

Building a Personal Learning Network

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This session will help break down the mysteries of establishing what's known as a "Personal Learning Network" (PLN). Thanks to the interactive nature of Web 2.0, teachers now have access to a virtual faculty lounge that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This session will demonstrate just how easy setting up a PLN can be as well as the advantages of taking part in one. The elements of this session will include:

- Examples will be provided of what is available in the blogosphere, with a wealth of "edublogs" available on any topic related to education. Many ideas, lesson plans and sample assessments are available for free for anyone from the "lurker" to the active participant.
- Steps will be demonstrated to set up a blog and become part of the blogosphere. Participants will walk away from the session having created their own blogs and having made at least one post.
- Examples of Nings will be shared, which are essentially social network platforms that can be used both with students and colleagues all over the world.
- Steps will be demonstrated to set up a Ning.
- Examples of Nings featuring different subject areas will be provided and participants will be able to explore relevant Nings, perhaps setting up profile pages within one or more Nings and taking part in some discussions.
- Uses of Twitter will be demonstrated and techniques of building a vast network of colleagues will be shared.
- Participants will set up their own Twitter accounts and begin to follow people in the Twitter-verse before the end of the session.