

Title of Session: BlogStreams

Moderator: Bee Dieu and Aaron Campbell

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Room: Barbara Dieu's Office (Bee Hive)

AaronPC: Hello Bee and BJ.

BeeD hugs Aaron good morning

EmilyW joined the room.

BeeD waves to Emily

AaronPC: Hi Emily.

EmilyW: Hi

AaronPC: How is everyone this evening?

EmilyW: afternoon here

AaronPC: Oh

BeeD: are you in the States, Emily?

BJB2: Emily is in Texas, Bee

BeeD: IC

AaronPC: Where are you BJ?

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania, US

BeeD: I have just come back from the countryside ...it was a glorious day

EmilyW: yes I am

AaronPC: oh...ok...thanks.

EmilyW: sorry, I was away from the computer

JeanMC joined the room.

AaronPC: Did you wash your dogs Bee?

BeeD: bonsoir JM

AaronPC: Hi Jean!

BeeD: I did Aaron

BeeD: they were stinky

JeanMC: Hello, Hola, salut tout le monde

AaronPC smiles

BeeD: 21st April is a long weekend here

BeeD: and the beginning of my 10 day break

AaronPC: Oh good for you!

AaronPC: 10 days is a good chunk of time.

JeanMC: Super

BeeD: yes...but lots of work ahead

BeeD: Peter wants to test Tapped In and Voip

BeeD: this week

BeeD: must read my mail and see if he has set a time and day

Maggi joined the room.

AaronPC waves to **Maggi**

BeeD hugs **Maggi**

Maggi waves back to Aaron

JeanMC: Hi **Maggi**

Maggi: ;:hugs Bee

Maggi: Hi JM

BeeD: Jean Michel, are you still in Colombia? When are you leaving for Canada?

Maggi: hola!

AaronPC: **Maggi**, where are you from?

Maggi: I live in Germany

AaronPC: IC...I live here in Kyoto. Are you a teacher too?

Maggi: freelance Business English in companies

AaronPC: Oh....do you use blogs at all in your work?

MarciaB joined the room.

BeeD: Hi Marcia

MarciaB: Hi

AaronPC: Greetings Jeff and Marcia

Maggi: not yet...just threaded discussions

BJB2: if you're new to Tapped In, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH

BeeD: Where are you from Marcia? I do not think we have met.

MarciaB: I am from Mozambique

MarciaB: It is my first time here

BeeD: E fala portugues?

MarciaB: Sim falo.

BeeD: Que beleza!

BeeD: I am from Sao Paulo, Brazil

MarciaB: I know.

BeeD: You do?

MarciaB: Because of "que beleza"

BeeD: lol

MarciaB: I like Brazilian Portuguese

BeeD: Are you a teacher?

MarciaB: Our Portuguese is more formal.

MarciaB: Yes. I am a Portuguese teacher.

BeeD: Brazilians are very informal

BeeD: And what brings you here to Tapped In?

AaronPC listens

MarciaB: Because I want to practice my English

MarciaB: How bout you. Are a teacher?

BeeD: Yes...I teach EFL at the Franco-Brazilian secondary school in SP

BeeD: and I am a fan of blogs

AaronPC: Like Bee, I'm also an EFL teacher, but am in Japan.

AaronPC: I think blogs are excellent tools for language learning too.

AaronPC: Have you used blogs with your Portuguese students at all?

MarciaB: I do not know what "blogs" mean.

AaronPC: Oh...ok...a blog is a website that is updated frequently...

AaronPC: and is very easy to publish to.

Maggi: like a journal

AaronPC: yes it could be like a journal for some people.

BeeD: What languages are taught at school in Moçambique, Marcia?

MarciaB: Oh.. Thanks.

MarciaB: Portuguese, English and French

BeeD: How old are your students Marcia?

MarciaB: 15, 16 years old

BeeD: Oh, really...just like mine

BeeD: and you teach them Portuguese?

MarciaB: Yes

MarciaB: Some times I teach Portuguese as a second language

BeeD: at school?

MarciaB: No, at home.

BeeD: are you using computers at school?

MarciaB: Now I have three students, 1 from Denmark and 2 from USA

MarciaB: No,

BeeD: Marcia...is your school equipped?

MarciaB: In Mozambique, only 5% of people have electricity. You can imagine that computer is not a usual set.

JeanMC: Perhaps some of us have still problems

BeeD: IC

MarciaB: Equipped of what?

JeanMC: You are right, Marcia. Here in Colombia in rural areas they have no electricity and no PCs

AaronPC: That must make for some pretty serious access problems.

JeanMC: sometimes, when we design distance education courses we must design with two different strategies: one when the students are in towns and villages with connection and the other for students in rural areas

AaronPC: How does one go about designing for students in rural areas?

AaronPC: Do you use cassette tapes and books?

BJB2: do the schools have access and serve as community centers?

EmilyW: if they don't have internet access, but they do have computer, it can be designed on a cd

JeanMC: we use books; I have used audiocassettes; in some cases audio conferencing

AaronPC: IC

AaronPC: Jean, is distance education to rural areas a common practice in Columbia?

EmilyW: I want to develop distance education courses

AaronPC: Emily....have you done that before?

GerryGst5: Paper based or for the Internet Emily?

JeanMC: Yes, we must attend people outside big cities. Long time ago, in 1947, they drove distance education courses via broadcasting "Radio Sutatenza". The model has been reused in Mongolia and Africa

EmilyW: either

EmilyW: I made some

EmilyW: I made an html tutorial

EmilyW: not very good though

EmilyW: I am still learning

BeeD: In Brazil television has a great appeal

BeeD: but the computer is making its way

BeeD: community centres are full

ShanaR joined the room.

BeeD: Hi Shana

ShanaR: Hi

AaronPC: Hello Shana

ShanaR: So what are we talking about?

BeeD: just chatting

BeeD: usually we discuss about blogs and blogging projects

BeeD: but today's seems to be a lazy day

AaronPC: lol....lazy indeed! ::-)

BeeD: I am trying to think about how to use flickr + blogs in a creative project

BJB2: I wonder if blogs could be used to connect remote and/or rural communities

BJB2: . o O (bridge the digital divide)

BeeD: they surely could

BeeD: but if there is no electricity or computers...this is difficult

AaronPC: I guess access is the big issue there.

GerryGst6: What is your flickr location Bee?

AaronPC: Bee...I'm trying to do that this term too.

BeeD: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bee/>

BeeD: I was invited to join many groups and am enjoying it immensely

BeeD: kids are so creative

AaronPC: I'd like to find a way to get students putting there mobile phone cameras to use with their blogging activities.

BeeD: all mine have mobiles (I do not...too small for me...cannot see the keys...lol)

GerryGst6: How are the costs for sending photos through the phone

AaronPC: That's a good question!! I need to find out.

BeeD: So do I

AaronPC: My guess is a couple of yen per shot.

GerryGst6: Is it just airtime or I believe it is a feature that must be activated

GerryGst6: I just got a phone that has a cam in it - still and video

GerryGst6: Ok, put your hand up if it is snowing where you are!

AaronPC: Here I think they charge per email sent with attachment.

AaronPC: It was snowing cherry blossom petals yesterday.

AaronPC: Is it really snowing where you are?

BeeD: I have a mini digital camera...works wonders...cannot get used to mobiles as I have to put on my glasses every time...and I get nervous because the thing starts ringing and I can't find the glasses...jeez

GerryGst6: It's the real thing here

AaronPC laughs

BeeD: sweltering hot here

AaronPC: Where are you Gerry?

BeeD: in Canada?

AaronPC: On the top of a mountain?

GerryGst6: In Northern British Columbia

AaronPC: Oh...no wonder.

AaronPC: Wow...snow in mid April.....brrrrrr.

BeeD: Gerry participated in the workshop with us, didn't you Gerry?

GerryGst6: Well, it is unusual for snow at this time of year

GerryGst6: Yes I did

GerryGst6: Just stopped - a little flurry

BeeD: and have you continued blogging? I have not read you recently in my bloglines

BeeD: you sent us some great links

BeeD: to presentations with Brian Lamb

GerryGst6: I'm not really a blogger except as related to some projects I am or have worked on

GerryGst6: Yes, I know Brian

GerryGst6: But, I am trying to get our teachers going with using blogs and wikis with their students

BeeD: and...what are the reactions?

GerryGst6: I just installed Drupal last week for R and D purposes

GerryGst6: Well, there is some interest, but nothing is happening yet

BeeD: lots of inertia huh?

GerryGst6: Not yet

GerryGst6: But every grade 6 and 7 (next year grade 8 as well) has an ibook

AaronPC: Each student?

GerryGst6: I have been talking to some of the lead teachers about it

GerryGst6: Yes, every student

BeeD: wow

AaronPC: Yeah...wow. That should facilitate things a bit.

AaronPC: Students literally can carry their blogs around with them!

GerryGst6: http://www.prn.bc.ca/Wireless_Writing_Program.html

BeeD: in France there is a programme like this as well...so as to involve parents in the process

AaronPC: That's fantastic. I wonder where the funding comes from?

AaronPC: Is it a public school?

GerryGst6: Our school board has been supportive and have found the money to do it

GerryGst6: Yes public

GerryGst6: 1200 plus ibooks this year and likely another 600 next year

AaronPC: wonderful...I hope people in other districts can use the survey data to influence their own boards to do something similar.

BeeD: This looks really cool...the kids and the teachers are lucky...hope they take advantage of it and use them

AaronPC: Do the students own them, or do they have to turn them back in if they leave?

GerryGst6: they turn them in

AaronPC: Sorry...I absolutely have to go now. Train leaves in 20 min.

AaronPC: Thanks everyone.

BJB2 waves bye to Aaron

BeeD: have a nice day Aaron

AaronPC: See you next week!

Maggi: bye Aaron

BeeD: ciao

GerryGst6: Bye

AaronPC: cheers

AaronPC left the room (signed off).

BeeD: You must tell us what has been happening there, Gerry and what kind of projects you develop

BeeD: I must be leaving as well now...but hope to see you with us next Sunday so we can talk about it

GerryGst6: Well I work on teacher training initiatives and in projects related to learning on the internet.

GerryGst6: Well, this is a bad time for me

GerryGst6: 2 PM on a Sunday afternoon - not free too often

BeeD: yes...it's difficult to get a right time for everyone

GerryGst6: But, I will try

BeeD: Aaron gets up at 6 am poor thing

GerryGst6: Yes, I know

GerryGst6: It's tomorrow there

GerryGst6: Must be on his way to work

BeeD: yes...and he has a class in one hour and has to get his train in a rush

BJB2 waves bye.

GerryGst6: So long everyone

BJB2: don't forget to remind everyone of your guest speaker for May 1, Bee [ed note: Peter Ford]

JeanMC: Muito obrigado Barbara. Une autre activité positive. Bonne soirée

BeeD: Merci JM

Maggi waves bye to everyone