

Communication Technology Definitions

Blog – Blog is short for web log. A blog is a Web site, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog.

Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, Web pages, and other media related to its topic. The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art (artlog), photographs (photoblog), sketches (sketchblog), videos (vlog), music (MP3 blog), audio (podcasting), which are part of a wider network of social media. Micro-blogging is another type of blogging, one which consists of blogs with very short posts (Twitter). As of December 2007, blog search engine Technorati was tracking more than 112 million blogs. With the advent of video blogging, the word *blog* has taken on an even looser meaning — that of any bit of media wherein the subject expresses his opinion or simply talks about something.

FTP- File Transfer Protocol: is a network protocol used to transfer data from one computer to another through a network, such as the Internet.

FTP is a file transfer protocol for exchanging and manipulating files over any Transmission Control Protocol, TCP based computer network. A FTP client may connect to a FTP server to manipulate files on that server. As there are many FTP client and server programs available for different operating systems, FTP is a popular choice for exchanging files independent of the operating systems involved.

Why would you want to use FTP? When you have a file that is too large or file type that that your e-mail won't transmit or you have multiple files to send. There are several ways to ftp, but the easiest is drop.io. It is free, easy to sign up and use. You create your url and password and hand it out as you see fit. You decide how long the files stay. The only issue is the size. You can only use 100MB at a time. Still, it's a great way to swap/grab files from any location.

Podcast: A **podcast** is a series of digital-media files, which are distributed over the Internet using syndication feeds for playback on portable media players and computers. The term *podcast*, like *broadcast*, can refer either to the series of content itself or to the method by which it is syndicated; the latter is also called **podcasting**. The host or author of a podcast is often called a **podcaster**.

The term is a blend of the words "iPod" and "broadcast", the Apple iPod being the brand of portable media player for which the first podcasting scripts were developed (see history of podcasting). Such scripts allow podcasts to be automatically transferred to a mobile device after they are downloaded. As more devices other than iPods became able to synchronize with podcast feeds, the term was redefined by some parties as an abbreviation for the acronym "**Personal On Demand broadCASTING**".

Though podcasters' web sites may also offer direct download or streaming of their content, a podcast is distinguished from other digital media formats by its ability to be syndicated, subscribed to, and downloaded automatically when new content is added, using an aggregator or feed reader capable of reading feed formats such as RSS or Atom.

Podcasting's initial appeal was to allow individuals to distribute their own radio-style shows, but the system quickly became used in a wide variety of other ways, including distribution of school lessons, official and unofficial audio tours of museums, conference meeting alerts and updates, and by police departments to distribute public safety messages.

Podcasting is becoming increasingly popular in education. Podcasts enable students and teachers to share information with anyone at any time. An absent student can download the podcast of the recorded lesson. It can be a tool for teachers or administrators to communicate curriculum, assignments and other information with parents and the community. Teachers can record book discussions, vocabulary or foreign language lessons, international pen pal letters, music performance, interviews, and debates. Podcasting can be a publishing tool for student oral presentations. Video podcasts can be used in all these ways as well.

Wiki - Wiki is a piece of server software that allows users to freely create and edit Web page content using any Web browser. Wiki supports hyperlinks and has a simple text syntax for creating new pages and cross links between internal pages on the fly.

Wiki is unusual among group communication mechanisms in that it allows the organization of contributions to be edited in addition to the content itself. Like many simple concepts, "open editing" has some profound and subtle effects on Wiki usage. Allowing everyday users to create and edit any page in a Web site is exciting in that it encourages democratic use of the Web and promotes content composition by non-technical users.

Why would you want one? When you have a group of people who need to exchange information on a regular basis and you don't want to use e-mail or list-serves. You can look at/download/upload the information online anywhere at anytime.

How do you get one? There are several ways to create a Wiki for free. I think [Blogger](#) is the easiest. It's a 3 step process.

Online Meetings: There are several versions of software that allow you to have online meetings/classes. Two of the most popular are [Adobe Connect](#) - formerly Breeze and Net Meeting. [Net Meeting](#) allows you to set up a meeting with as many as 20 others and share one computer. Attendees call a number to listen to you and speak (if given permission) and/or chat online during the meeting. Connect is the more robust version, but the price is high. Connect has VOIP (voice over internet protocol) allowing attendees to listen through their computer speakers rather than calling in.

Types of Blogs

There are many different types of blogs, differing not only in the type of content, but also in the way that content is delivered or written.

Personal Blogs

The personal blog, an ongoing diary or commentary by an individual, is the traditional, most common blog. Personal bloggers usually take pride in their blog posts, even if their blog is never read by anyone but them. Blogs often become more than a way to just communicate; they become a way to reflect on life or works of art. Blogging can have a sentimental quality. Few personal blogs rise to fame and the mainstream, but some personal blogs quickly garner an extensive following. A type of personal blog is referred to as "microblogging," which is extremely detailed blogging as it seeks to capture a moment in time. Sites, such as Twitter, allow bloggers to share thoughts and feelings instantaneously with friends and family much faster than e-mailing or writing. This form of social media lends to an online generation already too busy to keep in touch.

Corporate Blogs

A blog can be private, as in most cases, or it can be for business purposes. Blogs, either used internally to enhance the communication and culture in a corporation or externally for marketing, branding or public relations purposes are called corporate blogs.

Question Blogging

A type of **blog** that answers questions. Questions can be submitted in the form of a submittal form, or through email or other means such as telephone or VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). Many question logs use syndication such as RSS as a means of conveying answers to questions.

By Media Type

A blog comprised of videos is called a vlog, one comprised of links is called a linklog, a site containing a portfolio of sketches is called a sketchblog or one comprising photos is called a photoblog. Blogs with shorter posts and mixed media types are called tumblelogs.

By Device

Blogs can also be defined by which type of device is used to compose it. A blog written by a mobile device like a mobile phone or PDA could be called a moblog. One early blog was Wearable Wireless Webcam, an online shared diary of a person's personal life combining text, video, and pictures transmitted live from a wearable computer and EyeTap device to a web site.

By Genre

Some blogs focus on a particular subject, such as political blogs, travel blogs, house blogs, fashion blogs, project blogs, education blogs, niche blogs, classical music blogs, quizzing blogs and legal blogs (often referred to as a blawgs) or dreamlogs. While not a legitimate type of blog, one used for the sole purpose of spamming is known as a Splog.