

Understanding Group Blogs on GCconnex

On GCconnex, you can create blogs within open and closed groups, as well as personal blogs which allow GCconnex-wide access. Learn about the different aspects of a Group blog.

Adding a Blog post

STEP 1— Go to your Group's main page and click **Group blog**.

The screenshot shows the main page of a group on GCconnex. The group name is 'Ambassadors Network for the GC2.0 Tools / Réseau des ambassadeurs des outils GC2.0'. The owner is Annie Leblond, and there are 68 members. The group is marked as a 'Closed group'. The description mentions that the group is used to discuss and share tips, best practices, etc. among the community of ambassadors. The right sidebar contains a list of links: Group activity, Group blog (highlighted with a red box and a red arrow), Group bookmarks, Group calendar, Group discussion, Group files, Group ideas, Group pages, and Group photos. Below the sidebar, there are sections for 'Group activity' and 'Group discussion'.

STEP 2— Click **Add blog post**.

The screenshot shows the 'Add blog post' button on the group page. The button is located in the top right corner of the page, next to the group name. The button is labeled 'Add blog post' and has a blue arrow pointing to it. Below the button, there is a section for a recent blog post titled '10 mars 2014 Discussion informelle de l'ÉFPC - Tout ce que vous devez savoir sur les outils GC2.0'. The post is by Annie Leblond and was posted 24 days ago. The post content mentions that this activity could be the first realization as an ambassador and suggests reserving a room, promoting it, and looking at it as a group. The post has a thumbs up icon and a thumbs down icon.

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STEP 3—Fill in the empty boxes.

Add blog post

The screenshot shows the 'Add blog post' form in GCconnex. The form has several sections: Title, Excerpt, Body, Tags, Comments, Access, and Status. Annotations with arrows point to various fields and buttons, explaining their function. A 'Save' button and a 'Preview' button are at the bottom. A 'Note' box at the bottom right warns about visibility settings.

Title
The Chat Function on GCconnex...the unspoken rules

Excerpt
Unofficial do's and don'ts of this handy-dandy feature

Body
For some time now, I have considered myself a veteran of the MSN years. I endured and enjoyed long nights of one-on-one conversations with friends and classmates, or multiple-person chat rooms of group members chitter-chattering away. After MSN messenger was over-shadowed by Facebook Chat, it simply migrated to another interface.
Instant messaging (IM) saw plenty of helpful evolutions. For example, Facebook telling me that my friend has seen my message made a world of difference.
Now we have IM available in the work place!
This feature may come as a blessing to some and as a source of confusion for others. For those who find themselves confused, I want to provide you with a list of the do's and don'ts about using IM feature on GCconnex. I have learned these over

Tags
instant message, chat, feature, education, web2.0, learning

Comments On

Access Logged in users

Status Published

Access
Group: Ambassadors Network for the GC2.0 Tool
Private
Logged in users
Public
My Awesome Team
Group: Ambassadors Network for the GC2.0 Tool

Status
My Awesome Team
Group: Ambassadors Network for the GC2.0 Tool

Save **Preview**

Note
Be careful! Choosing **Public** or **Logged in users** can make a blog post within a **closed** group visible to non-group members. Usually Group blogs are set to only be readable by your group members.

STEP 4—Click Preview

Click here if you want to preview your blog as it will appear in a published view.

STEP 5—Click Save

If you chose the status of your blog as a Draft, your blog is saved as a draft and can be accessed only by you, until you choose to publish it.

If you chose the status of your blog as Published, your blog is now visible to whomever you have allowed access. You may change your blog back to a Draft whenever you want via the Edit page.

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Edit your blog

Once published, you may edit your blog by clicking Edit. You will return to a page identical to the edit page you saw when first creating your blog.

Post a comment

Once you publish your group blog, **you and those allowed access to your blog** may post a comment. Normally, those who comment on your blog post will offer complimentary information, words of praise, constructive criticism or ideas of their own regarding the topic of the blog.

STEP 1—Write your comment

STEP 2—Click Post comment

The Chat Function on GCconnex...the unspoken rules

The screenshot shows a group blog post titled "Group: How-to Example Group / Guide pratique groupe modélisation" by Lilian Barrera. The post content discusses the author's experience with MSN and the migration of chat to Facebook. Annotations include: a red circle around the "Edit" button with a callout box stating "Click here to delete the blog post entirely."; a green arrow pointing to the "Like" button with a callout box stating "Audience members may like the blog"; and a pink arrow pointing to the "Share" button.

The screenshot shows the "Leave a comment" form. It includes a rich text editor with various formatting options (bold, italic, underline, link, etc.) and a "Word count: 1" indicator. The comment text area contains the text "I love these tips! Great job! 😊". A blue "Post comment" button is at the bottom.

Differences between a Group blog post and a Group discussion

A Group Blog is meant to be a one-sided communications feature. Your group members may respond with long or short comments, and that is a good thing but it is not necessarily the objective of the blog. Blogs also have a “like” button and are available individually, as well as within groups. Blogs are often more of an “opinion piece” from the writer and can also include a call to action.

A Group Discussion, on the other hand, is meant to be a two-sided communications feature. Here, you *want* to receive answers! The creator posts a text with information and questions which are then answered in depth by the members. It then becomes a continuous back and forth discussion of the group members’ ideas, opinions, questions and interpretations of the topic at hand. Like Blogs, Discussions have “like” buttons. However, **discussions are only available within groups on GCconnex.**

*For more information on understanding Group discussions, read **How to Understand Group Discussion** on the [Tutorials page](#) on GCpedia*