

# Blogs, Learning Objects, and Other Cool Stuff

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# The Earliest Blogs

Tim Berners-Lee's website

- NCSA's *What's New on the Web*

<http://archive.ncsa.uiuc.edu/SDG/Software/Mosaic/Docs/whats-new.html>

- Yahoo What's New <http://dir.yahoo.com/new/>

Blogs are a direct descendent of that format...

# Some Early Blogs

Robot Wisdom <http://www.robotwisdom.com/>

• Tomalak's Realm <http://www.tomalak.org/>

• CamWorld <http://www.camworld.com/>

• Scripting News <http://www.scripting.com/>

• NewsTrolls <http://www.newstrolls.com>

# Early Recognition

- ‘Weblogs’ named by Jorn Barger in Robot Wisdom in 1997
- Jesse James Garrett, editor of Infosift, began compiling a list of "other sites like his" <http://www.jjg.net/infosift/>
- Birgitte Eaton compiles a list of every weblog she knew about in early 1999, creating the Eatonweb Portal <http://portal.eatonweb.com/>

# The Drudge Report

- The *Drudge Report* started perhaps in 1994 (certainly no later than 1995) <http://www.drudgereport.com>
- Rose to fame when it broke the Monica Lewinski story in 1998
- Immediately spawned many imitators, including Pierre Bourque <http://www.bourque.org>

# September 11, 2001

Blogs come into their own after 9-11

[http://news.com.com/2010-1071-281560.html?legacy=cnet&tag=bt\\_bh](http://news.com.com/2010-1071-281560.html?legacy=cnet&tag=bt_bh)

Despite massive media coverage, much of the best material found on blogs

Moreover, blogs allowed individuals to become, not just passive observers, but a *part* of the event

# My Own Blogging...

OLDaily began as a better way to handle my bookmarks <http://www.downes.ca/news/OLDaily.htm>

- NewsTrolls began as a series of discussion list posts by Pasty Drone <http://www.newstrolls.com>

- Brandon Pages were used to advertise new city websites

<http://web.archive.org/web/19981202152414/www.assiniboinec.mb.ca/brandon/>

# Convergent Forces







# Original Conceptions

Common perception that weblogs are like online diaries <http://webopedia.com/TERM/b/blog.html>

In fact, a rift existed between bloggers and diarists [http://archive.salon.com/21st/feature/1998/07/cov\\_03feature.html](http://archive.salon.com/21st/feature/1998/07/cov_03feature.html)

The original weblogs were “link-driven”  
[http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog\\_history.html](http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog_history.html)

Blogs are better characterized by their format than by their content  
<http://www.oreilynet.com/pub/a/javascript/2002/06/13/megnut.html>

# Essence of the Blog

1. Regularly updated
2. Contains embedded links
3. Interactive features
4. A personal touch

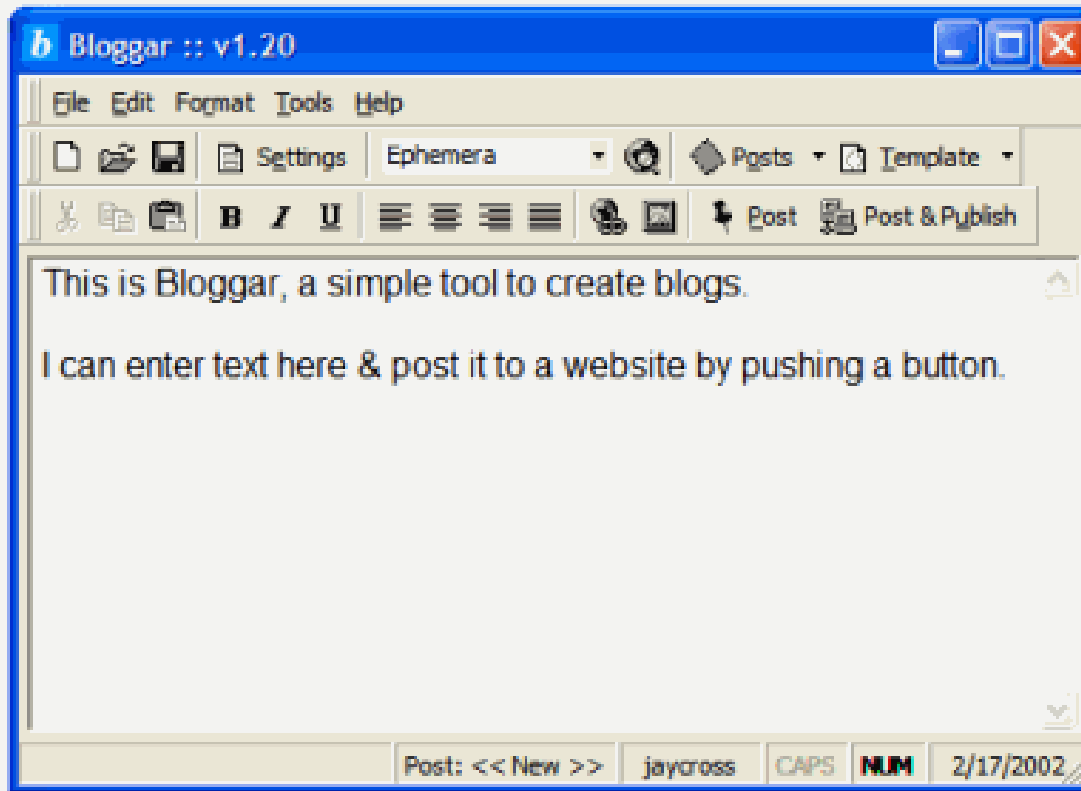
<http://www.aizuddindanian.com/voi/archives/000479.html>

# Types of Blogs

From Jay Cross <http://www.learningcircuits.org/2002/apr2002/ttools.html>

- **Personal blogs** Evhead <http://www.evhead.com/> Rebecca's Pocket <http://www.rebeccablood.net/> Kottke.org <http://www.kottke.org/>
- **News blogs** Robot Wisdom <http://www.robotwisdom.com/> The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/weblogarticle/0,6799,394059,00.html> The Obscure Store <http://www.obscurestore.com/>
- **Tech blogs** Slashdot <http://slashdot.org/> Dan Gillmore's Ejournal [http://www.siliconvalley.com/ml/siliconvalley/business/columnists/dan\\_gillmor/ejournal/](http://www.siliconvalley.com/ml/siliconvalley/business/columnists/dan_gillmor/ejournal/) Doc Searle's Weblog <http://doc.weblogs.com/>
- **Educational blogs** Elearnspace <http://www.elearnspace.org/blog/> George's list of EduTech blogs <http://www.elearnspace.org/edutechblogs.htm>

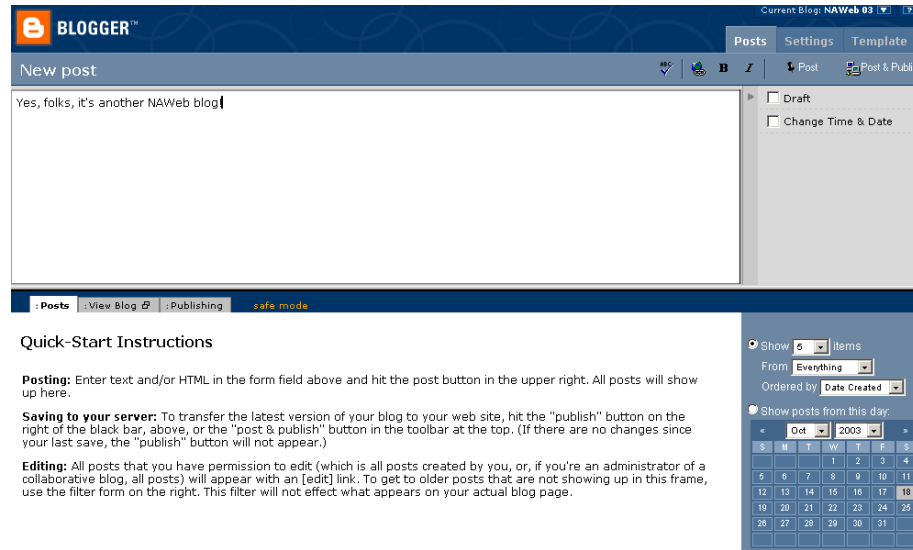
# The Basic Blog Tool



From Jay Cross <http://www.learningcircuits.org/2002/apr2002/ttools.html>

# Hosted Blogging

- Blogger <http://www.blogger.com>

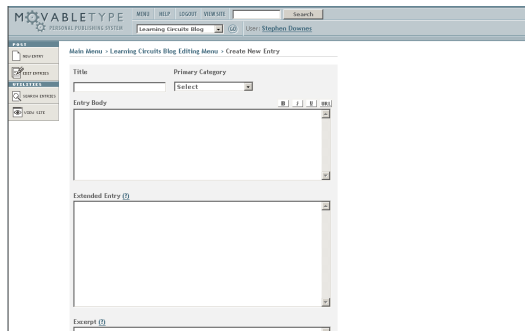


- LiveJournal <http://www.livejournal.com>

- Also: [GrokSoup](#), [Salon Blogs](#), and [Typepad](#). A full list may be found at [Blogroots](#).

# Remotely Installed

- Moveable Type <http://www.movabletype.org/>



- Radio Userland <http://radio.userland.com>







# Why Write Blogs?

- Fostering the fringe
- Filtering for ideas of merit
- Gain multiple perspectives
- Elimination of barriers
- Free flow of ideas
- Real time publishing
- Links and Connections

[http://www.elearnspace.org/Articles/blogging\\_part\\_1.htm](http://www.elearnspace.org/Articles/blogging_part_1.htm)

# Mark Pilgrim...

*Writers will write because they can't not write.*

Repeat that over and over to yourself until you get it. Do you know someone like that?

Someone who does what they do, not for money or glory or love or God or country, but simply because it's who they are and you can't imagine them being any other way?

# How to Write Blogs

- Write bold, declarative sentences
- Offer something new
- Amuse your readers by offering detail
- Select unique links
- Use your own voice

<http://www.alistapart.com/stories/writebetter/>

# Being a Writer is Funny



<http://www.salon.com/june97/clancy970604.jpg>

# Looking Ahead

- Think of learning objects as being the same as blog posts
- Learning object authoring tools will resemble blogging tools
- Advice for writing learning objects much the same as for writing blogs



# Syndication

- Syndication is the capacity to read content from one site while at another site

Radio 8.0.8: [Home](#) | [News](#) | [Stories](#) | [Shortcuts](#) | [Folder](#) | [Events](#) | [Themes](#) | [Tools](#) | [Prefs](#) | [Help](#) ?



## Stephen Downes' Radio Weblog



### News Aggregator

This page lists the most recent stories from the channels you've [subscribed](#) to. Click on the POST button to add a story to your weblog, to categorize the story, or edit its text. You can delete stories from this page. Check the stories that you want to delete, then click the Delete button.

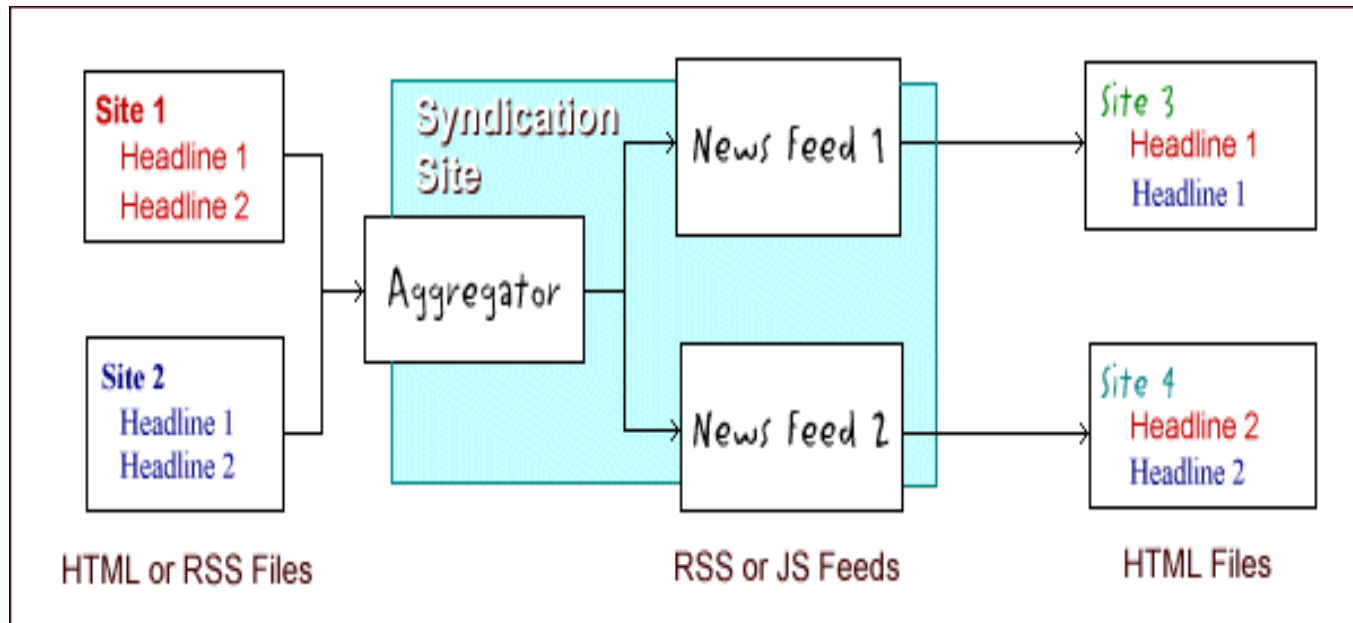
<a href="#">BBC News   News Front Page   UK Edition, 10/19/2003; 5:42:15 AM.</a>		<a href="#">XML</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pope beatifies Mother Teresa.</a> Mother Teresa of Calcutta is beatified by Pope John Paul II, before hundreds of thousands of pilgrims.	<a href="#">POST</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Blaine 'risks sudden death'.</a> Illusionist David Blaine risks suffering sudden death when he begins eating after 44 days without food, an expert says.	<a href="#">POST</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Mission heads for space station.</a> Two space veterans head off on a new mission to replace the crew aboard the international orbiting station.	<a href="#">POST</a>
<a href="#">Wired News, 10/19/2003; 5:42:02 AM.</a>		<a href="#">XML</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Feds Want All-Seeing Eye in Sky.</a> Current spy satellites don't work well enough for the feds. So they hope to commission a new generation that can keep watch on the entire world at once, regardless of weather. Noah Shachtman reports from New Orleans.	<a href="#">POST</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pics Worth a Thousand Protests.</a> Activists around the world are relying on new technologies -- from hidden cameras to satellite communication -- to collect evidence of wrongdoing and promote their causes. By Julia Scheeres.	<a href="#">POST</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Future Is Now for Green Cars.</a> Environmentally sensitive drivers can take their pick of a variety of low-emission vehicles already on dealers' lots. The new breed of peppy PZEVs helps pave the way to fuel-cell cars. By David Snow.	<a href="#">POST</a>

# Online Syndication

- Syndication is adapted from the idea of content syndication in newspapers via wire services
- Similar to commercial services that make articles available for use on websites Eg.  
<http://www.wilsonweb.com/syndicate/>
- Syndication is made possible via an XML format called RSS



# How Syndication Works



# RSS

- RSS – stands for ‘Rich Site Summary’
- Originally created by Netscape
- Is a type of XML file
- Used to create a variety of output formats – web pages, PDAs, email
- The strength of RSS is simplicity

# RSS History (1)

- Earlier version: Microsoft's CDF
- Netscape creates RSS 0.9 in 1997; Dave Winer creates Scripting News Format
- RSS 0.91 joins the formats in 1998



*Text feed from My Netscape page*

# RSS History (2)

- RSS 1.0 created to explicitly use RDF, thus allowing for the use of RSS Modules
- RSS 2.0 created, allows extensions, but in a non-RDF way
- Atom created, allows extensions, defines blogger API
- Microsoft plans syndication through office applications

# Microsoft Syndication

- Microsoft attempted syndication with Smart Tags in 2001, but withdrew due to criticism

<http://news.com.com/2100-1001-267992.html?legacy=cnet>

<http://archive.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/01/06/28/010628hnmssmartup.xml?0628theb>

- New version will offer access to eLibrary resources [http://www.alacritude.com/pr\\_031003.asp](http://www.alacritude.com/pr_031003.asp)

- Agreement also signed with Amazon – Office as ‘strip mall’?


<http://www.theshiftedlibrarian.com/2003/10/14.html#a4742>



# RSS Readers


- Radio Userland
- Amphetadesk <http://www.disobey.com/amphetadesk/>

Go to channel homepage.  
Email the channel owner.  
XML View the raw XML source.  
Remove channel.



[Channels Home](#) / [My Channels](#) / [Add a Channel](#) / [My Settings](#) [Give Thanks](#) / [Docs & Website](#) / [Email Support](#)

**Below are the newest items from your 6 channels, ordered by channel modification date.**  
A "channel" (also "feed") is a website offering its headlines, news or content in a simplistic format.

 <b>Gamegrene.com</b> <small>Last Downloaded: 2003-10-19 07:44:21</small>	XML	X
<a href="#">Loot and Pillage: Now It's Your Turn</a> Kerek drained his mug and stood. As much as he liked the food, atmosphere, and company in The Frothing Otter, he could not laze about the tavern all day. His slender fingers reached into his belt pouch to fetch a silver crown for the tab, and maybe another for buxom Lucinda behind the bar. But all his hand encountered was hard leather. He scabbled in the pouch, not believing his senses. Where were his fat gold crowns? Where had all his silver gone? Had he not even a filthy copper penny to his name, for all love?		
<a href="#">GM Know Thy Player</a> When I started role playing, the very first character I ever played was a fighter, no doubt. But the very second character I ever played was a thief. I enjoyed the idea of a character who could sneak into a rich noble's house, full of treasure, just waiting for me to plunder. Having no levels to speak of, but lost of ideas, I set out with my little thief, staking out the target house, using disguises and bribes to get any information about the security of the place I could.		
<a href="#">Problem Players Of A Different Sort</a> Everyone who has run a game has had them, and most of you have read about them. Yes, I refer to the problem players. Those people who make you wonder why you're doing it. There are plenty of articles about them, but we've read about those player types so much that we have it memorized. I've got three new types, and some of you at least have dealt with one or more of them.		
<a href="#">The Zen of Campaign Design</a> The day feels oppressively hot, the sun baking all of L'Trel as the heat wave continues for at least one more day in the northern port-city. You hear a cry from nearby, and a rumbling far away. You turn to see, and you observe a cloud of flame rise and reach for the sky, as a mushroom from the wet, spring soil. People young and old alike cry out in unison around you, just now you hear the first of many wails of disbelief and screams of terror, and people begin to run for their lives from this flaming menace. You look ahead of you, and		





