

CCTS Tech Tuesday BLOGGING FOR A CHANGE

In 2004, the Pew Internet & American Life Project estimated about 11%, or about 50 million, of Internet users were regular blog readers. Technorati, a leading blog index, indicates that there are about 70,000 new blogs a day. Bloggers — people who write weblogs — update their weblogs regularly; there are about 700,000 posts daily, or about 29,100 blog updates an hour.

Vocabulary

Blog (Weblog): A website in which entries are posted on a regular basis and displayed in reverse chronological order. Authoring a blog is called "blogging". Individual articles on a blog are called "blog posts," "posts" or "entries". A person who posts these entries is called a "blogger".

Blog Index: A website that lists blogs by category, or present popularity as measured by links and traffic to the blog, ie. Technorati.com; Blogdex.com; GlobeofBlogs.com;

Blogosphere: All blogs, or the blogging community. Also called blogistan or, more rarely, blogspace.

Blogroll: List of external links appearing on a blog, often links to other blogs and usually in a column on the homepage. Often amounts to a sub-community of bloggers who are "friends".

Podcasting: Posting audio and video material on a blog and its RSS feed, for digital players. The term is a contraction of "iPod" and "broadcasting" but podcasting is not for iPods only.

Really Simple Syndication (RSS): A way of handling the latest items posted on a website, especially suited for blogs because it alerts users whenever their favorite blogs are updated. It can also "syndicate" content by allowing other websites (simply and automatically) to reproduce all or part of a site's content.

RSS Aggregator, Aggregator: Software or online service that allows a blogger to read the most recent RSS feeds from selected blogs. Also called a reader, or feedreader

RSS Feed: The file containing a blog's latest posts. It is read by an RSS aggregator/reader and shows when a blog has been updated. Depending on the way the author established the feed, it may contain the title of the post, the title plus the first few lines of a post, or the entire post.

Trackback: A system that allows a blogger to see who has seen the original post and has written another entry concerning it.

Definitions from Wikipedia.com and Handbook for Bloggers and Cyber-Dissidents (http://www.rsf.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=542)