mb. MP3's are smaller, but try sending a WAV or AIFF or something that is not compressed and you can quickly go beyond the email size limit. WeTransfer is awesome. It's fast. It's easy to use. And you can use if for FREE!

FreshBooks

- OK so for YEARS I did all my accounting from an Excel spreadsheet. You can too… for a while. Pretty soon the organization, the filing, the saving, the reporting, all the things that you HAVE to do to run a business will overrun the ability of a spreadsheet. You WILL need an accounting software. FreshBooks is simple, easy to use, and POWERFUL. The reporting feature alone is enough to justify it. I think for fewer than 50 clients you can get it for $25. Then for 500 it's $50 and on. This is definitely worth it… especially at TAX TIME!

appointlet

Appointlet

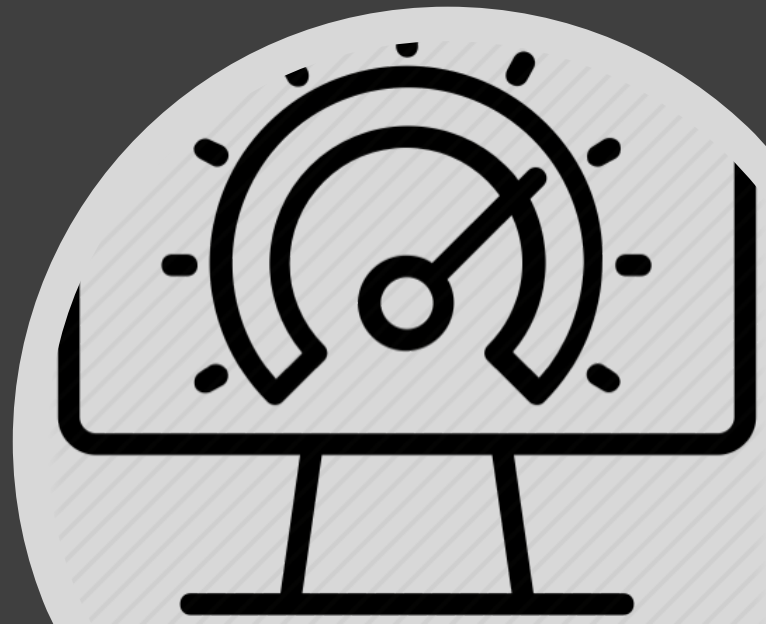
- I JUST FOUND THIS! Well, like a month or two ago. Hehe. I have been looking for a long time to find a solid appointment app that integrates to calendars, send updates and notifications, allows you to customize emails sent… and I found that and more with Appointlet. This little app is amazing and it's pretty inexpensive! Like $15 a month? WTF?!?! Can't beat it!

Waves Plugins

- A list of tools for audio production and voiceover would not be complete without mentioning your plugin options. Waves plugins are amazing. They're usually inexpensive if you buy singles only and wait for the sales (subscribe to their social media accounts). For voiceover the NS1 noise reduction is a great tool, as well as some of the other EQ and de-(something) tools like de-breath, etc. Use judiciously though! A little plugin can go a long way, and you do not want to accidentally introduce plugin artifacts to your sound.

iZotope Plugins

- And last, in the place of most honor, goes iZotope plugins. The tools provided by iZotope are industry standard for excellence. You almost cannot mess up a file when using these. The noise reduction utilities are incredible. De-crackle, de-noise, de-removeanythingthatyouscrewedup… they do almost everything. If and when you can afford these tools, do it. The RX suite is great for VO, but there are so many others it would be impossible to list them all.

Hi-Speed Internet

- OK I know I said I was done but there is one more tool you MUST have. If you want to reduce time, speed up processes, eliminate headaches, then do yourself a HHHHUUGGGEEE favor and get the best high speed internet (HSI) you can afford. I use Google Fiber because I was lucky enough to be in a city they rolled out. But there are MANY other providers now with gigabit solutions. Get as close to gigabit as you can. 200Mb or higher at least. Believe me you will not regret it once you really start blasting out auditions and winning gigs. ISDN is still used by many, but in all honesty I have NEVER lost a job because I did not have ISDN. With a solid HSI you can add on utilities like Source Connect or ipDTL or even use Zoom conferencing to great effect as I have shown you can do. Oh… there's another… get Zoom Conferencing. And Skype. And Source Connect… and oh crap I need to create another list!