

Easy Steps for Expanding Desire2Learn with Web 2.0 Tools

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Easy Steps for Expanding Desire2Learn with Web 2.0 Tools

- ▶ This presentation introduces methods for embedding Web 2.0 tools into D2L content.
- ▶ Create Custom Nav-Bar links
- ▶ Using <IFRAMES> and pop-up windows
- ▶ Linking to Student-Developed content

HTML Disclaimer

- ▶ MOST of these ideas can be implemented in the D2L WYSIWYG Page Editor. From this point forward, we will call it the D2L HTML editor.
- ▶ Some techniques might be easier if you have rudimentary HTML skills
- ▶ The <iframe> techniques are not in the D2L HTML editor – but you can “copy” the example provided
- ▶ D2L Content is a set of “links” that point to internal web pages – but they can also point to external pages

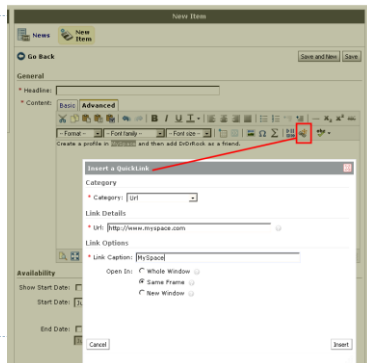
Web 2.0 Tools

- ▶ Web 2.0 means:
 - ▶ users / viewers can add to and edit content.
 - ▶ Tools allow users to easily create their own content
- ▶ <http://www.go2web20.net/> - Comprehensive Web 2.0 Directory

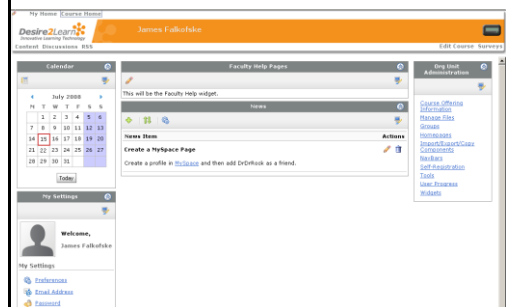


Simplest Method

- ▶ Create a hyperlink to the site using the D2L HTML editor
- ▶ Same window for easy content / New Window for complex



News Page with Link to MySpace



News Link for MySpace Clicked

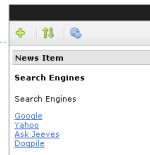


```
<a href=
"http://www.someweb.com/Page.html"
target="_blank">Page </a><br />
```

- ▶ If you have a large number of links to add, it might be easier to "hand edit" the links with Copy & Paste
- ▶ Use the HTML editor in HTML mode
- ▶ Copy the code above, and change the URL and the Page name for each link
- ▶ Remove the **target=" _blank"** if you want content to appear in the same window

Sample of Multiple Links

- ▶ `<p>Search Engines</p>`
- ▶ `Google
`
- ▶ `Yahoo
`
- ▶ `Ask Jeeves
`
- ▶ `Dogpile
`



Using an <iframe>

- ▶ `<iframe>` allows you to embed a "mini-browser" window inside of your page.
- ▶ Useful in News items or Content topics as a means of showcasing other content without having to "leave" the D2L course site
- ▶ Multiple `<iframe>` areas can be included – allowing students to compare / contrast different web sites (example provided for comparing computer hardware prices)

<iframe> example in Content

instructions to the students

Framed content

Adding <iframe> to Content

- ▶ Use HTML view
- ▶ Paste in the `<iframe>` code
- ▶ Verify the display of the frame

Sample <iframe> Code

```
<iframe src="http://www.google.com/reader/"
name="GoogleReader" height="600"
width="800"></iframe>
```

Find the code from the URL and place it in the SRC area between the quotes.

Adjust Height and Width as desired.

Change the NAME attribute to match the framed site.

NOTES about <iframes>

- ▶ <iframe> components do not work well with **OLD** browsers
- ▶ Your <iframe> components must have a frame title – so that users understand the content to which they are browsing (for accessibility compliance)
- ▶ Page loads might take an extra-long time as the browser needs to poll several different sites at once
- ▶ Sites being displayed may “take over” the parent frame (topmost frame) when a link is clicked
(Yahoo, shopping sites, etc.)
- ▶ Suggest to your students to UNDOCK pages with IFRAMES
- ▶ <iframes> have their own scroll / position bars as needed

Multi-Window IFRAMES

- ▶ Several webpages can be opened up in “containers” (frames) on a single page
- ▶ Allows quick “portlet” type access to several tools at once (similar to widgets)
- ▶ Useful for students to view blog and research pages.



Multiple IFRAMES Sample Code

```
<html>
<body>
<h1>Sample Page with Multiple IFRAMES</h1>
<iframe src="http://www.tigerdirect.com" height="400" width="800"
name="TigerDirect"></iframe>
<iframe src="http://www.bhphotovideo.com/" height="400" width="800"
name="BHPhotoVideo"></iframe>
<iframe src="http://www.bestbuy.com/" height="400" width="800"
name="BestBuy"></iframe>
<iframe src="http://www.circuitcity.com/" height="400" width="800"
name="CircuitCity"></iframe>
</body>
</html>
```

The above code is to load 4 pages, from different electronics retailers, in windows 800 pixels wide by 400 pixels high

Resulting IFRAMES Page



Using Embed HTML

- ▶ Embed codes do not require “frames” and can contain any type of content from web pages, to Flash animations, to movies.
- ▶ Sample “include a web page” embed

```
<object type="text/html" height="100%" width="100%"
data="http://www.sctc.edu"> </object>
```

Object Embed for PDF file

```
▶ <object data="SamplePdf.pdf" type="application/pdf"
  height="500"
  width="500"> alt : <a
  href="SamplePdf.pdf">SamplePdf.pdf</a>
</object>
```

Embed a Flash Object

```
▶ <embed src="PlanningLevels01.swf" height="500"
  width="500">
```

OR

```
▶ <object type="application/x-shockwave-flash"
  data=" PlanningLevels01.swf " height="250"
  width="800"><param name="movie"
  value=" PlanningLevels01.swf " /></object>
```

Stream Music Player

▶ Embed Music (MP3 files / WAV files)

```
<embed
  src="http://www.snowtunes.com/2007Music/Snowtunes_
  DontBotherMeNow.mp3"
  height="80" width="200">
```

Object Embed for MP3

```
<object type="audio/x-mpeg"
  data="http://www.snowtunes.com/2007Music/DontBothe
  rMeNow.m3u"
  autoplay="false" height="80" width="200">
</object>
```

This works on web-standards compliant browsers (it does NOT work with Internet Explorer, but DOES work with Firefox, SeaMonkey, and Safari).

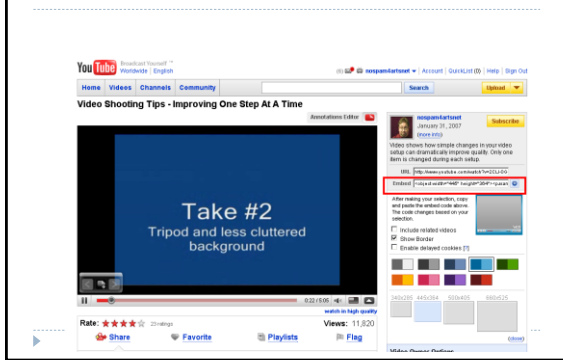
Music Player – IE Compatible

```
▶ <embed src="http://webjay.org/flash/dark_player"
  wmode="transparent"
  flashvars="playlist_url=http://www.snowtunes.com/2007M
  usic/DontBotherMeNow.m3u&amp;skin_color_1=-145,-
  89,-4,5&amp;skin_color_2=-141,20,0,0"
  type="application/x-shockwave-flash" height="40"
  width="400">
```

Embed Flash Objects

```
▶ <embed src="/html/yourfile.swf" width="100%"
  height="250" > <noembed></noembed> </embed>
```

YouTubes gives you embed code



Getting Student Content into D2L

- ▶ **Blogs**
 - ▶ Blogger.com (Google)
 - ▶ 360.yahoo.com
- ▶ **Social Networking**
 - ▶ MySpace.com
 - ▶ Facebook.com
 - ▶ Multiply.com
- ▶ **Media Content**
 - ▶ YouTube.com - video
 - ▶ Flickr.com - images
 - ▶ Gcast.com - audio
- ▶ **Wikis**
 - ▶ Google Groups
 - ▶ Wetpaint.com
 - ▶ Wikidot.com
 - ▶ Luminotes.com
 - ▶ Pbwiki.com
- ▶ **Work Tools**
 - ▶ Google Docs and Spreadsheets
 - ▶ Zoho.com
 - ▶ Writewith.com

Which to Use?

Blogs

- ▶ Sole author
- ▶ Publicly viewable
- ▶ Can have RSS feed
- ▶ Tends to have easier interface

Wikis

- ▶ Collaborators allowed
- ▶ Tracking of versions (who made which changes)
- ▶ View can be restricted
- ▶ Allows document sharing
- ▶ Reduces number of sites to visit – since multiple users can post to one site

Incorporating Student Blogs

▶ Blog benefits

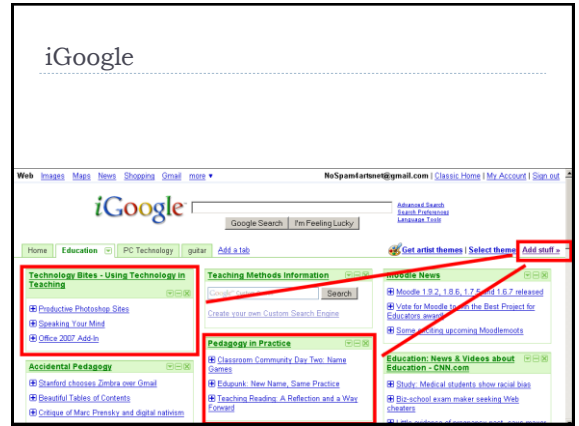
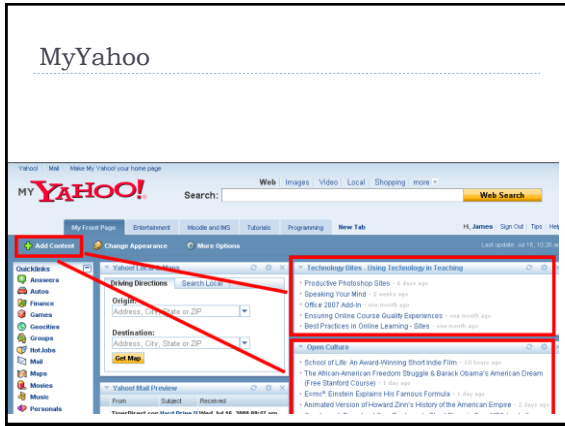
- ▶ Easier to judge student effort (all work on site by single student)
- ▶ Can deliver RSS feeds to see what is new; easier grading through RSS reader
- ▶ Easier customization with fewer technical steps (point & click)
- ▶ If other students access – academic competition may lead to better overall class performance (benchmarking against other students)

RSS Feeds

- ▶ Really Simple Syndication... or... Rich Site Summary
- ▶ Allows you to "scrape" content from other sites and view its highlights in your RSS or blog reader
- ▶ News feeds on portals like Google News and Yahoo News make use of RSS feeds to keep page content up-to-date
- ▶ Settings allow you to see only **new** postings, and allow you to click through to see more information.
- ▶ Some blogs allow Full Articles to appear in RSS feeds

RSS Reader / Aggregator

- ▶ A RSS Reader is needed to collect the information from the sites
- ▶ **Easy Aggregators**
 - ▶ MyYahoo! – Add Content > Add RSS Feed
<http://technologybites.blogspot.com/feeds/posts/default?alt=rss>
 - ▶ iGoogle – Add Stuff > Add Feed or Gadget
<http://technologybites.blogspot.com/>
 - ▶ Google Reader – Add Subscription > Add base URL for site
<http://technologybites.blogspot.com/>
 - ▶ NetVibes – Add Content > Add A Feed
<http://technologybites.blogspot.com/>



RSS Feeds - Strategies

- Simplest
 - Each student creates their own blog site
 - Students post their "blog links" to D2L course site
 - Each student subscribes to RSS feed to all other classmates
- Consolidation
 - Each student creates their own blog site
 - Students provide "blog links" to instructor
 - Instructor creates a web page which consolidates listing of all student links

RSS Consolidation

Google's Blogger allows "Add Blog List" to read RSS feeds

Instructor gives link to "course" blog, and then links to other student blogs.

The screenshot shows a Blogger blog page with a list of RSS feeds. A red box highlights the 'Add Blog List' button in the right sidebar.

Blogger - Add Blog List

Choose a New Page Element

Blog List (New)

Add and Arrange Page Elements

The screenshot shows the Blogger 'Add and Arrange Page Elements' dialog box. A red box highlights the 'Add a Page Element' button in the bottom left corner.

Customizing Your Course Nav-Bars

- ▶ Add the custom Web 2.0 tool links to your own Nav
- ▶ Edit Course > NavBars > New Navigation Bar

This page allows you to create and edit Navigation Bars for your course. The Navigation Bar is used on the Course Home page.

[New Navigation Bar](#)

Name	Description	Active	Creation Date
Course Default	Navigation Bar used for new courses	X	06/22/2007 10:59
Falkofske Training Courses	For use with Falkofske's Training courses	✓	06/22/2007 10:59
Falkofske Training Courses	For use with Falkofske's Training courses	✓	06/22/2007 10:59

This area allows you to create and edit Templates for your Navigation Bars. A Template defines the look and feel of the Nav Bars.

Wrap Up – Points to Remember

- ▶ D2L HTML editor can link to pages which load into D2L or into new pages
- ▶ <iframes> can allow “portlets” to display for students
- ▶ Student created content is best managed in blogs and wikis – which can be linked into D2L content
- ▶ RSS feeds allow you to gather posts from blog sites

Shameless Plugs...

- ▶ <http://TechnologyBites.blogspot.com/>
- ▶ <http://PedagogyOnline.com/>
- ▶ For more information, you may email me at:
JFalkofske@sctc.edu James Falkofske