

Social Learning Technologies Matrix

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Technology	Simple Definition	Role in Learning & Development
Blogs	Journal or diary with social collaboration (comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor blogs for sharing additional information & resources, answering questions, before, during, after sessions • Student blogs as assignments • Conference/special event blogs • SME blogs independent of a specific learning event • New Hire blogs • Maintaining a lab or project “notebook” • Blog to assist users working with a particular tool (e.g., Captivate)
Wikis ¹	Collaborative authoring or editing ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team- and/or organization-based knowledge sharing/management • Collaborative learning tool • Course wiki (could be attached to LMS, or to a course, or to a page in a course, or the course itself could be wiki-based) • Glossary of terms wiki • Editable reference material (FAQs, product information, process information, sales scenarios) • Link new hires to designated senior staff to learn from each other • Create learning paths • Convert Robohelp manuals to a wiki

¹ See the video on YouTube “Adding Interactivity to Wiki-Based Content,” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjU6D01G94E>

² See Wikimatrix.org to compare and contrast different wikis. It includes a wiki selection wizard. See also *Wikis for Dummies*.

Technology	Simple Definition	Role in Learning & Development
Video Sharing (and multimedia) Photo Sharing	Videos, images, and audio libraries Photo libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How-To Demos & Tutorials
Comments, Ratings	User comments and ratings of content, a service, a tool, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be incorporated into courses • A rating/comment system would be a great way for SMEs to “learn on the job,” getting feedback about how well they’ve explained things, such as in a wiki or a blog. (A SME may know a lot about a subject but may need guidance in explaining it simply and clearly.)
Forums, ListSerts, Chat Rooms	Discussion forums, Yahoo Answers concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow employees to ask questions and get answers, provide references and resources, offer opinions • Leverage the “wisdom of colleagues” (Masie) • Use for post-learning event discussion, debrief.
Podcasting and RSS	Multimedia content syndicated for use on various devices (e.g., iPods, desktops, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor/class updates • Internal communication updates • eLearning content, especially if it involves exploring a physical space • Reinforcing key messages • RSS to get updates on new content that has been added to a wiki, blog, etc.
Social Networking (or “knowledge networking”)	People connecting via digital environments using text, photos, video, audio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner/Employee Profiles that include areas of interest, expertise, development • Opportunity to find & create connections, circles of shared interests
Web Feeds	Automated notifications of frequently updated content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization can push content to learners, learners can subscribe to content of interest
Virtual Worlds	Simulations of environments and people, e.g., Webkinz, Club Penguin, Neopets, Stardoll, Whyville, Second Life, Active Worlds, Kaneva, ProtoSphere, Entropia Universe, uWorld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual classrooms, conferences, “townhall meetings” • Simulations (see NOAA island on Second Life for example)

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Mashups/Remixes ³ (See also Widgets, gadgets, and pipes)	Combination of content from two or more sources to create a new, seamlessly integrated experience	Tony Karrer: "A reference hybrid embeds learning objects (e.g., Captivate movies in Flash) within the content. While technically this is not a mashup because the Captivate provides static content, it's the same basic idea and something we are familiar with. Thus, adoption Mashups and Add-ins is a natural extension of what we are already used to doing."
Microblogging (e.g., Twitter)	Type of blogging that allows brief, IM-length text message updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor/class alerts • Learner collaboration
Social Bookmarking	Way of sharing content with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner collaboration

³ See the article "Dr. Mashup; or, Why Educators Should Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Remix" at <http://www.educause.edu/EDUCAUSE+Review/EDUCAUSEReviewMagazineVolume42/DrMashuporWhyEducatorsShouldLe/161747>