

So what are blogs and why should you care about them?

Blogs

A **blog** (*web log*) is a discussion or informational site published on the [World Wide Web](#) and consisting of short entries ("posts") typically displayed in reverse chronological order (the most recent post appears first).

Until 2009 blogs were usually the work of a single individual, occasionally of a small group, and often covered a single subject. Blogs can also be interactive. For example, in some blogs anyone who views an entry can also leave a comment. Blogs can be focused on a topic (such as politics, car care, a favorite TV show) or be completely unfocused.

The emergence and growth of blogs in the late 1990s coincided with the advent of [web publishing tools](#) that facilitated the posting of content by non-technical users. (Previously, a knowledge of such technologies as [HTML](#) and [FTP](#) had been required to publish content on the Web.)

A majority are interactive, allowing visitors to leave comments and even message each other via [GUI widgets](#) on the blogs, and it is this interactivity that distinguishes them from other static websites.^[2] In that sense, blogging can be seen as a form of [social networking](#). Indeed, bloggers do not only produce content to post on their blogs, but also build social relations with their readers and other bloggers.^[3] There are high-readership blogs which do not allow comments, such as [Daring Fireball](#).

Here are some of the internet's most popular blogs for you to check out:

[TipLine - Gates' Computer Tips](#)

Here are some blogs from teachers in other states:

[TeacherTechBlog.com](#)
[Technology Tips for All Teachers](#)

And here's a blog about technology in education from Australia:

[Blog.Larkin.net.au](#)

Educators are starting to use blogs as an online discussion tool. For example, a high school social studies teacher might create a discussion blog about current events where students have to look at a political cartoon posted by the teacher and then type a comment into the blog about their opinion about it. Teachers could use blogs to share ideas about educational strategies or just communicate about student discipline problems. Such blogs should probably be kept confidential however.

Here's more information about: **[How to Create Your Own Blog](#)**

TO KEEP ON LEARNING: To learn more about using blogs in education try searching the internet for:

Blogs in Education
The Blogosphere
Creating a Blog for Students

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<http://sonyastechtips.edublogs.org/>