

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon

Moderator: Bee Dieu

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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

JoaoA joined the room.

BeeD: Oi Joao

JoaoA: Oi Bee :)

BeeD: we are introducing ourselves

BeeD: Marc teaches Algebra I in San Diego

MarcJC smiles

BjB : I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania

RitaZ: EFL teacher in Argentina, a proud Webhead for many years now..., an advocate and user of blogs

BeeD: I am an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher in Sao Paulo, Brazil

BeeD: and Joao?

MarcJC: I've been to Brazil sounds good

BeeD: Joao is in Portugal

BeeD: tell us what you do Joao

BeeD: Rita, tell us a little bit about your blogging experience

BjB : are you a teacher, Joao?

JoaoA: I teach two German classes at a high school in Portugal. One class of beginners and another one is level 3

RitaZ: well, I started blogging with my stds 4 years ago

BeeD: Joao has just started blogging...

RitaZ: I have a new group of stds every year

RitaZ: from March to Nov

RitaZ: so I can afford to try new things each year :-)

RitaZ: I used Blogger for 2 years running

RitaZ: then changed to Podomatic for other 2

RitaZ: love it!

JoaoA: where do you come from, Rita?

BeeD: right..you can add voice and text

RitaZ: as it is an audio blog as well

BeeD: with Podomatic

RitaZ: Im from Rosario, Argentina

BeeD: do you blog, Marc?

MarcJC: not sure what it is exactly

BeeD: really?

MarcJC: yes

MarcJC: is it just online chat?

BeeD: well..blogging is like publishing online

RitaZ: yes, Marc

MarcJC: oh

RitaZ: this environment I mean :-)

BeeD: your own content

BeeD: easily

JoaoA smiles

BeeD: you may use text, voice, video

BeeD: <http://beewebhead.net>

MarcJC: sounds interesting

MarcJC: that's a good site to blog on?

JoaoA: are you a teacher, Marc?

RitaZ: caeb2007.podomatic.com

MarcJC: yes

BeeD: this is my own blog

BeeD: personal blog

MarcJC: I've heard of blogging....

MarcJC: never did much with it though

BeeD: how long have you been teaching?

JoaoA: Where are you from? I am sorry for asking but I missed the part about the introductions

MarcJC: a facebook or myspace page is a blog page then?

MarcJC: San Diego

BeeD: it's a social networking site

MarcJC: 2 years.... this is my first contracted semester though

RitaZ: (beautiful, city ;-))

JoaoA: facebook and myspace are social networking sites

BeeD: which allows you to blog as well...but well...it's not exactly the same thing

MarcJC: got ya

BeeD: a blog allows you to establish your presence online

JoaoA: right, a blog is a very easy way to publish your own content online without

knowing a single line of HTML

BeeD: <http://beewebhead.net>

BeeD: it's called Wide Open Spaces

BeeD: Joao, how is your blogging with the stds going?

MarcJC: you use Second Life?

BeeD: I do

BeeD: but not with the stds

MarcJC: for what?

RitaZ: do you, Bee, with your stds??

RitaZ: ah

RitaZ: sorry

BeeD: because there are firewalls and proxies at school

BeeD: I use it for social networking and presentations

MarcJC: what do you use second life for?

MarcJC: oh

JoaoA: Differently in both classes. The students (mainly one) in the 12th grade (the last one) created a kind of resistance to it.

BeeD: why is that, Joao?

JoaoA: Maybe it's my fault, too

JoaoA: But the students in the 10th grade seem to like it.

BeeD: Why your fault? What happened?

RitaZ: it's generally the passion we put into "selling" a blog to our stds

MarcJC: stds?

MarcJC: standards?

RitaZ: students

MarcJC: ah

BeeD: mine have been blogging for quite some time

RitaZ: and enjoy it, Bee?

JoaoA: I don't know exactly, Bee... I haven't understood the reasons yet. Maybe they didn't like bloxio, it still has a few bugs and they can't use different themes.... I don't know

BeeD: yes...they have become much more proficient in using the tools and the language

BeeD: and autonomous

RitaZ: maybe you should change and try another blog host, Joao?

JoaoA: maybe I wasn't able to explain it well

BeeD: wordpress is nice

JoaoA: maybe I was too enthusiastic about it... I don't know

BeeD: it takes time

JoaoA: It's a wordpress MU blog

BeeD: for you and for them to get used

JoaoA: I like it... it has a lot of potential

JoaoA: this is the class blog <http://klassenblog.bloio.us>

RitaZ: can you put up sound in Wordpress, Bee? I sometimes use it, but not too often, not explored its potential in detail

JoaoA: from there you can link to all the students blogs.

JoaoA: In Bloxio, you can

BeeD: yes...you can upload files

JoaoA: you can podcast there

MarcJC: is there blogging on second life?

RitaZ: Joao, there must be an error in your url

BeeD: there is, Marc

JoaoA: I asked my students in the beginning to post a sound file, a podcast, but it was too demanding for them...

MarcJC: its like hanging a poster on the wall?

BeeD: My students have produced some multimedia

JoaoA: <http://klassenblog.bloxio.us>

RitaZ: hmmm, yeah, maybe going too fast daunts them :-(

JoaoA: it was wrong

BeeD: <http://hannah90.wordpress.com/2007/10/05/a-multimedia-production/>

RitaZ: ok now, thank you; Joao

BeeD: What is like a poster on the wall, Marc?

JoaoA: Bee, I sent you an email a few days ago telling you about this classblog. Did you see it?

JoaoA: You're welcome Rita

BeeD: no..I must have missed it

MarcJC: in second life, since its a 3-d world, posting a blog is like hanging a poster with a blog on it on the wall, and you can walk up to it and read it

BeeD: I was terribly busy last week at school

BeeD: lol Marc

JoaoA: It's ok... I told you there that I had set up only one blog for all the classes.

JoaoA: I know, Bee

JoaoA: You were

JoaoA: you still are, right?

JoaoA: and you had some kind of a lecture to hold somewhere, right? I think I read about it somewhere.

BeeD: I like it Joao

JoaoA: I am posting a lot of stuff to explain the students how to use bloxio

JoaoA: I think I better stick to PC :)

BeeD: It is a beautiful machine Joao

BeeD: but you will have to reformat your brain if you buy it

JoaoA: Yes, they are really beautiful. In fact, I feel attracted to macs

BeeD: now, after a year, I am sort of finding my things on it

JoaoA smiles

BeeD: but think I must do a course on how to use it well

JoaoA: really? is it so complicated?

JoaoA: They seem to be more reliable then PCs

RitaZ: Sorry Bee and all, my brother has turned up unexpectedly, needs sth, so I must leave :-(

BeeD: it is totally different

BeeD: OK..thanks for coming

BjB hugs Rita bye

BeeD: Rita

BeeD hugs Rita

JoaoA: doesn't seem to be so much different at first sight

RitaZ hugs everybody bye, apologizing

RitaZ left the room (signed off).

BeeD: the navigation inside

JoaoA: Bye bye Rita

BeeD: and also the way it stores your information

BeeD: Marc..are you going to start blogging?

JoaoA: Oh... had no idea that the storage of information was different

MarcJC: there was a website provided at a school i used to work at..... blackboard setup

BeeD: aaaargh...blackboard...the dark forces...lol

JoaoA smiles

MarcJC: it worked great to post different things

BeeD: very self-contained

MarcJC: is that the corporate superpower blogging site?

BeeD: it's not a blogging site..that's the problem

MarcJC: oh

BeeD -)

JoaoA: Blackboard is a LMS

MarcJC: why is what you do on it not considered blogging?

BeeD: it's a Learning Management System

MarcJC O

BeeD: which resembles a classroom online

MarcJC: cant you post any kind of data on there you want? audio, video, text?

JoaoA: Right. It's mainly used for e-learning

JoaoA: Yes, you can.

MarcJC: maybe i have to actually blog to understand the difference

BeeD: for subversive information check <http://dekita.org/articles>

BeeD: lol

BeeD: it's a matter of perspective and focus

BeeD: while Blackboard is all about teacher control and institutional content (top down)

JoaoA: Bee, what's your view about LMS versus Blogs?

BeeD: blogging is learner control...bottom up

BeeD: I think LMS have their function

JoaoA: Ok, yes, you are right...

MarcJC: bottom up that makes sense

BeeD: which is doing all that an institution requires from you...homework, marks, checking attendance

BeeD: blogging is freedom to follow your passion

MarcJC: I could make a blog about my experience learning how top blog... this chat can be page one

JoaoA: I used Moodle last year but I decided to blog this year because I felt it could be more useful for the students what the use of language is concerned

BeeD: why not? Many teachers use blogs to reflect on their teaching

BeeD: and their learning

MarcJC: follow your passion of just blog about it?

BeeD: blogging takes you out from the institution to the web

MarcJC: or

JoaoA: Yes, right, Bee

BeeD: the web and not the platform is the learning environment

MarcJC: what is your passion and how does blogging help you follow it?

BeeD: aha...my passion is connecting to people and learning...I document this on my blog

JoaoA: sometimes teachers like myself tend to control the students blogs too much... you must find a balance....

BeeD: used to document it more frequently

BeeD: yes..the trouble in the classroom is the control

BeeD: and the fact that we want them all to advance at the same time

JoaoA: yes... I am learning it

BeeD: same rhythm

BeeD: they have different interests

BeeD: so blogging for my stds is more about their expressing their ideas

BeeD: now..for me this is easier than with Algebra

JoaoA: Yes, right... I'm getting aware of it... but I have the feeling that we shouldn't forget about the blogs completely.... otherwise students forget their blogs, too.

BeeD: but maybe yours could come with good ideas on how to use their algebra on something else

BeeD: this was for Marc

MarcJC: finding meaning for algebra is important

MarcJC: creating a blog about it would mix technical education with it

BeeD: exactly...they could give examples of this in their blogs

BeeD: or produce some multimedia

MarcJC: where can I go to start blogging?

BeeD: <http://wordpress.com>

BeeD: for free

BeeD: let me give you a page with tutorials as well...and a film if you need help

JoaoA: or <http://www.blogger.com>

BeeD: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWYi4_COZMU

JoaoA: Like Bee, I prefer Wordpress. I find it more flexible. The use of static pages is good thing

BeeD: <http://www.teachinghacks.com/wiki/images/8/86/Wordpress.pdf>

BeeD: Wordpress is more of a content management system than Blogger

MarcJC: CMS?

BeeD: yes

BeeD: let me show you my class blog

BeeD: <http://lycee.wordpress.com>

BeeD: it allows you to make pages and posts

JoaoA: <http://bloxio.us> or <http://bloxio.jp> is very powerful Wordpress MU blogging software

BeeD: the posts belong to the blog and are updated constantly

BeeD: while the pages (static) are the tabs at the top

BeeD: where you can place information that does not change that much

JoaoA: Yes, and what is also very useful are the smart pages

BeeD: smart pages?

BeeD: now you got me

MarcJC: interesting video clip

JoaoA: Yes, Bee

JoaoA: Don't you have them in Wordpress?

BeeD: do not think so

JoaoA: normal Wordpress?

BeeD: what do they do?

BeeD: or offer?

JoaoA: Oh... have a look at my classblog and click the tab Anleitungen. There you have an example of smart pages

JoaoA: I can explain

JoaoA: a moment, please

JoaoA: A smart page is like a filter page that aggregates all the kind of posts you wish that were posted on the blog

JoaoA: For example, if you post 50 posts in the blog about Art, then you can create a smart page to aggregate only those posts

JoaoA: And call that page Art

JoaoA: that's just an example

BeeD: oh..this sounds cool

JoaoA: a student of mine has started using it for vocabulary work

BeeD: hmmm..interesting

BeeD: this is what the category page does, no?

MarcJC: where does the word BLOG come from?

BeeD: log book

MarcJC: ahh

JoaoA: she writes the new vocabulary in the blog. Now she created a smart page called Wortschatz. In every post about vocabulary she also gives the tag Wortschatz. With this tag she puts every post on that smart page

BeeD: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog>

MarcJC: 2 pm.... gotta run.... thank you all!

BeeD: My pleasure

BeeD: I hope to see you soon

JoaoA: yes, but on a smart page you get just a bit of the information and if you wish to read it all you click on the link. The other advantage is that you can create a page only for

that subject.

BeeD: right

JoaoA: bye bye Marc

MarcJC left the room (signed off).

BeeD: I think I will be wrapping it up as well

BjB : thanks, Bee

BeeD: Thanks for coming Joao

JoaoA: Ok

JoaoA: My pleasure, Bee

BjB : See you in January perhaps.

BeeD: and will investigate the smart pages

JoaoA: In January?

BeeD: I hope you do the Evo course with us or with Carla

BeeD: Carla will be offering the Blogging for Beginners

BeeD: I will be doing Social Media

JoaoA: What Evo course? I don't know anything about it

BeeD: NO?

JoaoA: No

BeeD: Electronic Village Online

JoaoA: Where is it?

JoaoA: when?

BeeD: it's a 6-week course online (FREE)

JoaoA: Oh... where?

BeeD: which runs from 14 January to 24th February

BeeD: the announcement will come out mid December

BeeD: on the lists, don't worry

JoaoA: I see...

BeeD: we are preparing it now

JoaoA: Oh, I see...

JoaoA: it's not public yet

BeeD: but be alert - enrollment starts January 1st, I think

BeeD: they will give the link

JoaoA: where is it running?

BeeD: each course is on a different url and platform

JoaoA: I will be alert...

JoaoA: I hope I won't miss it

BeeD: let me give you last year's menu so you can have an idea

JoaoA: Ok, thank you

BeeD: Here it is <http://evo07sessions.pbwiki.com/>

JoaoA: Thank you very much, Bee

JoaoA: I hope I won't miss it

BeeD: Haven't you done the Be coming a Webhead session?

JoaoA: No, I am very new to Webheads, Bee

BeeD: oh..then it is a MUST!

JoaoA: maybe 6 months

BeeD: Teresa (from Portugal) and Daf (from Venezuela) run it

BeeD: and they've been doing it for 4 years now

JoaoA: Oh, I didn't know about it

BeeD: they are the webhead pillars

JoaoA: I have been following the webheads closely since I am a member

JoaoA: I mean, I read all the posts in the yahoo group

BeeD: there hasn't been much happening on the list lately

JoaoA: and I have learned a lot since then...

BeeD: more action on the learning with computers list

BeeD: which is a branch out of the webheads

BeeD: but every year there are the EVO 6-week workshops

JoaoA: I am a member there, too. But I am not getting much posts in my mail box from there either. Are you?

BeeD: so spread word

BeeD: no..not many lately

JoaoA: ok.

BeeD: I think people are busy preparing the EVO

JoaoA: ah.. and with school...

BeeD: yes

BeeD: many things

JoaoA: I have been very busy lately too..

BeeD: being online takes a lot of our time

JoaoA: The computer takes me some time... I need to control this better, but it's difficult

JoaoA: yes, that's it, Bee

JoaoA: everyday I think I won't waste much time but i never make it.

JoaoA: I start reading mails, then links here, links there... and half of the day is already gone...

JoaoA: it's terrible...

JoaoA: I still need to prepare lessons for tomorrow.

BeeD: ok...let's go

BeeD: see you around

BeeD waves to BJ and Joao and flies out of the window

BjB waves bye

BjB . o O (safe landing!)

JoaoA: Ok, bye bye, Bee

JoaoA: Thank you very much