

## Web 2.0

To people who use the Internet, wikis and blogs are Web 2.0. Web 2.0 is mostly about user-generated and interactive content. Web 2.0 is what people call new ways of showing or using things on the Internet. It adds great interactivity to the static, informative websites of Web 1.0. It fundamentally builds on the internet technologies which are in use since the inception of internet.

- Web 2.0 is simple: easy for anyone to publish their work on the Internet
- Web 2.0 is social: easy for people to connect with other people
- Web 2.0 is open: easy for websites and computer programs to exchange data with other sources

## Wiki

A wiki is a type of website that lets anyone create and edit its pages. The word is Internet slang. The word *Wiki* is short for WikiWikiWeb. *Wikiwiki* is a word from Hawaiian, meaning "fast" or "speed".

Wikis can be used for different things and all wikis do not follow the same rules for using them. Every wiki can be changed, or edited by everyone, although some important pages cannot be changed by anyone. Wikis are central places where we all can share information with each other, people can add new information. Wikis allow information to be collected.

In a wiki, people can write pages together. If one person writes something wrong, then others can correct it. The next person can also add something new to the page. Because of this, the page gets better whenever someone changes it. Once a person contributes to the wiki, settings allow for them to be alerted whenever the wiki is edited by others. This allows for accurate information to be maintained. Users who purposely publish incorrect information can have their right to edit removed by the owner or administrator of the wiki.

People can discuss in wikis as well. Discussion can make people understand things better, or gives people a chance to tell their views. Discussion happens on the page behind the information page.

## Blog

Blog is another word for weblog. A weblog is a website that is a series of posts. A post is a single piece of writing on the blog. Posts often include links to other websites. Blogs can have one or more writers. If they have more than one writer, they are often called community blogs, team blogs, or group blogs.

On many blogs, readers can leave comments, which are notes in which a person says what they think about the blog post. This makes blogs good for discussion. Readers can comment and discuss, but they cannot change what the post says. Only the writer of the post can.

Very often, a community blog or group blog will shrink into a small group of bloggers (writers) who know and trust each other, called a *creative network*. That kind of community blog will also have a larger group of people, a *social network*, who only read (and maybe comment on) the blog.

Often people have their own blog and make an RSS feed to it. When blogs have RSS feeds, other programs, called *content aggregators*, can put postings from all the blogs that a person likes in one place. Many people find it easier to read all the new posts from blogs they like in one place, through RSS, instead of going to each site one at a time.

# Blackboard

## Enhancing and Extending the Classroom

Adding online learning to face-to-face classes can help teachers save time and give students access to more resources as well as to each other. From online assignments to discussion boards to customized learning paths, Blackboard technology enables each teacher to decide how best to integrate online learning into the standard curriculum. Teachers can manage assignments, share multimedia resources, launch discussions, and create assessments that go directly into an electronic gradebook. At the end of the year, they can easily update and reuse online course components and share best practices with fellow teachers.

## Moving curriculum development online

Moving curriculum development and management online gives educators direct access to what works in the classroom. Teachers can log in anytime, anywhere to search for help, seek training, ask questions and share best practices. Additionally, districts can easily distribute customized and appropriate curricula created in the district or by a third party to teachers by school, subject area, grade or other defined grouping. Development tools enable curriculum specialists and teachers to collaboratively create content for all to access or go through a formal review process.

## Providing professional development

By offering professional development online, districts provide training anytime, anywhere and with the least disruption to classroom instruction. A proven, hosted platform for course development and delivery enables school districts to introduce online learning without a technical investment or additional resources. Collaboration tools enable teachers to share best practices and solve problems without adding another set of meetings to their busy schedules.