**Blog Assignment**

**Preparation:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | Learners will create a personal blog and post to it. |
| **Source** | Courtesy of Karl Wurst and Greg Hislop |
| **Prerequisite Knowledge** | None. |
| **Estimated Time to Completion** | 60 minutes |
| **Learning Objectives** | To understand the purpose of a blog. To create and post a blog entry. To understand the use of tags to distribute blog postings to a planet. |
| **Materials/Environment** | Access to Internet/Web and web browser. |
| **Rights** | Licensed CC BY-SA |
| **Turn In** | Create a page on my wiki named <*your name>*Page (so my page would be BeckaPage). Create a link to your blog. |
| **Description** | Learners will create a personal blog and post to it. This blog will be used for the weekly blog assignment |

### Background:

According to wikipedia: [[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog)

"A blog (a portmanteau of the term web log) is a discussion or informational site published on the World Wide Web and consisting of discrete entries ("posts") typically displayed in reverse chronological order (the most recent post appears first). ... Many blogs provide commentary on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries; others function more as online brand advertising of a particular individual or company. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, Web pages, and other media related to its topic. The ability of readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important contribution to the popularity of many blogs. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art (art blogs), photographs (photoblogs), videos (video blogs or "vlogs"), music (MP3 blogs), and audio (podcasts). Microblogging is another type of blogging, featuring very short posts. In education, blogs can be used as instructional resources. These blogs are referred to as edublogs."

Blogs provide:

* Immediate availability with long term accessibility
* No HTML knowledge required

What makes a Web site a Blog?

* Personal writing with byline
* Can be an individual or a group
* Short entries – a paragraph to a few pages
* Dated entries – usually displayed in reverse chronological order
* Themed and often opinion based (e.g., hobby, diary, report of cat activities)

Blog to blog connections are common

* Blogs cite each other
* Multiplies visibility of postings
* Expands communities

Blog posts as threaded discussion triggers

* Many blogs allow comment posting
* Blogger controls thread topic by always posting the initial thread item

Blog posts can have tags and categories

* Which can support routing or selection of posts
* RSS (and RDF and Atom) provides a push technology letting people “subscribe” to a blog
* Blog planets provide a way to collect a stream of related blog posts

Blogs in the Open Source World

* Many FOSS developers use blogs to reflect on their work or to make observations on FOSS events or new technologies.
  + For instance, the forking of LibreOffice from OpenOffice was a source of several blogs weighing the merits of the split.

**Blog Planet** There are many cases where it makes sense to pull together all of the blog postings either from a particular group or all blog postings related to a particular topic. In fact, blog planets are software that accomplishes this. For instance, Fedora has a planet that collects all of the postings for people blogging about Fedora. In order to have a blog post sent to a planet, the blogger must "sign up" for the planet and then use the appropriate tags to identify a particular blog post as being relevant to the planet. More formally:

* Definition A: Software to aggregate blog postings from a group of blogs
  + Example: <http://www.planetplanet.org/>
* Definition B: A Web site that uses planet software to present an aggregation of blogs
  + Example: <http://planet.fedoraproject.org/>

### Directions:

#### Create a Blog

If you do not already have a blog, create one at [wordpress.com](https://wordpress.com/). Do the following:

1. Go to [wordpress.com](https://wordpress.com/).
2. Click Get Started and fill out the form provided.
3. Fill in basic information in your profile
4. Fill in the “About” page

#### Posting to your blog

Now that you have a blog, it is time to make a post.

1. Create a detailed blog post (a minimum of the equivalent of one page) that addresses the following:
   1. Your experience creating a wiki.
   2. Your experience with working with your group so far.
   3. Your experience creating a blog.
2. Each week you will be required to write the equivalent of one page discussing what you have discovered during the week pertaining to the subject(s) for that week.