

Twitter

www.twitter.com

Connect with people in a micro-blog format

what is it?

According to Twitter's web site, "Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing?" Daily Twitter users however will argue that Twitter is much more. In 140 characters or less, people share ideas and resources, ask and answer questions, and collaborate on problems of practice. One can post to Twitter in a number of ways—including, the Twitter website, one's mobile phone, email, and instant messaging. The power of Twitter though lies in who you follow and who follows you.

educational use?

Twitter can be used for educational purposes in a number of ways. Faculty can use it to address student issues in a timely manner (in similar ways that one might use a class email list), to encourage students to work on writing concisely, to increase social presence in online learning environments, and to connect with other professionals in their community of practice.

pros & cons?

Twitter's strengths are its ease of use and its anytime anywhere capabilities. Perhaps Twitter's biggest weakness is its increase in popularity. This increase in popularity has generated negative press as well as increase interest by spammers. Further, Twitter (like other social networking tools) can be addicting.

what's it cost?

Twitter is free. However, if you use it on your cell phone, you might incur fees if you don't have a text messaging and/or data plan.

alternatives?

Other microblogging tools include Jaiku (<http://www.jaiku.com/>), Tumblr (<http://www.tumblr.com/>), MySay (<http://www.mysay.com/>), and Hictu (<http://www.hictu.com/>) and Edmodo (<http://www.edmodo.com>).

resources?

Twitter TechHeds Videocast
<http://www.viddler.com/explore/techheds/videos/1/>

Twitter in Plain English
<http://vimeo.com/757146?pg=embed&sec=>

Twitter Cheat Sheet
http://portfolio.ginaminks.com/job_aides/twitter_cheat_sheet.pdf