

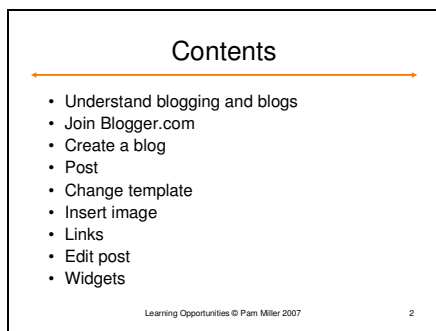
Slide 1



Blogging is fun and easy. This slide show will guide you through it. I suggest you watch the show and then consider creating your own blog.

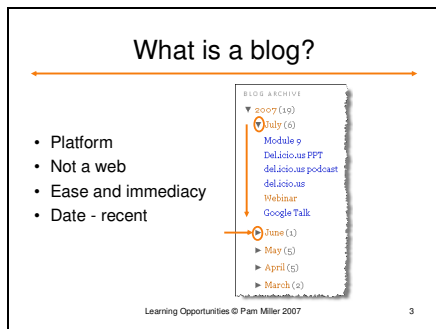
In another slide show I will look at things such as RSS feeds and other features which can be added. For the moment I first want to look at creating a blog.

Slide 2



During this slide show we will look at understanding blogging and blogs, joining Blogger.com, creating a blog, creating a post, changing a template, inserting an image, adding links, editing a post and adding widgets.

Slide 3




A blog is a platform onto which to add links, similar to a web. It is not a web which can be tricky to create. A blog is so easy to make. You can see your creation immediately. Your latest posting is always shown at the top of the screen. See the list of months goes from July down to previous months. To view previous months, click on the month's name and the postings for that month appear.

Slide 4

Why blog?

- Have presence
- Share information
- Develop community
- Publicise matters
- Say something
- Receive comments



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Why do people blog? They blog for many reasons such as having a presence online, sharing information, developing a community, publicising matters or just to say something.

I like the fact that one can make comments, you can actually write on the web! This makes a blog part of Web 2.0. In the past the web was 'read only', now it is moving to 'Read Write Web', Web 2.0. Comments are the feature which give a blog Web 2.0 format.

Slide 5

Costs

- Time – can be slow
- Money – \$0.00 and R0.00
- Where they make their money - ???


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Costs - From South Africa I have found blogger.com a bit slow but still worth it for what it can allow me. I tried having a class of 12 people create a blog at the same time – disaster – it was just too slow. Maybe other people in South Africa will find it quicker. The cost to make a blog is nothing. I am not sure where Blogger makes its money! Just in case you think there are advertisements on blogger, you are wrong. There are none unless you add them.

Slide 6

Join

- Use Blogger as it is part of the Google stable – can link to Reader, Gmail, etc.
- Name must be short, clear, one word, meaningful, no caps, memorable



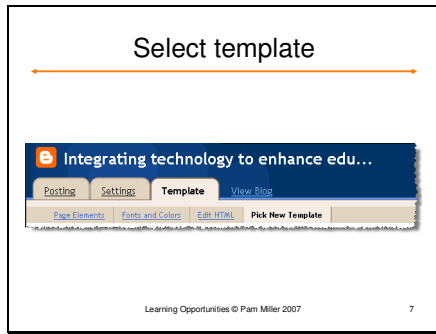
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Before you join Blogger you need a Gmail e-mail address. Blogger is part of the Google stable which includes Google Reader, Gmail, etc.

When you are ready to join Blogger go to www.blogger.com and sign up. You use your gmail address.

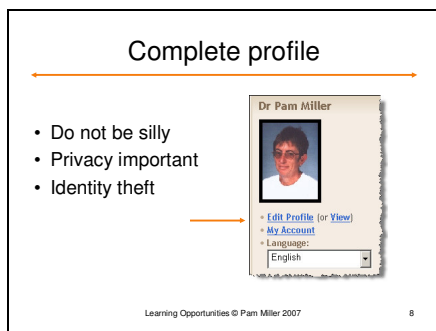
Follow the wizard in creating a blog. Be sure to select a simple name for the blog URL, something short, simple, clear, one word and make it memorable.

Slide 7



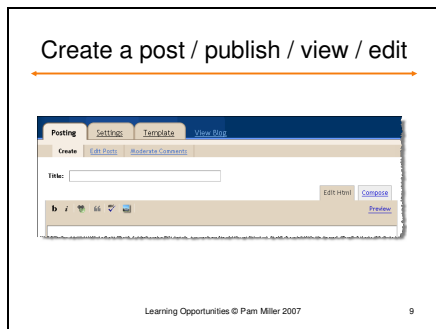
Select a pleasant template for the blog. It can be changed later if you do not like it.

Slide 8



When you complete your profile do not do anything silly. Do not give personal details and no land line telephone numbers. Be aware of identity theft. But do not leave it blank or people will really think you have nothing in your CV.

Slide 9



When you are ready to create your first posting go to Posting, Create. Add a meaningful title for the posting and in the body just begin writing! At the bottom of the box fill in a label. I have found it useful to type my posting in Word which does a good grammar and spelling check, and then copy it over to Blogger. When you are ready, publish your posting. To make changes click on Customise, Dashboard or Edit. (Blogger changes depending on web browser and version.)

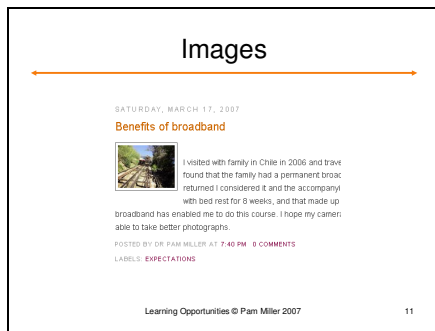
Once you have made your blog, you can view it by typing in the URL. Give the URL to all your friends. You do not need to login to view the blog.

Slide 10



You can make changes to the Fonts and Colours and Sizes of the template you selected.

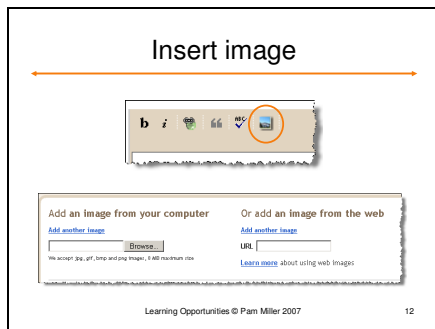
Slide 11



Images are important in our visual world. And so easy to insert in Blogger.

Imagine being on holiday, going to an Internet café and uploading your pictures there and then for all to see. So easy.

Slide 12



To insert a picture in a blog click on the image icon and then select from where you want to add the picture. You can then decide how you want to position the image however you do not have much control here..

Slide 13

Links

- Create posting and link to any web page
- Always have text description for image and video
 - Create posting and link to image in Flickr
 - Create posting and link to movie in YouTube

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It is easy to create links to other blogs or web pages from your blog. Consider adding links to pictures in Flickr and your own movies in YouTube

An idea – if you put images or videos on your blog, please add descriptive text so that those visually challenged can ‘read’ the pictures.

Slide 14

Do - Edit

- Edit titles
- Edit labels
- Edit text



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If you want to change anything, go to edit postings and Edit or Delete postings.

Slide 15

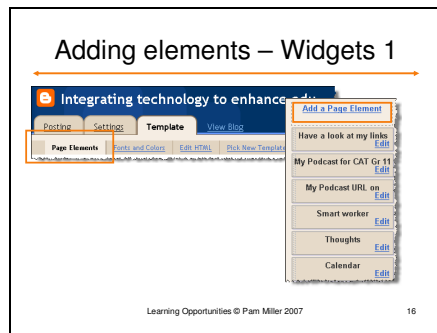
Widgets

- Get a calendar from www.free-blog-content.com/
- Get character from www.meez.com
- Create previews with www.snap.com
- Add a poll from www.pollidaddy.com
- Create previews with www.snap.com
- Create instant message tool with www.meebo.com

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When you have had a bit of experience with your blog, you may want to add a widget. Explore these – Calendars are most popular. They are features which are added to the side bar of the blog.

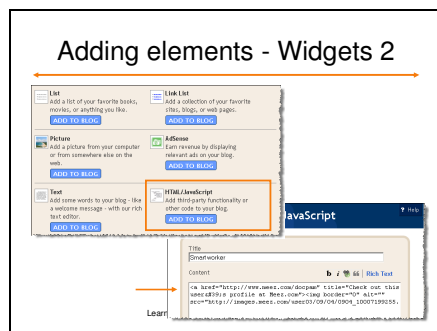
Slide 16



To add a widget make sure you have explored it first and copied the necessary code.

Then go to Template, Page Elements, Add a Page Element.

Slide 17



From Page Elements you probably need to select HTML/JavaScript. Paste the scripting, save/publish and view. Such fun.

I removed most of my widgets after a time as RSS feeds are more important in the side bar.

Remember that to view a blog type in the URL – ask friends to comment. Have fun with the blog!