

Tech Day 2008

Web Applications

Forums Applications

- What is a forum?

An **Internet forum**, or **message board**, is an online discussion site.^[1] It is the modern equivalent of a traditional [bulletin board](#), and a technological evolution of the dialup [bulletin board system](#).^{[2][3]} From a technological standpoint, *forums*^[note 1] or *boards* are [web applications](#) managing [user-generated content](#).^{[4][5]}

People participating in an Internet forum can build bonds with each other and interest groups will easily form around a topic's discussion, subjects dealt within or around sections in the forum.

- Why use in higher education?

Article: [The Use of Discussion Boards in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education](#)

- **Yammer Overview**

- <http://yammer.com> – a forum or public & private discussion board
- **Yammer tour** - <https://www.yammer.com/company/tour>
- **How to Guide** - <https://www.yammer.com/guide/network>

Skype

- **Overview**

- Free pier-to-pier video conferencing
 - Talk to anyone who has a computer connected to the Internet
 - Mic & headphones ~ \$12.00
 - See any Skype member who has a Webcam
 - Good 1.3 Mp camera ~ \$30.00, don't get a 640X480
- Not just one-to-one, can be many-to-many
- Cheap phone calls from Skype to a phone (Voice-over-IP)

- **Better hardware & Software**

- We have professional Video Conferencing equipment for more serious use
- Need lead-time

- **How can we use this technology?**

- Student office hours
- Guest speakers
- Collaborations on projects

Sketchcast

- **AudioCasting** web site
 - <http://sketchcast.com>
 - Make your own audio cast while sketching illustrations
 - System stores your files on its server for your later playback
- **What's Sketchcasting?**
 - a new way to communicate something online by recording a sketch, optionally with your voice speaking.
 - any sketch can then be embedded on your blog/ homepage for people to play-back, and you can also point people to your sketchcast channel here (or let them subscribe to your sketchcast RSS feed).
 - Sketchcasting is new but it's based on an old principle:
 - the whiteboard (or the napkin in a bar) on which you sketch something to get a concept across... or to just have some fun.
 - Sketchcasting was invented by [Richard Ziade](#) on July 23rd, 2007, [Creative Commons licensed](#).
- **What can I use sketchcasting for?**
 - You can just let your ideas flow.
 - Here are some examples, but don't let them restrict your creativity!

- Create a tutorial explaining how boomerangs work (and why they don't always return)
- Draw a doodle of your ex
- Explain a math formula
- Create a cartoon (you can use the eraser tool to make place for several panels of the cartoon)
- Get a partner and explain a concept together... voice recording doesn't have to be used by only one person!
- Write a love letter with lots of sketching in-between
- Create an online Chinese course and explain Pinyin writing
- Create a masterpiece and show others how to draw
- Explain baseball to Europeans... or explain soccer to Americans!
- Create a riddle for kids: draw something and the kid has to guess while you're drawing
- Draw a manga action scene
- *and much more...*

What can we use it for?

- Teaching off-line
- Make the students the teachers & share their work

YouTube

- **What is YouTube?**
 - <http://youtube.com>
 - A repository of user generated video
 - Videos on just about everything
 - Music, news, political propaganda, network shows, old movies, ...
- What is available?
 - Search for yourself
- How can it be used in Higher Education?
 - Linked to in BlackBoard
 - I prefer to embed
 - Embedded in a webpage
 - Keeps viewer on site
- How do you link or embed?
 - Link – copy and paste the link into BlackBoard or a webpage
 - Embed – copy the embed code into the body of an HTML page.