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## The Web 2.0 Tools in Education

The Web 2.0 tools benefit educators in several ways because they:

- run on all operating systems, eliminating previously experienced conflicts
- replace the need for expensive proprietary software because the tools are free
- do not require hefty hardware prerequisites or large hard drives because these tools operate within a browser and the data is stored on the Internet
- are accessible with a diversity of browsers including, but not limited to, **Safari, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome** and **Firefox**
- allow for frequent updating of information with RSS
- eliminate the need for programs to be downloaded to the computer
- decentralise where and how learning takes place.

The diversity and the continuous innovation of new applications provide educators and students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tools. Because technology must be viewed as integral and not ancillary, educators must explore and create with the Web 2.0 tools, such as blogs, podcasts, social bookmarks and file-sharing applications, in a way that, by using the applications of the 21st century, will encourage learners to become self-motivated.

The challenge is to convince educational entities of the value of these tools so that ports are opened and filters unblock sites. Ideas and strategies for the use of these tools in the classroom and evidence of student success with products created with these Web 2.0 tools, should be explored. These electronic resources enable student and educator collaboration, creation of personal shared resources and exploration of a variety of other online tools.

## Requirements for Using Web 2.0 Tools

The requirements for using the Web 2.0 tools are minimal, thus making them ideal for education. Users need access to a current version of a browser such as Firefox, Safari, Google Chrome or Internet Explorer. Most Web 2.0 tools require a free login and a password, some require a free application download and some of the sites require a current version of **Flash** (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer>).

One of the major drawbacks of using the Web 2.0 tools in education is not being able to access the sites through the school filter. Network administrators must work with the educators to understand the educational implications so as to not prohibit the use of these tools.

## Creating a Wikispace at Wikispaces.com (<http://www.wikispaces.com>)

1. Go to **Wikispaces** (<http://www.wikispaces.com>).
2. Create a username and password. Log in with your username and password.
3. On the right side of the screen, next to the image of a small house, you will see **New Wiki**. Click on the link to make a new wiki.
4. Give your space a name (one word), which will be the URL to your newly created site.

**Make a New Wiki**

**Wiki Name**  
 .wikispaces.com  
 Choose a name between 3 and 32 characters long.

**Your Industry**

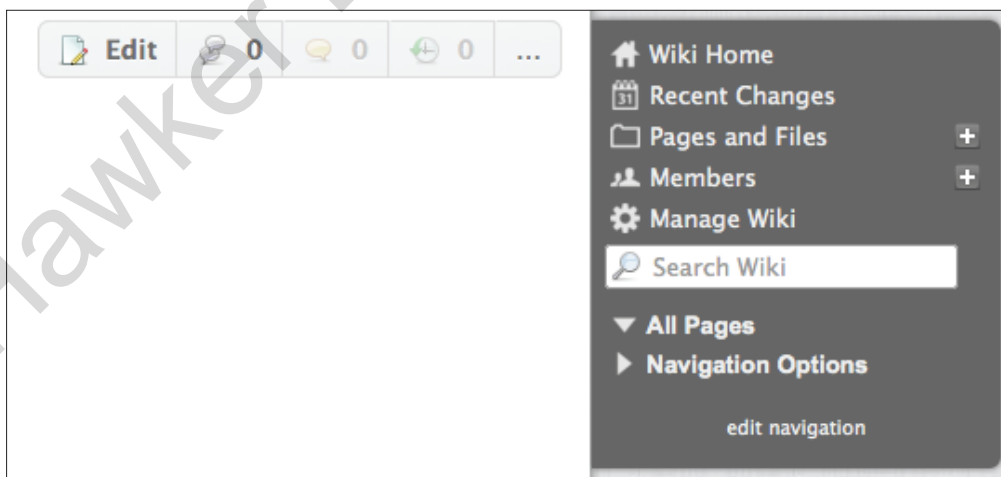
Optional: Help us understand how you use Wikispaces.

**Wiki Type**

**Basic wiki**  
 Classic wiki functionality

**Editable website**  
 Looks like a website, configured like a wiki.

5. Determine your **Industry** and **Wiki Type**.
6. Click **Create**. Your new space is created and ready for you to **Edit**.
7. To make changes, use the menu on the right-hand side of the page.



8. To invite participants to your page, click on **Manage Wiki** on the right-hand side of the page.
9. In the Manage Wiki settings, investigate all of the settings. Near the bottom of the page, you will see **Invite People**.

## Web Resources Related to Web 2.0 Categories

### Collaborative Education, Web 2.0 and Educational Implications

1. **21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacies**  
<http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/>
2. **Curriculum Collaboration Toolkit**  
<http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/consult/collab/>
3. **Digital Natives**  
<http://www.marcprensky.com>
4. **Ethical Researcher**  
<http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/ethical/>
5. **Getting Up to Speed**  
<http://tinyurl.com/2os3d6>
6. **Partnership for 21st Century Learning**  
<http://p21.org/>
7. **RSS**
  - a. **What is RSS?** – <http://www.whatisrss.com/>
  - b. **Create RSS Feeds** – <http://www.rapidfeeds.com/>
8. **Aggregators**
  - a. **NetNewsWire** – <http://www.netnewswireapp.com/>
  - b. **Article** – <http://ruk.ca/content/how-podcasting-works>
  - c. **Google Reader** – <http://www.reader.google.com>
  - d. **Technorati** – <http://www.technorati.com/>
  - e. **Bloglines** – <http://www.bloglines.com>
  - f. **iTunes** – <http://www.apple.com/itunes>
  - g. **Firefox** – <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>
  - h. **Syndic8** – <http://www.syndic8.com/>
  - i. **Feedster** – <http://www.feedster.com/>
  - j. **FeedBurner** – <http://www.feedburner.com/>