
What is a blog?

“Blog” is short for web log and can be used as a noun (“I read about the new scandal in a gossip blog.”) or a verb (“After our date I went home and blogged about the evening.”).

A blog (or web log) is a journal that is kept on the Internet. It is also an easy-to-use, personal web site that you can access from the Internet. It does not have to be a journal, though many start out that way.

Blogs started as a way for people to notify each other of interesting and fun links on the Internet. Later, people started using their blog sites to keep a journal or make observations about current events.

Several web sites offer blogging services – they will let you post your thoughts on your own blog on their web site using their software. Usually this service is free, but you have to register in order to use the site. Reading blogs is free.

Who writes a blog?

Anyone can write a blog. Some are personal. Others are business related. Some cover entertainment or fashion. Many are political. Blogs provide information and opinions for anyone with an interest in expression.

Blogs can be written by one person or by a group. A family can have its own blog. A department at work might want to use a blog to communicate with each other. Sometimes students will have blogs that their friends read to keep up with gossip and to chat.

What makes up a blog?

The features of a blog usually include:

Date: The date the post is written. Posts are generally presented in reverse chronological order (most recent first).

Title: Sometimes each post is given a title. This helps readers track new posts and find ones they might be interested in.

Time stamp and/or permalink: The time the post is uploaded to the blog. The time stamp often is a link to a permanent page just for this post. This allows other bloggers to link to a post.

Post: A word, picture, sentence, paragraph or essay, with links and names and current news.

Author: The name or username of the person who wrote the post.

Comments: A software feature that allows readers to leave their own comments and reactions to the author's post.

Source: <http://www.unc.edu/~zuiker/blogging101/parts.html>

This is a typical blog with a title, description, date of post, title of post, and other information.

STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY BLOG

Serving the legal community of Stark County, Ohio

January 31, 2006

"TIPS FOR WORKING WITH EXPERTS"

Evan Schaeffer posts: "[Tips for Working with Expert Witnesses](#)," by James L. Ewing and Jason D. Gardner, contains a lot of useful information even though the article is tailored specifically to intellectual property litigation. (Note: link is to a pdf file.)

Topics covered include:

- Selecting and retaining experts;
- Working with experts;
- Preparing experts to testify; and
- Taking the adverse expert's deposition.

The last section of the article can be used as a foundation for deposing an adverse expert in almost any case. It's informative--but short too!"

For active link, go to:
Source: [The Illinois Trial Practice Weblog](#), 30 January 2006

Posted by Nancy at [09:55 AM](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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- [July 2005](#)
- [June 2005](#)
- [May 2005](#)

How do I find blogs to read?

There are two main ways you can find a blog to read. One is by word of mouth. If someone starts a blog they are likely to send an email to their friends, informing others of their new endeavor. That way you can read about the lives of people you know right away rather than reading about some 19-year-old's day at college or a young mother's musings on being a new parent.

The other way is by stumbling upon a blog you enjoy by clicking on links you find listed on websites or blogs. People are very generous with links on the Internet. They will readily point you to other neat sites or blogs they read. Once you find a blog it's very easy to bookmark the site or subscribe to it so that you can keep up with new posts.

There are also special search engines, directories, and community sites created with the sole purpose of helping you find a blog to read. Use of these sites is not the easiest way to find a quality blog as there are thousand of blogs out there to search through in order to find one good one. Here is a list of sites you can look through to get started:

- <http://beta.bloglines.com/topfeeds>
- <http://blogsearch.google.com>
- www.blogcatalog.com
- <http://portal.eatonweb.com/>
- <http://www.bloghop.com/>
- <http://www.weblogs.com/>
- www.metafilter.com

How do I create a blog?

If you decide you would like to start blogging you can register for a blog for free.

Here are four well-known, free blogging providers:

Blogger

<http://www.blogger.com>

LiveJournal

<http://www.livejournal.com/>

Rediff

<http://blogs.rediff.com/>

Xanga

<http://www.xanga.com/>

What is a RSS feed?

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. If a site has a RSS feed it is allowing third-party sites or programs to stream its contents into an aggregator or feed reader. The aggregator will monitor the specified site for any updates and inform you when something new is added to that site.

Blogs are easily monitored by aggregators. News sites have become very similar to blogs in format and are also read by aggregators, but the purpose of a news site is to inform its audience about a specific topic and will have articles written by a group of “journalists” rather than one person like a blog.

How do I set up a RSS feed?

There are basically two types of aggregators. The first type consists of web-based applications. You register a user name and password with an aggregator’s site, and whenever you visit that site a customizable list of your RSS feeds will be displayed.

This is an example of a web-based aggregator called Bloglines (www.bloglines.com).

The screenshot displays the Bloglines web interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with the Bloglines logo and navigation tabs for Feeds, Blog, Clippings, and Playlists. Below these are options to Add, Edit, and Options feeds. A list of 15 feeds is shown, including 'Bloglines | News', 'CNET News.com', 'Ctrl+Alt+Del (1)', 'The Daily Kitten', 'Geekologie - Gadgets, Gizmos, and Awesome (2)', 'Homestar Runner', 'I CAN HAS CHEEZBURGER? (1)', 'Librarians' Internet Index: New This Week', 'National Geographic News: Animals & Nature', 'Neatorama (7)', 'New Urban Legends (1)', 'News: Digital Photography Review (dpreview.com) (3)', 'PC Magazine: New Product Reviews', 'Slashdot', and 'Wired Top Stories'. An 'Additional Features' section includes links for Image Wall, Recommendations | Tips, Create Email Subscriptions, and Open Notifier | Download.

The main content area shows a welcome message for 'Katie543' and a search bar. Below this, there are navigation tabs for Forums and Search. A summary bar indicates 40,115 subscribers and provides links for related feeds, mark all new, unsubscribe, and edit subscription. The featured feed is from CNET News.com, titled 'Critical Microsoft security bulletin revised to include Office for the Mac'. The article text states: 'Blog: Microsoft revises one of its critical security bulletins from patch Tuesday, now including a fix for Microsoft Office 2004 for the Mac.' It was posted on Fri, Jul 13 2007 9:34 AM. Below this is another article titled 'Java flaw poses widespread security threat' with the text: 'In Threats Vulnerabilities in the Sun Java Runtime Environment are described by one security expert as being "as bad as it gets."' It was posted on Fri, Jul 13 2007 8:41 AM. The third article is 'What could you make from an iPhone?' with the text: 'Blog: Exploring future product opportunities using the iPhone's components' and was posted on Fri, Jul 13 2007 8:00 AM. At the bottom, there is a 'Display items within the last' dropdown set to '24 Hours' and a 'Display' button. A hotkeys section lists: j - next article, k - previous article, m - collapse/expand left pane, s - next sub, f - next folder, A - read all, n - toggle keep new, o - open article.

The list on the left tells you when something new has been added to any of these sites by displaying the title in bold and showing a number in parentheses stating how many new posts are there. Clicking on a title with new content will bring a short version of the list into the area on the right. You can scan the titles and a short description of those items to determine if you would like to click on the link to read the full article.

Most web-based aggregators are set up in a similar fashion. Here are the most popular ones:

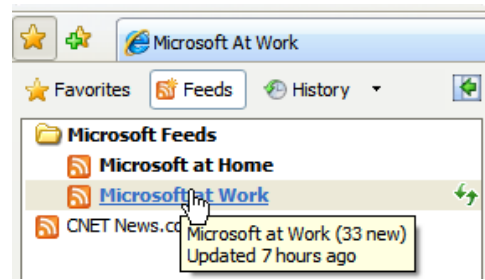
Bloglines
www.bloglines.com

Rojo
www.rojo.com

Google Reader
www.reader.google.com

NewsGator
www.newsgator.com

Internet Explorer 7.0 has an aggregator built into it already, but it is not as user-friendly as the other sites. When clicking on the Favorites star to open the Favorites list, you can see your RSS feeds displayed on the left.



Rolling over a title with the mouse lets you know how many new news items there are to read.

The page that comes up after you click on an item looks like this:

Microsoft At Work

5 tips for connecting with customers

Monday, August 06, 2007, 4:00:00 AM →

Here are five strategies for establishing a long-lasting relationship with Internet users.

Demo: Word 2007

Monday, August 06, 2007, 4:00:00 AM →

Watch this demo to get familiar with the new Microsoft Office Word 2007 design and see how it can help you be more productive.

Try Windows Vista online: Take the online test drive

Monday, August 06, 2007, 4:00:00 AM →

Try Windows Vista without installing it on your PC. Use your Web browser to experience the online

Displaying	33 / 33
<input type="text"/>	
All	33
<input checked="" type="radio"/> New	33

Sort by:	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Date	
<input type="radio"/> Title	

Mark feed as read
[View feed properties...](#)

The second type of aggregator is called client software. These run off of installed pieces of software, whether purchased or free. They act in a very similar way to the web-based aggregators.

Facebook and MySpace

Both of these sites' purpose is to connect you with other people online.

www.Facebook.com comes at it from an organization standpoint where you list the schools you've attended, cities you've lived in, and places you've worked. You are then able to view all of the other people who are members of that organization and become their "friend." You have your own profile where you can upload pictures, list your hobbies, and join various groups to further find new people online.

www.MySpace.com is also a social networking site, but it is not as interested in where you went to school or where you work. It is more a place to connect with random people. You are given a profile page to fill with your picture and interests. You can perform searches like on a dating site, watch videos other people have uploaded, write in a blog, join groups to find people with similar interests, and read what other people have to say.

Both sites are marketed for the high school/college/young 20s segment of the market. You can join either one no matter your age, but it is mainly popular among the younger generations.

I'm lost! Can you point me towards some good blogs and news sites?

It really depends upon your interests. What do you want to read about? World news? Politics? Technology? Your friend's life? Comics? Cat pictures? Don't expect to come up with a complete list of sites right away. You will gradually add feeds to your list as you spend more time online. Here are a few that I enjoy:

Gizmodo – new gadgets http://www.gizmodo.com	Neatorama http://www.neatorama.com/
Wired – Daily Technology http://www.wired.com/	National Geographic http://news.nationalgeographic.com/
The Daily Kitten http://www.dailykitten.com/	CNN http://www.cnn.com/
Go Comics http://www.gocomics.com/	

You will doubtless find others that pique your interest more than these by reading and following interesting links.

Keep in mind that since anyone can create a blog there are a wide range of views and topics out there – some you may find interesting and others offensive. Be careful what you write in a blog since anyone can see it. Don't post negative things about your boss, for example, or make threats that could turn into lawsuits.

Further reading on Blog and RSS Feeds

...Find a Blog

The Wall Street Journal Online. 2002.

http://waxy.org/random/html/wsj_findablog.html

Building and Using an RSS Feed

(c) February 2006 by Denis G. Sureau

<http://www.xul.fr/en-xml-rss.html>

RSS

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rss_feeds

XML/RSS Feeds

National Geographic News

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/misc/rss.html>

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Buzz marketing with blogs for dummies . Susannah Gardner. Wiley Publishing. 2005. Call number: 658.8002 G228bu

Fowler, Geoffrey A. ...Find a Blog . The Wall Street Journal Online. 2002. http://waxy.org/random/html/wsj_findablog.html

We blog: publishing online with weblogs . Paul Bausch. Wiley Publishing. 2002. Call number: 005.72 B351w

The weblog handbook: practical advice on creating and maintaining your blog . Rebecca Blood. Perseus Publishing. 2002. Call number: 004.678 B655w