

Web 2.0 Primer

Don't know where to get started? Unfortunately there is no beginning point with Web 2.0 tools. The best way to get started is to just pick an area and get started.

RSS

The glue that ties many Web 2.0 together. RSS stands for Really Simple Subscription. RSS is a web feed (think of the ticker that runs on the bottom of TV screen) you can subscribe to that pulls the newest content on websites, blogs, podcasts, and even news sites directly to you. Sites with a RSS feed have the symbol RSS Symbol in the address bar or somewhere on the page which you either click on or copy the address of to subscribe. Feeds are collected using an aggregator which goes out and compares the feeds to what you've already viewed and provides a listing of the new content since your last visit. Google Reader (<http://reader.google.com>) and Bloglines (<http://bloglines.com>) are very easy to get setup and use quickly.

Blogging

Create a blog

There are many free services out there to help you get in the game. Edublogs (<http://edublogs.org>), Wordpress (<http://wordpress.com>), Blogger (<http://blogger.com>), and Blogmeister (<http://classblogmeister.com>) are excellent places to get your feet wet and be expressive with the written language.

Read blogs

There are so many blogs out there both on a personal and professional basis that reading blogs can be an invaluable part of your day. Many of the presenters at this year's conference blog and offer a great value in building a personal learning network.

Wikis

Wikis are webpages that can easily be changed by an individual or by a group based on the author's preference. Wikispaces (<http://wikispaces.com>), PBWiki (<http://pbwiki.com>), Wetpaint (<http://wetpaint.com>), and Google Sites (<http://sites.google.com>) all offer customizable space for your needs.

Podcasts

A podcast is simply an audio or video file that is posted on a website for downloading purposes. Listening to podcasts on your computer or mp3 player is a tremendous source of professional development or entertainment. The iTunes Store offers a great one stop shopping experience for collecting podcasts or podcast episodes.

Social Bookmarking

Social bookmarking is a network of people who collect favorite or bookmarked websites, categorize them with keyword tags, and share them with others. Others can view these bookmarks or favorites and add them to their collection as well as keep tabs based on their feed. Delicious (<http://delicious.com>) and diigo (<http://diigo.com>) offer an easy to use interface to add, share, and find websites that you and others may find valuable.

Photo Sharing

Photo sharing services like Flickr (<http://flickr.com>) will let you not only store your pictures but search for other pictures based on tags, just like you search for websites in del.icio.us. This is particularly helpful when looking for that one picture to make that PowerPoint more impressive and you don't want to go through volumes of Google Images.

Twitter

Twitter (<http://twitter.com>) is 140 character microblog that answers the question "What are you doing?". Each post is known as a tweet and users 'follow' the tweets of their network. Often the tweet describe what an individual is doing, or working on. However there are many more possibilities, tweets can be responses to other tweets, questions to your twitter network, links to interesting resources. It is really

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hard to wrap one's head around until you start tweeting and build a personal network. It is a great way to share resources, links and tools.

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