

What is Web 2.0?

Common Web 2.0 Applications



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What is Web 2.0?

Web 2.0 is a term used to describe many recently popularized web applications such as YouTube, del.icio.us, and Flickr. While the phrase does not have a singular authoritative definition, there are a few characteristics associated with Web 2.0 applications.

Summary

1. Definition of Web 2.0
2. Common Web 2.0 Applications
3. Further Information

Web 2.0 applications:

- are generally aimed towards **online collaboration or sharing** of information.
- are said to be **perpetually changing and updating**.
- solicit active **participation or content creation** from users. User-created content improves Web 2.0 applications.
- are often **accessed using a web browser**, meaning that no specialized software is needed for use.
- are **not typically limited to use on one device**. They are designed to be accessed from PDAs, MP3 players, and other web-enabled devices (O'Reilly, 2005).

Common Web 2.0 Applications

An extensive list of Web 2.0 applications can be found at <http://www.allthingsweb2.com/>. Please note that some Web 2.0 applications are purely used for entertainment purposes. Below is a list of some of the most frequently referenced Web 2.0 applications. You can find the websites for most of the specific applications through an Internet search.

General Web 2.0 Applications

- **Podcast:** a series of multimedia files (usually audio MP3 files) distributed over the Internet using subscription services ("Podcast," 2007). Individual files are called **episodes**. Podcast hosting and distribution sites include **Gabcast** and **Odeo**. Podcast distribution sites include **iTunes Podcast Directory** and **Podcast Alley**.
- **Podcatcher:** an application that allows users to subscribe to and download podcasts. Users can then play the podcast files on their computers or transfer the files to an MP3 player. **iTunes** and **Juice** are podcatchers.
- **Blog:** web page serving as a public journal for an individual ("blog," n.d.). Blogs are updated frequently and entries are displayed in reverse chronological order ("Blog", 2007). Blog hosting sites include **WordPress**, **Blogger**, **TypePad**, and **LiveJournal**.
- **RSS/web feed:** a data format allowing users to subscribe to content so that they automatically receive updates. RSS stands for **Really Simple Syndication** or **Rich Site Summary**, both web feed standards. RSS is used in blogs and podcasts to allow syndication.
- **Feed aggregator:** an application that checks all of the web feeds to which a user subscribes and displays any updates.
- **Wiki:** a website permitting users to add, remove, and edit content ("Wiki," 2007). Wikis are a tool for collaborative



authoring. The term “wiki” can refer to the software used to generate the website or to the website itself. The most famous example of a wiki is **Wikipedia**.

Specific Web 2.0 Applications

- **del.icio.us**: a social bookmarking service allowing users to save, share, and search favorite websites via the Internet. Similar to **BlinkList**, **Shadows**, **Furl**, and **clipmarks**.
- **Digg**: a website allowing users to determine the content of the site by submitting, rating, and sharing content. Similar to **Gabbr**.
- **Flickr**: a site allowing users to access pictures from various platforms, organize images, add notes and comments to images, and find images from other users. Similar to **Slide** and **Zoto**.
- **Gabcast**: a podcasting service allowing users to upload audio files and to record audio files by phone or Voice over Internet Protocol. Similar to **Odeo**.
- **Omnidrive**: online file storage available from any internet-connected device. Similar to **Xdrive** and **Avvenu**.
- **YouTube**: a site allowing users to store, tag, search for, and view video content online. Similar to **VideoEgg** and **Google Video**.
- **Google Docs and Spreadsheets**: word processing and spreadsheet applications allowing multiple users to view and edit documents online. Similar to **Zoho Writer** and **Zoho Sheet**.
- **gliffy**: collaborative tool for drawing diagrams.
- **Splashcast**: allows users to upload video, audio, PDF, PPT, text, and image files, record audio narratives, and publish as a multimedia presentation.

Further Information

For more information on useful Web 2.0 applications, visit the sites below.

- Dion Hinchcliffe’s Web 2.0 Blog:
 - ◊ The Best Web 2.0 Software of 2005 (http://web2.wsj2.com/the_best_web_20_software_of_2005.htm)
 - ◊ The Most Promising Web 2.0 Software of 2006 (http://web2.wsj2.com/the_most_promising_web_20_software_of_2006.htm)
 - ◊ More Great Web 2.0 Software (http://web2.wsj2.com/more_great_web_20_software.htm)
- SEOmoz.org’s Web 2.0 Awards (<http://www.seomoz.org/web2.0/?short>)
- Alpha: The CNET Blog (<http://Alpha.CNET.com>)
- Wired Web 2.0 Blog (http://blog.wired.com/monkeybites/web_20/index.html)

Citations

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