

A Brief History of Blogging

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AHS Capstone Project

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Planning

Execution

Results

Analysis

Planning

Project Goals

- Inform myself and others
- Synthesize two types of history
 - Technological
 - Anthropological / Cultural
- Broad overview of events and issues
- Create a useful resource

Planning Audience

Participants:

Potential Participants:

Bloggers

Average

Web Surfers

Blog Readers

Developers

Planning Deliverable

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLOGGING

BY SEAN MCBRIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Right at this moment, somewhere in the world, someone is hitting a button marked "Publish". In a few moments, thoughts, opinions, and experiences that were previously known only to the author will be available to anyone with a computer, an Internet connection, and a desire to read them. The author's new contribution will add to a growing body of material which is indexed, cross-referenced, commented on, remixed, and dissected by the users of other authors. These authors are technologists, political thinkers, teenagers, hobbyists, liars, consumers, stalkers, gossips, soldiers, and just about anything else you can think of. They are writing about anything and everything. Just over a decade ago, this same activity would have been difficult. Three decades ago, it would have been impossible.

Since its inception, the Internet has had a significant impact on the ways that people express themselves and communicate with each other. In particular, the relatively new online activity known as blogging marks a significant milestone in human communication. For the first time in history, everyday people are able to instantly publish their thoughts and opinions to a worldwide audience and participate in a piecemeal conversation that spans geographical and cultural barriers. The technological and sociological precursors that led to this new phenomenon have been fomenting since long before the Internet's inception, but only recently have both of

START YOUR OWN BLOG

- > [Wordpress.com](#)
- > [Blogger](#)
- > [Xanga](#)
- > [LiveJournal](#)
- > [Vox](#)
- > [Other Services...](#)

Website

Execution Sources

- Primary sources
 - Essays
 - Blog posts
 - Interviews
- Secondary sources
 - Scholarly book and articles

Execution Process

- Literature reading
- Notecards (~200)
- Organize and synthesize
- Analyze

Results

Defining Blogging

- “A frequently updated webpage with dated entries, new ones placed on top.”
- Changed over time
- Personal voice

Results

Predecessors to Blogging

- Non-networked
 - Commonplace books
 - Pamphleteering
- Networked
 - Email
 - USENET
 - Web

Results

The Inception of Blogging

- 1997 – “Weblog” term coined
- Jan 1999 – 23 on community list
- July 1999 – Pitas launches
- August 1999 – Blogger and Groksoup
- November 1999 – 9000+ blogs

- Today – 2.8 to 71 million blogs

Analysis

Take-Home Messages

- Novel uses are important
- Technology and culture are symbiotic
- Technology isn't "good" or "evil"

Read More:

<http://seanmcb.com/projects/bhob/>