

Title of Session: Web 2.0 Tools for Education - Funny Monkey

Moderator: Lynne Wolters

Guest Speaker: Bill Fitzgerald

Title of File: 20070419web20

Date: April 19, 2007

Room: Web 2 Tools Group

LynneW: Welcome each of you to Web 2.0 Tools for Schools monthly session.

LynneW: Let's begin with self-introductions

MateenD: Mateen from Texas

DanielaM: Hi everyone, I'm from Katy Texas

TerriG: Terri from Texas

LynneW: I'm Lynne Wolters, a prof of ed tech in Portland, OR

MaricelaC: Maricela from Houston, Texas

MariaAma: hello I'm Maria, Houston TX, student teacher

ErikaSP: Erika from University of Houston

BillFi: Hello -- Bill Fitzgerald, Portland, OR, US

MateenD: San Antonio

LynneW: Anyone else want to chime in?

LynneW: Welcome to all.

NancyCar: Hello, Nancy from University of Houston

DanielaM: Thank you

NicoleC: Nicole from University of Houston

LynneW: This special interest group is called Web 2.0 Tools for Schools. We meet officially once each month.

JeffC: Jeff Cooper, Tapped In Helpdesk and 25 miles west of Bill in Forest Grove, Oregon.

LynneW: The group room is wide open and always available. There are numerous links to Web 2.0 Tools (all free) in this group room.

LynneW: Please join our group if you want to receive email reminders for our monthly sessions.

DanielaM: That's great that they're FREE! =)

ValareeI: may I linger?

LynneW: Sure

RicardoS: Hello all....I go to school in Kingsville

LynneW: Welcome

LynneW: Hi MaryLiz

MariaAma: Lynne will we be traveling from room to room because I'm still new to this

MaryLizU: Hello

LynneW: Tell us where you are from

ValareeI: I teach 4th grade in SoCal & also in Grad Ed Dept with pre-service teachers

MaryLizU: Houston

LynneW: Wonderful - you are all most welcomed.

MaryLizU: I'm a student teacher in 3rd

MaryLizU: thanks

LynneW: I want to introduce to you our guest speaker Bill Fitzgerald.

ErikaSP: I am a student teacher in 3rd as well

NancyCar: student teacher in 1st grade

LynneW: Bill is a former teacher who has formed two entities Funny Monkey and OpenAcademic.org.

LynneW: I found him through a podcast I was listening to -

LynneW: Bill, welcome to our group session.

DanielaM: Welcome Bill

BillFi: thanks for having me on -- it's great to be here

MateenD: thanks Bill

LynneW: Please tell the group about your journey and the wonderful tools you are developing.

BillFi: the longer version is on the blog at funnymonkey.com/blog

BillFi: the short version: an open source social learning space

BillFi: incorporating blogs, wikis, social networking, social bookmarks, podcasting

BillFi: and tagging of content

BillFi: based on user interest

BillFi: there are a few different motivations behind our work

DanielaM: What is that Bill?

BillFi: but the combination between the transparency of Open Source development

BillFi: and the openness inherent in effective student-centered learning

BillFi: is too good a match to pass up

LynneW: What is the difference between Funny Monkey and Open Academic?

MaricelaC: funny monkey is a blog?

BillFi: OA is our open source project, FM is the development shop that supports it

BillFi: but the people involved are the same

LynneW: Can we go to OpenAcademic right now and poke around for a couple of minutes?

BillFi: sure --

LynneW projects <http://openacademic.org>

DanielaM: This is a very interesting website...very informative.

BillFi: I'm using two windows -- will I miss anything?

BillFi: although I am pretty familiar with the site

DanielaM: LOL, Bill....Just keep an eye on the chat session...I think =)

TerriG: very nice site

MariaAma: yeah , this would be great to bring into a classroom

PatriciaH2: It's amazing how everyone does podcasting now

RicardoS: sounds interesting

BillFi: @ **TerriG** -- thx

BillFi: the barriers to podcasting have really come down

BillFi: the site we recently released supports iTunes compatible podcasts out of the box

MariaAma: wow that's cool

PatriciaH2: that's really neat

BillFi: the next step will be to allow recording of podcasts through the browser

NicoleC: I just read about that

MaricelaC: neat, very informative

DanielaM: So, Bill how exactly is FM used to support blogs?

MateenD: the video is nice

BillFi: there are some java applets that do this now, but no easily accessible Open Source alternatives

BillFi: Ricardo: every user has a blog

BillFi: but access to blogs can be turned on or off via an admin control panel

MateenD: how does this work in the everyday classroom?

BillFi: Pretty well :p

BillFi: jk --

PatriciaH2: Question, what are wikis? Don't think I'm familiar with that term...

BillFi: Mateen -- in a variety of ways --

RicardoS: yeah...what is wikis, I was going to ask about that earlier

BillFi: teachers can post assignments

BillFi: and students can then respond to them via their blogs

DavidWe: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>

DavidWe . o O (definition)

LynneW: thank you David

NancyCar: That sounds very useful

BillFi: re wikis -- in general terms, they allow for group created content

DavidWe nods to Lynne

MateenD: how simple for the novice teacher?

BillFi: our goal is to make this as simple as possible

BillFi: the install requires some technical expertise

MaureenB: if you can type you can do it

BillFi: but the day to day use is pretty straightforward

MariaAma: oh good

PatriciaH2: That's good to hear

BillFi: really, about as complex as navigating Yahoo or Google mail

LynneW: I will be running a pilot with my MAT student teachers this summer. I expect we will have full implementation for Fall.

MaricelaC: great

LynneW: Working with Bill is fun and easy!

DanielaM: That is good to hear Bill!

BillFi: I don't know about the fun part

LynneW smiles and winks

NancyCar: we can use as much help to be productive and this sounds like a great source

LynneW: I'm looking forward to having all the various tools I've been using with my students under one hood (so to speak).

BillFi: One of the goals of our work is to reduce barriers to implementing these tools

MateenD: I want to see it from start to finish...

BillFi: so, this site is available for download

MateenD: I would like to have a PD next school year

BillFi: and install on your servers

MariaAma: good it will be easy access for busy teachers

RicardoS: wow

MaricelaC: Sounds easy

BillFi: for a technically proficient admin, the install takes about 10 mins

LynneW: Once I have set up my courses, I'll be offering another Web 2.0 session and invite y'all in to play.

DavidWe smiles

MaricelaC: that would be nice

BillFi: sorting out any theming issues can take a bit longer

DanielaM: That would be great Lynne

RicardoS: sounds great

DanielaM: Lynne...

MateenD: I must admit...I first though web 2.0 was a new browser

MariaAma: good a 2nd session would be a great idea

BillFi: but we are looking to have a site that will work quickly

TerriG: terrific

LynneW: Bill, we have many student teachers here tonight.

LynneW: Let's back up and talk about this new environment.

BillFi: I saw that -- a large Texas contingent

LynneW: Web 2.0

YaChenC: How is this different from Moodle?

BillFi: @ YaChen -- the paradigm

BillFi: Moodle is specifically course-centric

BillFi: and the interactions within Moodle take place within that context

DanielaM: Wait, what is Moodle?

BillFi: This site can be used to create that course-centric structure

BillFi: but it also allows for less structured, less formal interactions

LynneW: Moodle is an open source content management system that is web-based.

DanielaM: what is the website?

BillFi: moodle.org

DanielaM: I would like to check it out

LynneW: Are the Texans here familiar with Blackboard or WebCT?

NicoleC: yes

PatriciaH2: webct

TerriG: yes, very

MariaAma: yes webct

BillFi: Moodle is a great option for teachers new to the Web

DanielaM: Yes Lynne

MateenD: oh yea....webct

MateenD: very much so

RicardoS: yeah...I've been on WEBCT

ErikaSP: Yes webct

LynneW: Moodle is the open source equivalent.

BillFi: as it provides a familiar structure

NancyCar: I have used WebCT

LynneW: Do you know what open source means?

JeffC: Of course... so is Tapped In! <http://www.nicenet.org> is also a good site.

DanielaM: AAAAWWW!!! Thanks Lynne!

MateenD: so our particular schools have chosen WebCT over moodle?

PatriciaH2: No, what does open source mean?

LynneW: Open source means the code does not belong exclusively to one company.

MariaAma: oh

BillFi: re open source: <http://www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php>

BillFi: there are many different Open Source licenses

LynneW: People all over the world work on creating functionality to extend capabilities within an opensource application such as Moodle.

LynneW: Or any number of other applications.

LynneW: Open source is usually free - however, as in the case with my work with Funny Monkey, there is a fee for the expertise in set-up that they provide to our university.

BillFi: the answer to "what is open source" varies widely depending on who you ask --

LynneW: The differences in cost are profound.

BillFi: the source code (ie, the stuff that makes it run) is freely available

YaChenC: So OpenAcademy provide students opportunity to be more involved by giving them a platform for podcasting, space for blogging and wikis?

BillFi: the software provides that functionality, yes

BillFi: and blogging, podcasting, wikis, etc can take place in a course context

BillFi: or as part of a club (let's plan the next newspaper issue)\

BillFi: or as part of a student's own interests

NancyCar: thanks for all the great input

BillFi: ie, their personal learning space

MariaAma: wow that's a lot of stuff we can use

NicoleC: yes. I see how it can all fit together

MaryLizU: thanks

RicardoS: yep...I'm looking forward to it

MaryLizU: me too

MaricelaC: thanks for all the information

BillFi: having this taking place in an environment where all content (including users!) are "tagged" with keywords allows for people to make connections outside curricular lines

MaryLizU: lots of great useful info

YaChenC: So, does this also mean that students don't need to aggregate or use rss feeds to keep track of the postings because they're all in one place?

DanielaM: This all is an overwhelming amount of GREAT information! I look forward to putting it to use!

MateenD: so if I'm a 4th grade teacher and want to use FM, what is my 1st step?

BillFi: so if two people are writing about steam engines -- one in history, one in physics -- they can find each other

PatriciaH2: oooh, makes sense

BillFi: re rss -- they can use it, but you're right, they wouldn't need to

YaChenC: I see!!! This is great!

BillFi: @Mateen -- if you want to set up this site, you'll need a web server and a domain name to host it, or tech support to do that for you

NancyCar: this info. comes in handy to make things easier

MariaAma: that would make it easy for students to discuss the topics and interact with each other .I like

BillFi: the site and documentation are freely available on FM and OA blogs

MateenD: I wonder if my district currently has a similar system

BillFi: I doubt it

DanielaM: I wonder that too. Mateen....

DanielaM: What district? You're in TX right?

MateenD: San Antonio ISD

MariaAma: why do you doubt it Bill?

PatriciaH2: So this would be more useful in like high school...probably not elementary

MateenD: I think I could make it work in elementary Patricia

MaricelaC: great for high school

BillFi: a few reasons -- there is some distrust of social networking technologies

BillFi: as they can remove the emphasis on the teacher

DanielaM: I think it would be difficult in Elementary setting, but feasible

BillFi: and there is also a degree of Myspace-paranoia

MateenD: I'm thinking more GTish

MaricelaC: maybe 4th or 5th grade

MateenD: upper elementary

PatriciaH2: Yeah upper grades and depending on the students

DanielaM: AWW, I see were you're going with this Bill

BillFi: and in some corners people equate blogging with Myspace

BillFi: and then there's the technology itself

PatriciaH2: Yea that's where I see the problem with elementary

BillFi: which is available in disparate pieces elsewhere, but not in one app

DanielaM: You would be surprised Patricia, my 1st graders love tech. and are good with it!

BillFi: Moodle is similar, but with a different emphasis

BillFi: re use in elementary level --

BillFi: this would work there

PatriciaH2: Well not the technology factor, more the associating myspace with blogging

PatriciaH2: I agree, 1st graders love technology.

PatriciaH2: I used laptops with my kinders today as a matter of fact

BillFi: you would need to scaffold the instruction to make sure students had a specific focus for using the app

MariaAma: that's a good point Bill

BillFi: this app will also support collaboration between classes in different schools

PatriciaH2: Wow, now that's really cool Bill

BillFi: given that participation only requires site membership

MaricelaC: great for buddies

BillFi: it can support either a distance or blended learning environment

PatriciaH2: Collaboration between schools...I like that

LynneW: For those of you who may be relatively new to Tapped In - we have mirror community for K-12 students.

MateenD: what's the price for site membership?

MariaAma: thanks Lynne good to know

LynneW: There are already school-to-school and class-to-class work going on there.

MariaAma: wow I din't know that

YaChenC: I'd like to discuss how instructional activities can or should be designed in this new environment. Any Ideas?

BillFi: @ YaChen -- teachers can create a private group

BillFi: and post wiki pages to that group

BillFi: using the wiki, they can collaborate on content

BillFi: and when it's ready, make it publicly accessible for their classes

LynneW: There is also an electronic portfolio element available.

BillFi: this will also work for group work among students

PatriciaH2: That's a good idea.

YaChenC: I see! This would be collaborative work on the part of teacher.

DavidWe: Tapped In has an "E-Portfolio" discussion on a monthly basis (happened last night, in fact)

TerriG: wow, there are so many possibilities

DavidWe smiles

BillFi: we are doing a fair amount of work with eportfolios as well

DanielaM: Oh WoW! and E-portfolio...that's fantastic

BillFi: that weren't ready (yet) to make it into this site

MaricelaC: they are getting popular, e-portfolios

LynneW: Simultaneous with class learning objectives, students can follow their interest and make connections. They can be content creators in a much more connected and non-linear fashion.

MaryLizU: We had to create one as a requirement

PatriciaH2: I wanted to attend the e-portfolio chat but missed it. So what exactly is an e-portfolio? I have an idea but not sure if that's right

PatriciaH2: Oh ok I guess it is what I'm thinking Mary Liz

RicardoS: yeah...what is e-portfolio

DavidWe . o O (digital content saved on a hard drive == e-portfolio/digital portfolio)

BillFi: at its most basic, an eportfolio is an annotated path through content

BillFi: when you extend that to an online environment, and make connections b/w the many different types of media, it allows for some interesting possibilities

MaricelaC: sure does

LynneW: If we had a wiki function within this room we could have been building a shared understanding of definitions with links to the terms Web 2.0, e-portfolio, wiki, podcast, Moodle, open source, tagging

BillFi: students create their work during their class time, group work, and other writing/creative endeavors, and then, over time reflect on what it shows

DavidWe: I was doing some work with a colleague, whose company introduces digital portfolios to schools, the past 2 days

PatriciaH2: So are you talking high school? Or what?

DavidWe . o O (doesn't really matter, Patricia)

BillFi: we work with K12, higher ed, and continuing ed

PatriciaH2: Oh I see

YaChenC: Maybe Wiki page should add a chat room function for this purpose.

BillFi: the context shifts how the app is used, but not the types of activities

BillFi: blogging is writing/reflecting/sharing

LynneW: Bill, you can sum up what is most exciting about the potential for learning and teaching using these tools?

LynneW: We are nearing the end of our session.

BillFi: really, the potential for making connections across curricular lines

NicoleC: There is so much out there.

YaChenC: My problem with having students to work on wiki is they are reluctant to participate - but that's a teaching technique issue.

BillFi: there is a lot to be gained from blending formal and informal learning

NancyCar: A lot of useful information that will make the work load easier

BillFi: re participate on a wiki --

BillFi: blogging can be a useful tool

BillFi: to help with that

LynneW: Before you leave, please be sure to check out the various links to online tools we have organized in this group room.

LynneW: Applause and thank you for Bill Fitzgerald.

DavidWe cheers

BillFi: when you get students used to the exchange, they become more comfortable

NicoleC: thanks

DavidWe: Great discussion, Bill

RicardoS: Thanks a lot Bill,

NancyCar: thanks!!

PatriciaH2: Thank you very much

TerriG: yes, thanks so much

BillFi: thank you all --

MaricelaC: Thanks Bill

BillFi: it's been a lot of fun

YaChenC: oh!! thank you very much for the information and great tip!!

DavidWe: Lynne, when is your next session?

LynneW: Exactly one month from today.

YaChenC: I'd like to set one up for my class one day

DavidWe smiles

MaricelaC: Thanks for all the great info

PatriciaH2: Bye Mary Liz!!

DavidWe: May 17 at 8pm EDT, I guess

LynneW: Thank you David.

MariaAma: I will re read this session there is good information I may need

DavidWe: Thank YOU, Lynne

BillFi: Thanks, all -- and thank you Lynne for putting this together

LynneW: Please come back next month

NancyCar: looking forward to another meeting. thanks

RicardoS: Yeah, that would be good

LynneW waves bye to all

LynneW: Thank you for joining us.