

Resources

Digital Goonies blog- for the latest and greatest web applications, tips, and tricks tailored to educators:
<http://www.digitalgoonies.com>

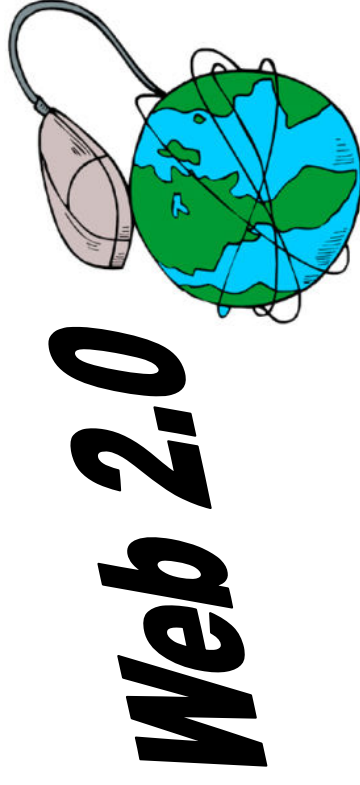
Web 2.0 for Educators Wiki- a directory of Web 2.0 applications that are useful for educators:
<http://web20tools.wetpaint.com>

e-Safety Education- a whole curriculum designed to keep students safe on the web:
<http://www.isafe.org/>

Go 2 Web 2.0 Directory- a great searchable database of Web 2.0 sites for all purposes:
<http://www.go2web20.net/>

Make Use Of Web Applications Directory- a great collection of web applications for all purposes:
<http://www.makeuseof.com/dir/>

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Issues, Tips, & Tricks

Defining Web 2.0:

Web 2.0 is the next generation of the internet where the content of the web is created or edited by end-users (either individually or collaboratively) rather than those few geeky computer nerds. Further, these sites often allow collaboration, sharing, and assimilation to bring about exchanges of ideas from many different perspectives in the form of text, photos, videos, and/or other multimedia components.

What every educator needs to know about Web 2.0 sites:

- Student safety and privacy must be considered at all times. They are instant web publishers. This can be dangerous.
- Web 2.0 sites change constantly- what may be free and simple today may not be on the day of your lesson.
- A reliable network connection is critical- most sites won't allow you to download your creation.
- Sites that are not blocked by your district today may be tomorrow- always have a backup plan.
- Even though a website may be unblocked- inappropriate content often shows up in the gallery and "just created" sections.
- Many Web 2.0 sites take advantage of photo hosting sites- find one that works for you. (We use Flickr)
- Always adhere to copyright & Fair Use guidelines- Creative Commons and Picnik.com are your friends!
- You won't remember all your logins and passwords- create a spreadsheet and password protect it.
- Be prepared to showcase widgets on your own blog, wiki, or website.

Student Safety



Students are instantly publishing to a site beyond your control! I hope this scares you! Before beginning any Web 2.0 project, review the policies and procedures about acceptable use and online safety

- No chat rooms
- No use of real names (assign or select pseudonyms)
- No distribution of personal information of any kind
- No use of student pictures
- What to do if inappropriate material is encountered
- Consequences of violating the acceptable use policy



Student Email

While some districts provide student email accounts, many do not. Student email addresses may be necessary to create accounts at certain Web 2.0 websites (see login methods). If student email accounts become necessary, consider using either Gaggle.net or Epals.com (preferred).

- Only teachers can create accounts, not students
- Teachers can access sent/received mail
- Built-in filters flag inappropriate content and require teacher approval before sending/receiving.
- Teacher can suspend accounts
- May include blogging and chat

Consider this:

- Communicate with parents about the accounts (parent letters are available on the sites)
- Filtered email is not 100% successful- actively monitor
- Students must be taught how to handle inappropriate content
- The same privacy/safety rules above apply to email

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Log-in Methods

Most Web 2.0 sites require users to create accounts and log in to the site so their work can be stored and retrieved when needed. Many of these websites do not allow account holders to be under 13 years old, so read the fine print. If you don't want to hassle with student email accounts, consider using the following methods to log in to various sites:

Method #1: One Size Fits All

- All students use the same generic login created by the teacher
- This won't work for most sites
- Doing this allows students to change the account settings
- Students may have access to delete/change the work of others

Method #2: Fake It!

- Most registrations require an email address- this is usually used for the sole purpose of retrieving lost passwords or getting updates
- Enter a fake email address!
- Understand that if a password is forgotten, the account is lost!

Method #3: Piggy-back It!

- Teacher creates the main email address
- Students "piggy-back" off that email address
- Two ways to piggy-back:



Google's Gmail Solution

- Teacher creates main email account (ex: mrsmith@gmail.com)
- Students can then piggy-back on it:
 - mrsmith+jdoe@gmail.com
 - mrsmith+student123@gmail.com
 - Mrsmith+anything@gmail.com
- This provides a unique email address for each registration
- All email arrives in the teacher's main Gmail account!

Other Inbox (www.otherinbox.com)

- Teacher creates main email root (ex: mrsmith.otherinbox.com)
- Students can then piggy-back on it:
 - jdoe@mrsmith.otherinbox.com
 - student123@mrsmith.otherinbox.com
 - anything@mrsmith.otherinbox.com
- All mail arrives in one account (can be forwarded to another), separated into folders for each unique email address