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I. History

Twitter was created by Jack Dorsey, a software architect, in March 2006 and launched just a few months later. It was founded by Obvious in San Francisco, California.

Twitter became successful and broke off from Obvious in May 2007. At this time Twitter became known as Twitter Inc.
In 2007 Twitter experienced a great deal of growth, starting with the popular film and music festival South by Southwest. During the event, large-screened televisions displayed Twitter ads, which increased the over number of tweets per day by 40,000 tweets. The application received overall positive reviews by the people who attended the festival.

From there, the social network/blog continued to increase in popularity. As of 2011, there are over 200 million tweets being generated by users each day.

**Users**


Over 200 Million of Twitter users can be found worldwide. Twitter attracts organizations and individuals alike. The average age of Twitterers is between 25 years old and 54 years old. For more information about the statistics about the graphs go to [http://www.nevillehobson.com/2009/04/08/twitters-explosive-worldwide-growth/](http://www.nevillehobson.com/2009/04/08/twitters-explosive-worldwide-growth/).
II. How To Use Twitter

Twitter is not complicated technology, despite the many options that it presents to the user. All of the contact updates for twitter are on the right side. All messages from friends/acquaintances will be found in the middle. This happens once a user has been on there long enough to collect them. Finding people on Twitter isn't as easy. To do this, a user will have to go on the twitter page and invite friends via email. Updates, or “Tweets,” allow someone to see what the other is doing. A downloadable client is also available, called Twitterific on Mac or Twitteroo on PC. They can run on Vista desktop in order for up to the minute tweet updates. One can also download a Twitter application on to their smartphone. This way they can stay connected at any time or place.

Find accounts and follow them.

Browse Suggestions Find Friends Invite By Email Find On Twitter

You can find people, organizations, or companies you know that already have a Twitter account.

Who are you looking for?

Examples: Bill, Bill Smith, or Whole Foods

Search

A view of what to expect when searching for friends, companies, or organizations.
When first arriving at www.twitter.com, this page will come up. When a user accesses this page, they must simply add in their login information. Once the user logs into the system on a page that resembles figure one.

![Figure One](image)

Below are two videos that explain how Twitter work

**Video One**

**Video Two**

Once tweets are entered, the text becomes a public line. Each Twitter page will show tweets that have posted and tweets by both the user and their friends. Tweets can be made publicly or in private messages if the user wishes. Even if a fellow twitterer is not friends with the user, they can still be followed. Any user can be followed via phone or text, or by using clients Twitterific and Twitteroo. Twitter integrates with blogs and other web pages with flash and java code options that let web pages access twitter updates. All users can create Twitter messages, more commonly called tweets, through their Twitter pages, IMs, Facebook accounts, emails or text messages from their mobile phones.

- There is a wide variety of people you can follow: celebrities, friends, news companies like CNN, politicians, or any other events/organizations.
- Twitter allows politicians to increase their public relations by connecting with more people. People can now follow the politicians and always stay connected with them. For the 2012 Presidential election, Twitter will begin to sell political advertising to the candidates.
You can follow Lady Gaga @ladygaga

You can follow CNN News @cnnbrk

You can follow the Human Society @HumaneSociety.

You can follow Barrack Obama @barrackobama

- Twitter allows you to personalize your profile by: adding a background image, adding a profile picture, and updating your biographical information.
IV. Twitter In Everyday Life

Twitter has a great deal of uses for everyday life. The application allows people to get to know others over time. They begin to learn about both small and large details of each others lives. Learning about others is often something that happens overtime, as a Twitterer follows Tweets.

Twitter added a text messaging feature along with their website. This makes it easier to send and receive tweets from followers. Other Twitterers add news organizations to their twitter feed. If they add this organization to their cell phone they are able to get up to date news via their cell phone in short 140 character text messages. There is a character limit on all tweets.

V. Twitter in Business

Tweets and blogs inside twitter allow people in the work world the capability to connect to one another across the world. Colleagues may live across town or across the world and will be able to collaborate on a group project or share ideas about a specific project. Twitter can help colleagues begin to know each other on a personal level and help them become better acquainted. This may increase their ability to work together in the future. It can also help each other remind their colleagues an example is if there is a meeting and it has been changed.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXPmI4YaOpM Link for helpful video.
Forty percent of Twitter users are from the United States. The second highest population of Twitterers can be found in Japan. Twitter can also be found in countries such as Spain and the United Kingdom.

Similar applications can be found in Korea, such as Play2me.
VII. Twitter for Teachers

Twitter has been a valuable tool for the field of education. It can continue to do so as technology grows and people become more familiar with the application. This technology allows the student's learning to be enhanced in a number of ways.

Twitter can allow student the benefit of active learning in the same way that clickers can facilitate active learning in the classroom. It allows for interaction between students and between teachers. Twitter also allows the opportunity for students to reflect about their own learning, thereby allowing for a greater ability to learn the material. The concise 140 character nature of the site promotes students to be clear and concise while engaging in the classroom.

Twitter has been used in the classroom. David Parry, assistant professor of Emerging Media and Communication at the University of Texas in Dallas used this technology in his classroom. He raves about the technology and claims that it was a very positive experience for his classroom. After using Twitter in his classroom, Parry was able to create a list of tips about the technology. He listed positive features such as instant feedback, following a professional or famous person and tracking a conference or seminar. He also noted that the technology was beneficial in the classroom because it could act as a public notepad. Parry felt that Twitter could maximize a teachable moment. Parry's list also included usage for writing assignments and grammar. Overall, Parry noticed that the usage of Twitter helped to increase classroom chatter because the students began to feel bonded as a community.

Other teachers who have used Twitter feel that it could be used to remind students about homework and other class happenings. This feature was especially helpful in a college setting where the student could have the capability to add the feature to their cell phone to get quick reminders throughout the day.

Other uses for Twitter include:

- Question and Answer sessions or games between a classrooms or from across the world
- Homework reminders that can be sent via cell text
- A collaborative global group project
- Homework help networks for parents and students
- Regular updates from the classroom to home and vice versa
- Quick communication between teachers from room to room without leaving the room

Because of the uses listed above, Twitter is best used outside of a strictly Twitter-based "lesson plan" context. It can, however, be incorporated into many lesson plans. Also, Twitter is not censored or supervised, as anyone can establish an account with which they can write anything, so it is best to use caution when having Elementary students use it. A great source of ideas can be found at: <http://docs.google.com/present/view?id=dhn2vcv5_118c8b8ms/8>.

Below are some lesson plan ideas:

**Elementary:**

Document: Twitter Elementary Lesson Plan
PDF: Twitter Elementary Lesson Plan
Document: Twitter STEM Elementary Lesson Plan
PDF: Twitter STEM Elementary Lesson Plan

**Secondary:**

Document: lesson plan Twitter.docx
PDF: lesson plan Twitter.pdf

**Post Secondary:**

Document: Twitter Lesson Plan.docx
PDF: Twitter Lesson Plan.pdf
VIII. Similar Applications

Similar applications include:

- Pownce
- Tumblr
- Plurk

IX. The Future of Twitter

Twitter publishes in API, and applications are regularly being developed that build on that platform. An application called TwitterCamp, lets users display ‘tweets’ in large format displays, such as projectors. Other applications let users post short audio tweets - an idea that seems to introduce the notion of “micro-podcasts.” These, and other applications built on Twitter will come and go. The community of users determines which ones last and which ones don’t. Twitter is guided by their philosophy of keeping things simple and intuitive and like to restrain themselves with regard to features.

X. Twitter Vocabulary

- **Twitter**: A web 2.0 application
- **Twitterer**: People who use Twitter
- **Tweets**: Small 140 letter updates that answer “what are you doing”

**Follower / following**: A follower is someone who subscribes to receive updates from another fellow tweeter

**Daily Twitamin**: A tweet that contains useful knowledge that is easy to take in and remember.

XI. Additional Information
XII. References


7. Twitter

8. Whip Up Net

9. Search Engine Land

10. Tag Edge

11. Pownce Finder

12. Any Wired

13. Mr. Gadget

14. Pro Blogger

**Related Articles**


19. Web 2.0 *Wikipedia*
“Twitter has been something of a revelation to me. It's great not having to worry about adding apps and having a fancy profile. Someone described it as a 24/7 networking event which I think is very fitting.”

- James

“A whole site dedicated to following what people are doing? Ridiculous, maybe. Genius, yes.”

- Jonathan Mead

“Twitter has replaced just about every traditional method of online communication I’ve ever used.”

- Cicily