

Title of Session: MSP - Social Networks for Education

Moderator: Kimberly Lightle

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Room: Middle School Portal Group

TuradgA: I'm fine. this is my first Tapped In chat

KimberlySL: Welcome!

KimberlySL: BJ is the pro - if you have any questions she can sure help you

BJB2: you picked a great discussion to participate in, Turadg!

KimberlySL: Hope so - sometimes I am more structured in my presentation - this one is a little more loose

TuradgA: I'm very interested in social networks for education and am studying one as part of a project in my PhD

KimberlySL: what university?

TuradgA: CMU

KimberlySL: Need more help with that acronym

BJB2: . o O (Carnegie Mellon?)

KimberlySL: ahhh

TuradgA: sorry, yes Carnegie Mellon

BJB2: Turadg is in Pittsburgh so it was an educated guess

TuradgA: smiles

BJB2: I'm nw of Harrisburg, Turadg

TuradgA: Pennsylvanians are dominating this discussions o far :)

TuradgA: how many people usually show up to these?

KimberlySL: Well - usually 5-12

KimberlySL: BJ will announce the chat and then we'll get started

BJB2: yikes! It's 7pm already!

BjB : |** ANNOUNCEMENT: Middle School Portal is starting in the group room. The topic is Social Networking. To participate type /join KimberlySL **|

BJB2: you're in the right place and don't need to type anything, Turadg

TuradgA: oh, thanks. I was about to hit enter :)

TuradgA: so that join command takes you to the room where that person is?

BJB2: Kim, did you have anything on the whiteboard that Turadg needs to see?

KimberlySL: Turadg - You probably know more than me if you are working on your PhD with a topic of SN

BJB2: correct, Turadg

KimberlySL: No - I haven't gotten the blog post done yet - I should have it done this week and will add it then.

TuradgA: well, I know about how to study them, but not so much about use by educators

BJB2: Turadg, you can go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

TuradgA: my project is just ramping up and most of our analysis is quantitative

BJB2: that will make your chat larger and easier to follow

KimberlySL: Well - I just got funded to build a social network for the Middle School Portal. I could use the help!

TuradgA: thanks, that is nicer

KimberlySL: OK - well here we go

TuradgA: I'd be happy to help with that

KimberlySL: A social network is the aggregation of web tools for building community and content. A good example is Wikipedia – there is a group of people that have built up a community and produce content.

TuradgA: do we have an agenda here or do we just follow whatever comes up?

KimberlySL: Just follow what ever comes up!

BJB2: Kim is the discussion leader. She'll guide the discussion, Turadg

BJB2 . o O (but with a small group we can be pretty informal)

KimberlySL: I feel silly asking these questions - but are you familiar with Wikipedia

TuradgA: yes, I've edited some pages

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Jeff

KimberlySL: Hey!

JeffC waves

TuradgA: hi Jeff

JeffC: sorry I'm late... was helping a student teacher.

KimberlySL: Tapped In is another social network. What Tapped In groups have you joined? I'm a member of Beyond Penguins, Science Resource K-20+, Math Resources K-20+, and K to 3+ Resources.

KimberlySL: BJ - How many groups are there that people can join?

BJB2: there are over 600 special interest groups!

KimberlySL: I had no idea there were so many

KimberlySL: How many are active?

JeffC: 6

BJB2: many are for classes

BJB2 pokes Jeff

JeffC: ouch!

KimberlySL: HA

BJB2: most of the events on the calendar are provided by special interest groups

HollyMu joined the room.

KimberlySL: Hi Holly - I just provided my definition of social network

HollyMu: Hey. So sorry to be late. I've got a million and one things going on tonight.
haha

KimberlySL: A social network is the aggregation of web tools for building community and content.

KimberlySL: Tapped In is a social network.

KimberlySL: Holly - What Tapped In groups have you joined? I'm a member of Beyond Penguins, Science Resource K-20+, Math Resources K-20+, and K to 3+ Resources.

HollyMu: I'm a member of Science, Math, and K to 3+ as well.

BJB2 waits for Jeff to list the groups he's joined ;-)

KimberlySL: probably 6 of them

HollyMu: I have created an office in Tapped In as well.

KimberlySL: Holly - we didn't get an introduction from you?

TuradgA: I just did that too. That's how I accidentally left this room. :)

KimberlySL: You can search Tapped In and find a wealth of groups - Turadg - you could easily start one yourself

JeffC: hehe... I'm working on it bj!

KimberlySL: ePals <http://www.epals.com/> and Curriki <http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/> are two other social networks. Spend a couple of minutes in each site – what do they have in common? Based on the definition I gave earlier, what makes them a social network?

HollyMu: I was just talking about ePals Saturday with a colleague. Funny!

JeffC is coops@epals ...though I haven't used it much myself lately... working on getting an ESL/Spanish teacher set up there. It's a global email network where teachers create accounts for their students.

KimberlySL: Holly - Are you familiar with how ePals works? Sounds like Jeff is.

BJB2 . o O (does ePals fit into the definition of a social network?)

HollyMu: Yes, I am, though I haven't done much of anything with it.

KimberlySL: Would you consider both of these a social network?

BJB2: they both allow for collaboration

BJB2 . o O (but in different ways)

KimberlySL: What about the creation of content?

HollyMu: I would consider ePals a social network in that it builds learning communities by connecting students with others globally. It also builds content because you are able to communicate with others about their culture (history) work on projects together, etc.

KimberlySL: Thanks Holly - good response.

KimberlySL: Has anybody looked at Curriki?

TuradgA: I have

KimberlySL: Let's look at the web tools that each of these sites includes

TuradgA: I don't recall your definition because I lost it in my buffer when I switched rooms

KimberlySL: A social network is the aggregation of web tools for building community and content.

KimberlySL: What web tools do you see available?

KimberlySL: Curriki is wiki-based (although it doesn't allow versioning yet) .

BJB2: Curriki allows you to 'find', 'contribute' and 'connect'

BJB2: so there is some sustainability

KimberlySL: ePals incorporates blogging

BJB2: and collaboration

KimberlySL: I guess I was actually thinking Web 2.0 tools - wiki, blog, RSS

KimberlySL: Turadg - do you have a definition of social network?

TuradgA) I have a different one in mind

BJB2: do you think web 2.0 tools are the same as social networking?

TuradgA: I was looking for where yours came from. Was it Steve Hargadon?

KimberlySL: The tools allow social networks to form

TuradgA: yes, they can

BJB2: Steve does Classroom2.0

TuradgA: yes

BJB2 . o O (which is a ning)

TuradgA: that's the site I'm studying

KimberlySL: Yes - Steve Hargadon's definition (or one of his) makes the most sense to me

JeffC doesn't ning much anymore... and rarely twitters.

TuradgA: I would say that's an exemplar of the term "social network"

TuradgA: I'm a little surprised by Steve's definition

KimberlySL: what is your definition

TuradgA: well, I wouldn't challenge it in an educational context

TuradgA: but my research is in technology

KimberlySL: well - let's keep going

TuradgA: and from a software perspective, a social network has a network of people

JeffC is starting a new social network for people who are embarrassed by the amount of time they spend on line... it's called "effacebook"

TuradgA: a discussion forum is not a social network

TuradgA: we've had discussion forums for decades, and no one called them social networks.

LeoL joined the room.

JeffC waves to Leo.

TuradgA: Friendster, Facebook, Myspace, they let you create explicit relationships with other users. That's the network.

LeoL waves back

KimberlySL: I'm heading there. Tapped In, ePals, and Curriki have been built with educators in mind.

BJB2: <http://www.classroom20.com/>

BJB2 . o O (for Holly)

KimberlySL: What about social networks that weren't built with education in mind? How many of you have your own Facebook or MySpace pages?

BJB2 waves hi to Leo!

HollyMu: sorry . . .

LeoL waves at BJ

TuradgA: Tapped In has "buddies" which I'd say make a network. I'm new though so I don't know how people use the "buddy" feature.

JeffC: The "buddy" feature was never fully programmed or developed.

BJB2: The buddy feature is very weak and superficial, Turadg...

JeffC: I'd say the groups/classrooms/professional development sessions are all part of the social networking here.

KimberlySL: The self selection into groups is what I really like about Tapped In

JeffC: but it's professional networking... more than social... of course the two intertwine a bit.

BJB2: there is more collaboration among people who build relationships within Tapped In

BJB2 nods to Jeff

TuradgA: good point, I think there's a distinction to be made between "networking" and "network"

KimberlySL: and content is sure being developed - even the chats are content

KimberlySL: OK - let's go back to my next question - Any negative connotations using these types of networks?

KimberlySL: Here's my first question - What about social networks that weren't built with education in mind? How many of you have your own Facebook or MySpace pages?

KimberlySL: Any negative connotations using these types of networks - in education especially?

LeoL: I've got a MySpace page, but I'd never admit it here

KimberlySL: ha - it depends what you have on your wall!

LeoL: musicians.. Hasn't really paid off for me yet though

BJB2: there are several educators who have maximized myspace and facebook for education, but there are a lot of other people who use the site for personal purposes

KimberlySL: Does your school block these kinds of sites?

LeoL: yes

LeoL: TI is actually more helpful ... the live chat

KimberlySL: That's the problem - using these interfaces are problematic

BJB2: <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=900>

BJB2: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/>

BJB2: Johnathan Chase, who leads the learning from lyrics discussions uses MySpace for education

BJB2: <http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics>

KimberlySL: I don't know if you heard today that the new speech writer for Obama had a photo posted that included a cardboard cut out of Hilary Clinton

KimberlySL: Nobody knows you are a dog – just a drunken pirate

KimberlySL: <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20081205-court-rejects-appeal-over-student-teacher-drunk-myspace-pics.html>

BJB2: That student teacher has a few other issues, methinks!

HollyMu: Good GRIEF . . . Mother in law called. I am Soooo sorry . . .

KimberlySL: BJ - tis true

KimberlySL: Holly - no problem

KimberlySL: BJ - I was looking for MySpace and Facebook education uses - thanks for the resource

BJB2: you're welcome, Kim. John leads a really exciting discussion

KimberlySL: I'll have to participate - thanks

BJB2: and his myspace is a perfect example of use in education

BJB2: even if the site is blocked from most schools

KimberlySL: There are many people developing Social Networks in education check out Wiki of Social Networks in Education

KimberlySL: <http://socialnetworksined.wikispaces.com/>

KimberlySL: Spend a minute browsing this list. Any look interesting?

HollyMu: I've used Classroom 2.0 before. That is among the listings.

BJB2: holy smokes...a LOT of sites!

BJB2: There is an ArtEd ning that you might want to add to the list

KimberlySL: This list is not mine - I'm just linking to it

BJB2: <http://arted20.ning.com/>

HollyMu: Fireside Learning looks pretty good, too.

KimberlySL: I am not familiar with ELGG based social networks but very familiar with NING

LeoL: <<<< don't know from NING

HollyMu: Goodness gracious at all the potential here!

KimberlySL: Have any of you used NING to build your own social network?

KimberlySL: NING is easy as falling off a log !

KimberlySL: It is template driven - free with the ability to buy premium services

BJB2: the problem with all the choices is that a person would have to spend 27 hours a day to keep up with them all

JeffC: yup... there are a lot of links on that wiki... and Tapped In isn't one of them!

JeffC goes to fix that.

HollyMu cheers for Jeff!

KimberlySL: Let's all look at a NING based social network - NING in Education - <http://education.ning.com/>

BJB2: something that none of the other sites can come close to is that Tapped In was created in 1997...12 years ago!

BJB2 . o O (talk about sustainability)

KimberlySL: Tapped In is special!

TuradgA: great staff ;)

TuradgA: I'm amazed by all the energy of its volunteers

JeffC: and old!

BJB2: and NONE of the web 2.0 sites can be everything to everyone.

BJB2 . o O (including Tapped In)

KimberlySL: Good point

HollyMu: Haha . . . Ning in Education is currently undergoing maintenance

KimberlySL: I was just in that site a couple of hours ago - geesh

KimberlySL: OK - go to <http://ning.com>

HollyMu: That site says they are taking a short break . . . maybe my computer is just tired or something! haha

KimberlySL: You can search and see what NINGs have already been started

KimberlySL: Some are private and some public

JeffC is waiting for approval to join that wiki... meanwhile created a redirect to it:
<http://snurl.com/ednetworks> [socialnetworksined_wikispaces_com]

HollyMu: I've seen "snurl" a lot lately.

KimberlySL: One that BJ mentioned earlier is <http://www.classroom20.com/> - this network has over 13,000 members and is quite active

BJB2 . o O (classroom 2.0 is also down right now)

KimberlySL: Good grief

HollyMu: Okay, now this is just ridiculous.

HollyMu: hahaha

BJB2: probably just doing maintenance on their servers

HollyMu: I was thinking it WAS my computer after 3 in a row! hahaa Didn't they know we were going to be talking about them?

HollyMu laughs uncontrollably

JeffC: Holly... snurl (short for <http://snipurl.com>) is a redirect site. register (it's free) and you may create redirects (and edit them) for any long url.

KimberlySL: Guess I should have told them we were coming Ok - so the ability of having a private social network with the ability to form groups

BJB2 . o O (something a lot of people don't think about when they want to start their own social network....they take a lot of time to develop and support)

HollyMu: Thanks, Jeff! Didn't know that!

KimberlySL: think about how teachers might take advantage

HollyMu: Yes. As busy as I am, I wouldn't have time to create one. It's all I can do to participate in some that are already setup.

BJB2: number one is that teachers can be very isolated in their classrooms and not have access to professional development

KimberlySL: NING allows for private networks – what kinds of groups could you start?

What kinds of groups do you think your students might start?

KimberlySL: It really does break down barriers - Tapped In has proven that

BJB2: you can have a family network

JeffC: not exactly a social network... but I just got an email from abcteach (one of the two dozen listservs I'm on)... excellent resources here:

<http://www.abcteach.com/newsletter/329.html>

BJB2 . o O (assuming everyone in the family is willing to communicate electronically)

KimberlySL: Back to the classroom teacher - she could build a classroom NING and have all sorts of collaboration going on and content creation - you could invite parents and have them be lurkers

HollyMu: I communicate with my family almost as much electronically as in person or via the telephone.

KimberlySL: Do you think students are ready to learn in this environment?

LeoL: I watched a drum forum on a drummers site develop into a real community. The online community needs some way to provide platforms for sharing media.. audio, text, graphics and visuals

HollyMu: I like that feature about Tapped In, Kimberly. The ability to have an office for meeting with parents virtually.

BJB2 nods to Kim. What about book reviews by the students?

KimberlySL: That's a great use of Tapped In Holly

BJB2: right, Leo. Is there a site that can provide all that?

BJB2 . o O (www.wiziq.com ?)

BJB2: I think you can upload video to nings also

LeoL: What we've been doing is hang info links to You Tube, Myspace...

KimberlySL: Book reviews would be great - I think students are publishing all sorts of stuff to the web - I think that having students write for publication is wonderful

KimberlySL: In answering BJ - the NING does allow all that

BJB2 nods

KimberlySL: Video, photo, events calendar, email, blog, groups, forums - it's pretty amazing

KimberlySL: Not that it is that much different from MySpace or Facebook but there is not that negative connotation

KimberlySL: with NING (yet)

LeoL: WiZiQ looks pretty cool

BJB2: it is, Leo.

LeoL: have you used it BJB?

BJB2: they have an interactive drawable whiteboard and video cams

BJB2: yes, they did several demos for Tapped In

BJB2: they also can archive discussions/presentations

KimberlySL: BJ - Thanks for the resource - there are so many tools that are available - I just can't keep up

BJB2: exactly, Kim!

HollyMu: Looks like a great resource!

BJB2: and by the time we comprehend the new tools, they are obsolete

LeoL: I've been thinking about getting another computer upstairs and using it for drum projects. I SHOULD build a little studio that could double for educ stuff too

KimberlySL: I have picked a few - NING and Diigo are the ones that I am focusing on now!

HollyMu: Bj, that is very true

LeoL: (also visited an internet radio station www.tonytradio.com)

KimberlySL: I'm so sorry that NING isn't working - please go to the NING in Education site and look around

BJB2: The advantage to the vast variety of choices is that there is always something for each individual's style of communicating

BJB2: the urls will be in your transcript so you can check the nings later

HollyMu: I'll be certain to do that, Kimberly

KimberlySL: Well - we are almost out of time - any questions?

BJB2: has the discussion changed your idea of a social network, Kim?

KimberlySL: Not yet!

LeoL: if I search MYSPACE for Johnathan Chase will I find him?

LeoL . o O (assuming I spell it right?)

BJB2: <http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics>

LeoL: ty Bj

BJB2: Thanks for leading the discussion, Kim. I think that my idea of a social network has greatly expanded

HollyMu: A lot of great links to check out still. Thank you, Kim, for all of the resources!!!

BJB2 . o O (always comes down to what works for the individual....like flavors of ice cream ;-)

TuradgA: thanks Kim

KimberlySL: I agree - pick what works best

LeoL: thanks!

BJB2 waves bye and heads for the Special Ed discussion