# **A Case Study of** Using Blogs with a Postgraduate Class

BY DANIEL CHURCHILL THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

# What is Web 2.0?

- →Web2.0 as Metaphor a Paradigm Shift
  - Web as a platform
  - User control of information
  - Web as a point of presence
  - o Internet-mediated social environments
  - Rich user experiences
  - New forms of expressions

Some speak of media revolution – "we the media" (Dan Gillmor), "voice of crowds", increased democratization and new citizenship, etc.

# What is Web 2.0?



# Blogs

- Digital Storytelling
- Sharing, Diggs, Recommendations, and Folksonomy
- → Wikis
- Social Software
- RSS Feeds
- Podcasting
- API for Mashups

# **Examples of Web 2.0 Stuff**









Source: http://www.time.com/

# Blog, blogging, blogger, blogsphere



- Blog is web-based publication
- No technical skills to create your own blog
- → Blog can contain text, media, links
- There are blogs, moblogs, vlogs, audilog
   Blogsphere is a community of bloggers

"A blog is a personal diary. A daily pulpit. A collaborative space. A political soapbox. A breaking-news outlet. A collection of links. Your own private thoughts. Memos to the world."

• www.blogger.com

# **Blogs – Some Statistics**

- **∢**…►
- → 27% of online Americans have read a blog
- Eight million Americans have created a blog
- 12% of online Americans have posted comments on blogs

(Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4145191.stm)

"China to have 60 million bloggers by end of 2006"

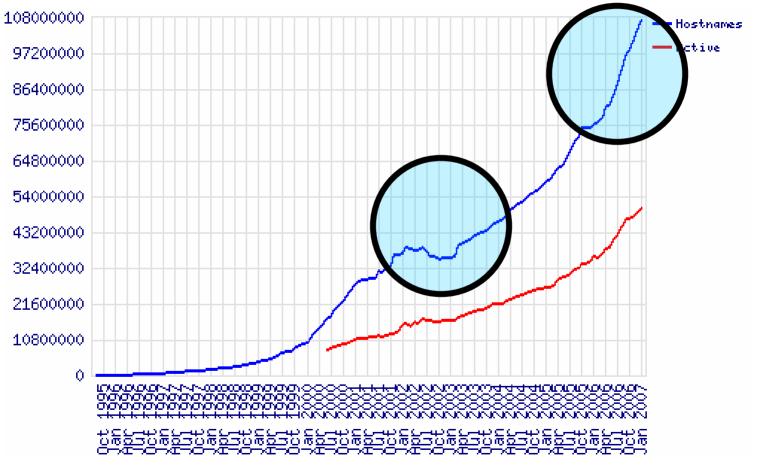
(Reuters

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060506/wr\_nm/china\_blogs\_dc\_1)

# **Total Sites Across all Domains**

# nulars (BBC) -- "The web has grown more

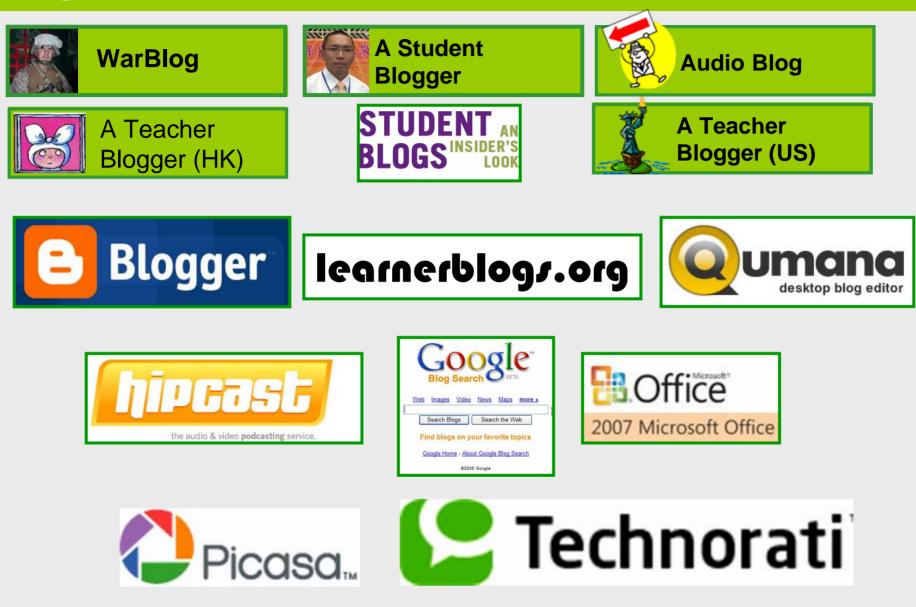
Bloggers: an army of irregulars (BBC) -- "The web has grown more in 2005 than it did at the height of the dotcom boom"



Source: http://news.netcraft.com/archives/web\_server\_survey.html

# **Blogs and Tools**





### **B B C NEWS**

Home

News Sport Radio TV Weather Languages

LATEST NEWS IN VIDEO AND AUDIO



UK version International version About the versions | Low graphics | Help | Contact us

Last Updated: Wednesday, 20 July, 2005, 06:38 GMT 07:38 UK

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version

### Digital Citizens: Pick of the blogs

**By Darren Waters** BBC News entertainment reporter

Blogs and blogging have become buzzwords in the last 18 months, with millions of people setting up their own web logs to record their lives, comment on world events or share news.

There are almost as many different types of blogs as there are bloggers. Some are highly professional while others are simple online diaries. We pick out six of the hest.

Please note that some blogs can contain stronglyworded language and highly-personal views.



**Boing Boing** The self-styled directory of wonderful things from technology to popular culture





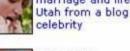


Underground An insightful take on daily use of London's Tube system written by a harassed commuter



Tokyo Times A guirky viewpoint on life in Japan's capital city from a UK perspective

Lang Dooce Uncensored views on motherhood. marriage and life in



Zucchini Not all blogs are personal diaries - this one is devoted to

food and cooking

Are you a regular reader of blogs?

**O**Yes

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/4123536.stm

#### **DIGITAL CITIZENS**



The film-maker The man who made a \$20,000 Star Wars film in his cellar

Search

In pictures: Star Wars fan film The DIY sitcom makers



The podcaster Re-writing the rules of radio

Pick of the podcasts



The blogger The woman whose blog lost her a job

Pick of the blogs In pictures: The Photobloggers



The DIY DJs Play your own tunes to the dancefloor

'My night as a DJ'



The activist The writer fighting for people's rights in the digital age

Digital Citizens: Your creativity • Ouiz: Are you a digital citizen?

HAVE YOUR SAY Are you a digital citizen?

#### VOTE

**Digital Citizens - "the** most informed and participatory citizens we ever had or are likely to have" represent a critical emerging group for today and tomorrow.

### (Source:

http://www.wired.com/wir ed/reprints/digicit.html)

### cational Applications

### **Potential Dangers**

BBC

BBC

NEWS

News Front Page

Africa

Europe

UK

death.

Americas

Asia-Pacific

Middle Fast

South Asia

Business

Science/Nature

Technology Entertainment

Have Your Sav In Pictures

Country Profiles

Special Reports Programmes

SPORT

WEATHER

ON THIS DAY EDITORS' BLOG

RELATED BBC SITES

Health



Remains of some of them were found in formaldehyde in her room in Izunokuni, in Shizuoka prefecture.

# **Another View**





Developing Leaders for the World Tomorrow

HOME BIBLE STUDY CONTACT

CONTACT US ARCHIVE

E THERCG.ORG

A- Normal A

ARTICLE FROM OCTOBER 2006 ISSUE

### **Blogs - and RCG Youth**

Please feel free

The "blogosphere" enables people to share daily journals, photographs and audio—instantly. But should teenagers and others in the Church "express themselves" to the world through blogs?

BY KEVIN D. DENEE

#### Welcome to AMBASSADOR YOUTH!

This magazine (<u>www.thercq.org/youth/</u>), along with <u>realtruth.org</u> and <u>thercq.org</u>, is part of the world's largest biblical websites, which receive millions of visits and downloads each year.

The article you are about to read has received a tremendous response, ranging from those who agreed, those who liked parts of it, and others who took issue with the topic. As you read the article, please keep in mind that it was written specifically to the youth of The Restored Church of God, with the purpose of setting an *internal* policy.

While many religious organizations routinely set *unbiblical* internal policies for their membership (such as "dancing is prohibited" or "drinking is a sin"), The Restored Church of God sets policies founded on basic biblical principles as taught by Jesus Christ. In this case, our intent is to explain the widespread misuse of block

### Source: <a href="http://www.thercg.org/youth/articles/0403-bagy.html">http://www.thercg.org/youth/articles/0403-bagy.html</a>

articles manazines reports lessons and audio material we provide free of charge

# **Blogs in Education**

- Literature on blogs in education is emerging Some names to look for: Dyrud, Flatley, Johnson, Huffaker, Quible, Peschbach, Ramsay, Kinnie, Richardson, Selingo, Smith, and Worley.
- In general, there lack of empirical evidences and formal studies investigating use of blog sin education.
- Mostly of current literature is conceptual an published in non-SSCI ranked journals

- Students and blog:
  - Publish own writings (e.g., reflections, journal, a story, comments)
  - Discuss group assignments, share work schedule and results of experiments
  - Peer review each others work
  - Collaborate on projects with each other, teachers, subject-specific experts in the field and pen-pals from distant places
  - Manage their digital portfolio or just use blog as digital filing cabinet

# Teachers and blog

- Share resources with students (e.g., readings before class, handouts, and post homework and assignments)
- Publish student work and otherwise archive learning
- Communicate with students and parents
- Monitor activates of individual students and groups

### **...**

# Schools and blog

- Communicate school news
- Present success stories of its students and teachers
- Various committees, school activity centers, clubs, sport teams and parent groups can post information
- Achieve minutes of meetings and resources, and continue dialogues beyond the scheduled times
- Use student blogs on schools home page to offer dynamic information about their campus life
- Manage knowledge that members of school community creates
- Education authorities can use blogs to share best practices, lesson plans and other resources

# Benefits of Blog

- Supports development of literacies for digital age
- Leads to increase information management skills, and media, verbal and visual literacy
- Encourages self—expression and creativity
- Promotes increase students' motivation, engagement and reflection in learning
- Students who use blogs are more committed to their assignment and group work
- Blog provides environment where every student gets and equal voice
- Support different learning styles
- Literature also suggests that blogs can be used as alternative to a learning management system

# About my case study

- Use of blogs with a single class in a module of MSc (ITE) course over a summer semester
- The study was designed to explored educational applications of blogs
- Data was provided by emerging blogsphere, a whole-class questionnaire, interview with a selected group and end-of the course evaluation

# Students (N=29)



0.68

**1-Strongly Disagree 2-Disagree 3-Undecided 4-Agree 5-Strongly Agree** Learning preference

I like a teacher to give clear instruction and the 4.29 0.68 materials so that I can learn exactly what I need for

I like a teacher to give clear 4.29 instruction and the materials so that I can learn exactly what I need for assessment

Prior to this module I developed blog for non-study 2.38 1.15 purposes

- Prior to this module I developed blog in the context of 2.46 1.29 my study
- Prior to this module I read blogs of other people on 3.08 1.22 the internet

### **Facilitator' blog**





#### Saturday, July 08, 2006 Interactive Map of Hong Kong

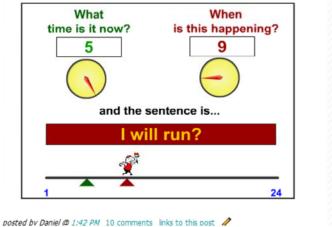
You can download movie showing how to develop interactive map of Hong Kong which we built in the class. I hope that this will help.

Click HERE to download step by step movie [zip file].

The same file can be created in a different way. HERE is one more movie showing how this can be done differently.

The purpose of the MITE6323 module is largely conceptual in a sense that my aim is to get the students to think about and explore possibilities for communication of information in visual and interactive format. I think that this is occurring very well as judged by the quality of stuff provided in the students' blogs. However, I observed that some students are experiencing frustrations with Macromedia Flash. I would like to hear from students, some ideas how to deal with this problem.

In relation to your project, you should ask me to help you solve technical problems for you. Some of you are already doing this. For example, two students asked to help with the file shown bellow. Interact with the file by inputing values for times an dobserde how input is processed into some actions on the screen. If you want to access source code of this file to study how it is done click. HERE.





- ◆ 10. Dickert's Blog
   ◆ 17. Sincere's Blog
- 18. Beryl's Blog
   19. Ming Yan's Blog
- 20. Wing Kit's Blog
- 21. Po Ho's Blog
- 22. Maria's Blog
   23. Cliff's Blog
- 24. Ryan's Blog
- 25. Kelvin's Blog
   26. Maximilian's Blog
- 27. Venus's Blog
- 28. Daphne's Blog
   29. Marie's Blog
- 29. Marie's Blog

Blog post posted by the facilitator. The post contains:

1. Some reflection upon the issues which emerged in the class;

 Links to additionally prepared resources based upon students' needs that emerged, e.g., video showing how to create roll-over interaction in Flash, and source-code that can be downloaded and explored, and
 Some additional stuff that the Facilitator believed the class would benefit from, e.g., file which the facilitator helped a student to create but decided to let the others in the class to know about it.

Links to resources from the class sessions, e.g., presentations, notes, readings.

Links to blogs of all students in the class

Comments from the students attached to this particular post



# **Beyond intended curriculum**

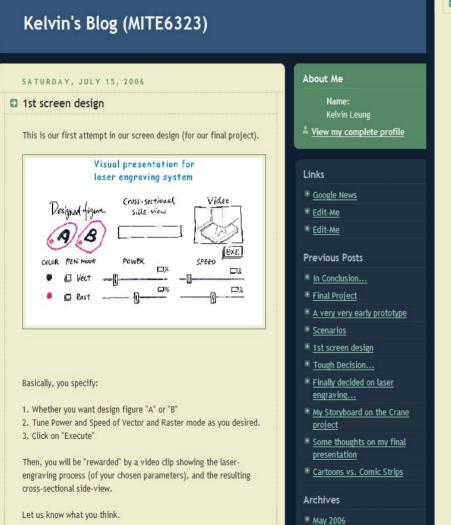


- → <u>Student 1</u>: Plagiarism is a serious offence. It is important that we have to respect intellectual property, authors, creators and inventors. But I have difficulty in judging whether it is legal to use certain images or pictures [from the internet]...
- → <u>Student 2</u>: I'm not sure with using graphics, but academically, it is fine to borrow someone else's text as long as it is cited. I can only presume it is the same with graphics.
- → <u>Student 3</u>: It is also worth noting that a lot of so-called "public domain", "free" or "royalty-free" graphics out there actually have terms & conditions if we plan to use them in our own presentations. We will need to always read carefully and cite our sources properly (e.g., give credit to the original author) before using them.
- → <u>Student 4</u>: I really respect the copyright of the work of the creators. In school, it is our responsibility to nurture the respect of copyright laws. However, I have another viewpoint about the original idea of having the internet. It is supposed to be developed as a platform for easy sharing all around the world.
- → <u>Student 3</u>: Some people said that the over-protection of intellectual property right on the Internet had been suffocating the development of the Internet. What do you think?... I feel that the discussion of the "digital ethics" is rather weak in school in Hong Kong.
- Facilitator: I agree with [Student 4] that schools in Hong Kong should pay more attention to this issue and educate children to appreciate and understand intellectual property issues in digital world. Any idea how can this be done in schools?
- → Student 6: It is also about the issue of information literacy. As a teacher librarian, I have done my part to educate my students to respect intellectual property when working on project-based learning. I think most teachers in HK have been gradually aware of this issue.

# **Students' blogs**

posted by Kelvin Leung @ 9:04 AM





₽ 2 comments

June 2006

July 2006

#### Lesson Task: The Earth's Atmosphere

#### My Design Process with Ryan Yue

#### Step 1 - Sketching

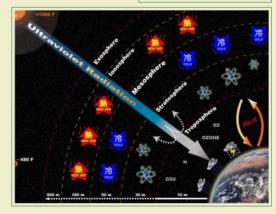


Used 11 sketches on paper to capture different parts of the information.

Step 2 -Preliminary design

Decided to use one slide instead of 10 to represent all the information.

Step 3 - Final design



Made further discussion to refine the preliminary design for final presentation.

posted by Mr. Chan CB @ 2:27 PM

- 🖲 Amy Kan
- Beryl Kong
- Chris Leung
- Christina Lo
- Cliff Chong
- Daphne Chan
- David Lau
- Dickens Chiu
- Irene Lau
- 🖻 <u>Keith Ma</u>
- Kelvin Leung
- Eawrence Leung
- Maria Chan
- Marie Chan
- <u>Martin Yu</u>
- 🖲 <u>Maximilian Wat</u>
- Peon Cheung
- Raymond Lam
- Ricky Ho
- Rommel Chin
- Ryan Yue
- Sincere Wu
   Sincere Wu
- Susanna Yeung
- Terence Chow
- Terrenz Wong
- Venus Lau
- DANIEL CHURCHILL

# **Regular Tasks**

# Regular tasks to require students to use blogs

Blog as assessment component

### Friday, July 28, 2006 Prototype of "Sound"

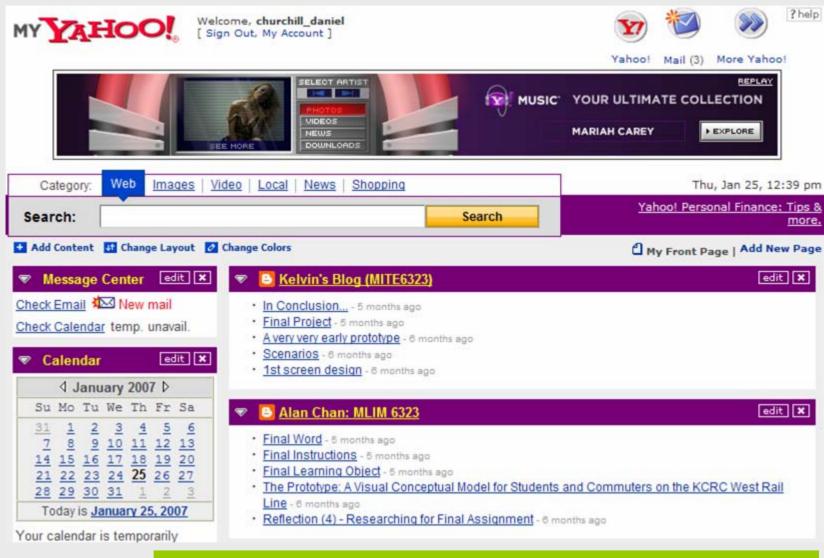
Prototype of "Sound" Created by Beryl and Peon.



The focus question of this learning object: "How does the amount of water in a glass affect the pitch of sound?"



# **Managing workload**



### Regular monitoring, commenting and weekly summaries

# Summary of activities in the blogsphere

### Facilitator and his blog

- Provide course home page
- Connect student blogs in the home page
- Post 'after class' reflections
- Post any announcement to the class
- Address emerging issue, learning need
- Invite students to provide comments
- Monitor comments and respond
- Distribute notes, slides and other material used in the class
- Provide any additional resources
- Negotiate issues, what students want to learn and assessment of their projects
- Set the tasks for students

### Facilitator and student blogs

- Regularly check student blogs
- Provide feedback to student work
- Encourage students to provide feedback to others
- Provide individual student with resources

### Students and their blogs

- Present their work
- Share work
- Reflect
- Provide information and resources that they find interesting

• Monitor comments and respond to them

### Students and blogs of other

- Visit blogs of other
- Provide comments recommend resources

### Students and blog of the facilitator

- Read and reflect on posts provided by the facilitator
- Access resources
- Provide and monitor comments

# **Negotiating evaluation**

- Student 1: Wow! Again, this is my first time in this program to have the chance to suggest something for our evaluation criteria. I love this approach.
- → <u>Student 2:</u> I feel good for [the facilitator] to ask for our views on the assessment criteria. You show a respect for your students.
- → <u>Student 3:</u> For me, to give suggestions and to receive feedback/critique is also part of my learning experience. In our traditional culture here in Hong Kong, we were not trained to discuss or argue with our teachers. To show our concern or express our interest does not mean to be a winlose scenario.
- Student 4: Opening up this platform for discussion about such a sensitive issue, it is really a challenge with respect for us. Thanks!
- Student 5: It is free for us to say what we think of the evaluation criteria... This open channel enables me to think more about this module and my learning. That's great.



learning more than in other modules

Data from the questionnaire			
The following from blogging contributed to my learning	Ν	Iean	SD
Writing my own regular reflections		3.88	0.73
Read Accessing and reading blogs of other Acce class members	4.08	0.57	50 57 51
Con (incl ReceAccessing and reading the facilitator'sBlog	4.29	0.61	75 73
<ul> <li>Previewing completed tasks of</li> <li>Breck</li> <li>Pres</li> <li>Pres</li> <li>Pres</li> </ul>	4.17	0.75	50
Presenting my completed tasks in the blog and getting feedback from the class	5		0.70
Presenting my completed tasks the blog		3.96	0.68
Previewing completed tasks of students and reading feedback they received form the class		4.17	0.75
Web2.0 Paradigm & Possibilities for Educati	ional A	pplica	tions

The following from blogging contributed to my learning	Mean	SD
Previewing completed tasks of students and reading feedback they received form the facilitator	4.17	0.69
Giving feedback to tasks presented by others in their blogs	3.83	0.75
Collecting and providing links from my blog to other resources	3.88	0.78
Planning, designing and presenting media other than text in my blog	3.88	0.88
Cross-referencing blog comments of other students when writing my own posting	3.54	0.82
Following links and resources provided in blogs of students and the facilitator	4.00	0.82
Contrasting and comparing blogs of different class members	3.63	0.75
Using blogs of other students as a model for my own	3.63	0.86
work	Applice	tions

 $<\cdots$ 

Data from the questionnaire			<b></b>
Reasons for blogging	Me	ean S	SD
I was blogging because of assessment requirements	4.2	25 C	).83
I was blogging because of assessment requirements	4.25	0.83	39
we I was blogging because tasks set I w through the module required use of blc blog	4.29	0.89	<sup>7</sup> 9
I was blogging because the facilitator I w as	4.29	0.61	'0 )8
I er and a straight of the second sec	4.08	0.70	0
I did not enjoy blogging but I was doing it anyway	2.0	67 1	
I have no idea why I was blogging web2.0 Paradigm & Possibilities for Educat	2.( ional <b>A</b>	)8 1 pplicat	.19 ions



Blogging in the future	Mear	n SD
In future I will continue blogging in my own to support my learning	3.46	1.00
In future I will blog if it is required by a module facilitator	3.88	0.73
In ass In future I will blog if it is required by a module assessment In tuture I will blog if it is required by a doing it	3.96	0.73

In future I prefer not to blog and focus on module 2.46 1.00 assessment requirements



Blogging pattern I was checking blogs every day I was checking blogs only on weekend I was checking blogs one or two days a week	Me 2.7 2.7 2.8	75 1 79 1	SD .42 .19 .21
I w sor I w theI read regularly mostly facilitators blogWh pla wvvI was focused on monitoring mostly my own blog	3.67 3.67	0.80 0.75	.9 9 8 8
<ul> <li>When I wanted to write a blog posting I just start writing about something and then my ideas come forward</li> <li>When I wanted to write a blog posting I wait for instructions from the facilitator what I should write about</li> </ul>	2.8	33 1	.14

n an		
Blogging pattern	Mean	SD
When I wanted to write a blog posting I look what others are doing first and then I do it	3.13	1.05
I read regularly mostly facilitators blog	3.67	0.80
I was focused on monitoring mostly my own blog	3.67	0.75
I read regularly all blogs in our module community	3.33	0.94
I never added comments to posts of others (including the facilitator) because I had no time	2.46	1.22
I never added comments to blog posts of others (including the facilitator) because I do not like commenting	2.21	1.08
I added comments to blog posts of others (including the facilitator) few times just to make myself present	2.96	0.93
I added comments to blog posts of others (including the facilitator) few times but I wish I had more time to do more	3.38	0.99
		1 1 2

I added a comment to blog posts of others many tioned 3.25 1.13

# Limitation of blog system

- **...**
- Preliminary analysis demonstrates that blogs are effective educational technology
  - Quality of student artifacts and contributions
  - Highest course and teacher effectiveness scores form students so far in my teaching in HKU
  - Blog nominated and short listed for "The Blog Award" in US
  - Students' feedback is positive and they believed that blogs contributed to their learning
- Blog technology might be supplemented with variety of other Web 2.0 technologies to lead towards more effective educational application.

# **Other research effort**



HKU Scuttle about	register log in	
ecent bookmarks	Sort by: Date Title URI	
Search	recent tags	
Ellie's (Grade 7) Math Blog A student's blog to the Grade 7 students to get help and learn more about math 23-01-2007 to math, student by cherrycheng	america analysis behavior blo class communication education elearning information technology learning math organization philosophy python researcher	
The Education Wonks A blog for contains some articles related to educational behavior, learning culture, teaching methods, etc 23-01-2007 to america, behavior, researchers by cherrycheng		
Math Course Blog Blog A platform for a Math teacher to share ideas and communicate with his students 23-01-2007 to class, communication, math, student, teacher by cherrycheng	science social science softwar engineering statistic student teacher teacher	
Ned Batchelder A blog contain the material for teaching software engineering	thinking web 2.0	

# 22-01-2007 to python, software engineering by cherry http://scuttle.cite.hku.hk/

# Thank you for your attention!

### I am happy to answer you questions...



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### **BY DANIEL CHURCHILLTHE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**





http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1569514,00.html