






ICON KEY	
	Valuable information
	Activity
	Shortcuts
	Links
	Additional information

Edublogs Interface

Purpose

The interface of Edublogs provides you with several options to make your blog not only unique but also easily maintainable. Therefore it is necessary to learn more about the interfaces of Edublogs.

In this tutorial you will learn how to:

1. Understand main page interface
2. Change the theme of your blog
3. Edit your blog title
4. Change the appearance of the header

Software Needed

Web Browsers

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills

Before beginning this tutorial please make sure that you have completed the Edublogs tutorial part 1.

Overview

- [Your Blog's Main Interface](#)
- [Editing the Title and Header of your Blog](#)

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Lesson 1: Your Blog's Main Interface

In this lesson you will learn about the general interface of a blog. This is an informational activity to explain all of the different components of a blog. It will also show you where to click to add a comment to a blog or to log into a blog. It is important to know how to log into a blog so that you can access the administration interface. The second activity will show you how to edit the theme (appearance) of the blog.



<http://learnerblogs.org/>
is a site where students
can set up blogs



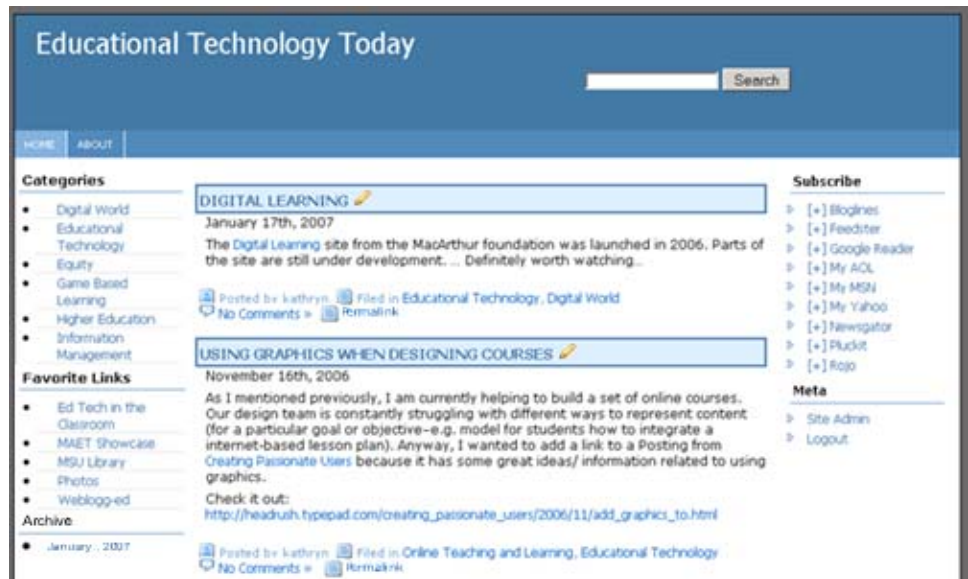
Activity 1: Elements of a blog

1. Go to your blog by typing in: <http://yourblogtitle.edublogs.org>. **Please note:** **yourblogtitle** should be replaced with the title you picked for you blog during the Edublogs Part 1 Tutorial.
2. The main page consists of different parts. The top part (Header) shows you the title of your blog. In the image below you will note that the blog is called Educational Technology Today. Depending on the template you choose you may have a one, two, or three column layout to your blog. The example below is an example of a 3 column blog.

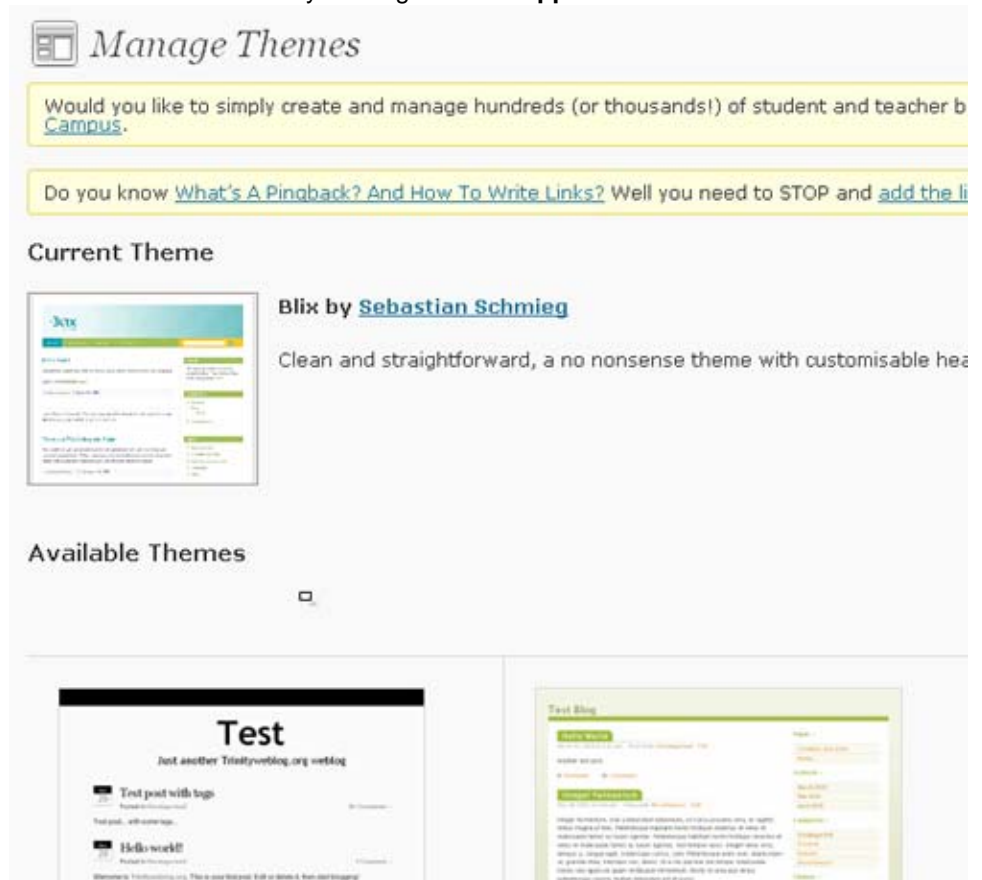


Blogs often have an
About page that gives
background information
on the blog or author.

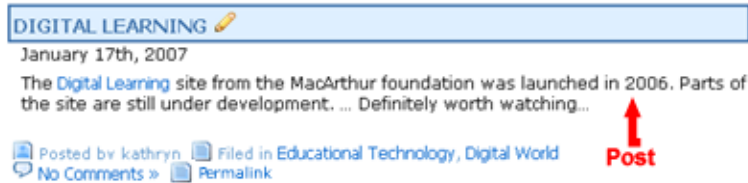
The example on the left has a link to the About page next to the link to the Home page.



3. You can change the template of your blog by clicking on the **Site Admin** link on your blog's sidebar. The link is usually located in the Meta section. If you don't see the Site Admin link then you are not logged in and you will see a **Login** link instead. Click on Log In and enter your username and password. You will now have access to the administration interface of your blog. Click on **Appearance > Themes**.



Other Elements of a Blog Interface



The screenshot shows a blog header for 'DIGITAL LEARNING' with a pencil icon. Below the title is the date 'January 17th, 2007'. A short paragraph follows: 'The Digital Learning site from the MacArthur foundation was launched in 2006. Parts of the site are still under development. ... Definitely worth watching...'. At the bottom of the header, there are several links: 'Posted by kathryn', 'Filed in Educational Technology, Digital World', 'No Comments »', and 'Permalink'. To the right of these links is a red arrow pointing upwards with the word 'Post' written in red below it.

Post

Every blog contains posts. They are the main body of the text. Above is an example of a post.

Comments

Below the post is a link titled "**Comments**". Generally the link will display the number of comments associated with the post. If there are no comments yet the link will say "**No Comments**" or "**Add Comment**" depending on your theme. You can also use this link to post your own comment.

Permalink

A permalink is the static link for a single post. Each post is permanently stored on an archive page. The permalink links to this permanent page.

Trackbacks

If both sites support trackbacks then if someone else posts a link to your posting on your blog, then you will receive notification via a trackback ping. Some sites will display the linked comments below the original entry. Think of trackbacks and pings as the equivalents of acknowledgements and references at the end of an academic paper, or a chapter in a textbook.

*Note: in the example above, you will see that listed above the post is the author, the categories the post is filed under, a link to comments associated with the post, and the permalink. If you are logged in as an administrator then you will also see an edit link that will let you edit the post.

Subscribe

Generally each blog will have a **Subscribe** section. This allows readers of your blog to quickly add your site to their aggregator so that they can keep track of your posts. Netvibes is not listed in this example, however, you can just use the URL when you want to add a feed. When you paste the feed in and click Add, then Netvibes will then prompt you to choose an RSS feed.

Meta

In the **Meta** section you will notice a **Site Admin** link for your own blog when you are logged in. If you are not logged in then you will notice a **Login** link.

Categories

Most blogs will display a list of categories. When you create a post you select all the categories to which the post belongs. You can also think of categories as topics. If you click on a category then you will see all posts that have been tagged as belonging to that category.

Blogroll

In the example above the blogroll is called **Favorite Links**. A blogroll contains links to other Internet sites or blogs that the author finds interesting or informative.

Archive

Often blog postings are archived by month. To view all of the postings from a given month click on the link for the month in the **Archives** section.

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Lesson 2: Editing the Title and Header of Your Blog


In this lesson you will learn how to edit the title and tagline of your blog. You will also learn how to change the background color of the header. You can only edit the header image and colors if you are using the default theme. If you are using a different theme then you will

probably not be able to edit the header image and color unless the theme specifies that you can. You will, however, have a new menu item called **Theme Editor**. Using the theme editor, you can make changes to the appearance of your blog by editing the HTML code.



Activity 1: Editing the Blog Title

1. You can change the title of your blog and the tagline by going to **Settings > General** on the bottom left of the main page. Change the title and tagline and click on **Save Changes**.



General Settings

Would you like to simply create and manage hundreds (or thousands!) of student and teacher [Campus](#).

Are you reminding your students that they are part of a global audience? Here is [how to add a Supporters](#). Or [use a text widget to add the ClustrMaps](#) - for free Edublogs users.

Blog Title	<input type="text" value=" Blogging In the Classroom Workshop"/>
Tagline	<input type="text" value=" Free workshops on Blogging offered by MSU's"/> <small><i>In a few wor</i></small>
E-mail address	<input type="text" value=" calbin@msu.edu"/> <small>This address send you an email at your new address to confirm it. The new ad</small>
Timezone	<input type="text" value=" UTC -4:00"/> <input type="button" value="v"/> <small>UTC time is 2009-09-30 18:24: Choose a city in the same timezone as you. This timezone is currently in daylight savings time. This timezone does not observe daylight savings time.</small>
Date Format	<input checked="" type="radio"/> September 30, 2009 <input type="radio"/> 2009/09/30 <input type="radio"/> 09/30/2009 <input type="radio"/> 30/09/2009 <input type="radio"/> Custom: <input type="text" value=" F j, Y"/> September 30, 2009

[Documentation on date formatting](#). Click "Save Changes" to



Activity 2: Editing the Header Appearance

1. For some of the themes you can also edit the header image. Go to **Appearance> Custom Header**. Browse for an image to use, select it, and then click on upload.



- You will then get to decide which part of the image you want to use for the header if your image is larger than the required size. Click on highlighted area and drag to select the part of the image you want to use. Then click on **Crop Header**. When you go back to view your site it should now include the image you uploaded as the header.

Pretty much **most embedding code** we pick up around the web can be copied and pasted **directly into either our Edublog posts or a text widget in our side bar.**

Choose the part of the image you want to use as your header.



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[Go Back to Tutorials](http://edutech.msu.edu/online/811.htm)
<http://edutech.msu.edu/online/811.htm>

Wrap Up:

It is much easier to maintain your blog once you know more about the interfaces. More advanced tips can be found in [edublogs.org support forums](http://edublogs.org/support/forums).