



Technology Review Report

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Web 2.0 tools are Internet based applications. The users can share, modify, update, integrate and manage the web contents. There are many types of Web 2.0 tools such as media sharing, social networking, information sharing, web logs etc.

Web 2.0 technology is very useful in education, especially in e-learning. For this report I am going to analyze the following five Web 2.0 applications.

1. YouTube www.youtube.com
2. Skype www.skype.com
3. Wikispaces www.wikispaces.com
4. Canvas www.instructure.com
5. Facebook www.facebook.com
6. Twitter www.twitter.com

For the comparison purpose, I have compared two applications at a time.

	 www.youtube.com	 www.skype.com
Company	Google Inc.	Skype Limited
Description	<p>YouTube is video hosting service was found in February 2005 by three friends. The videos can be shared in 34 languages and the service is provided worldwide. User registration is available but not required. A user account is necessary to view flagged videos and upload videos.</p>	<p>Skype is a software application to make PC to PC or PC to phone audio/video phone calls. It was found in 2003. Skype offers both the free and the paid subscriptions, and has a choice of monthly and pay as you go subscriptions.</p>
Applications in e-learning	<p>Youtube is extensively used for showing media. It is a good way to show educational videos. Instructors can record and upload specific videos or search and tag existing videos and attach notes related to it and/ or make comments. Students can comment on videos and exchange ideas or start a</p>	<p>Skype is used to make one-to-one PC/ phone calls. In e-learning, Skype helps achieve synchronous communication between the peers or between the students and the instructors. Skype also offers live chats and file sharing, which is convenient in an online class.</p>

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	discussion.	
Specifications	YouTube can be accessed through a PC, Mac, Apple TV and many smart phones.	Skype works on Windows, Mac, Linux, Android, Apple, Samsung tablets.
Price	Free for subscribers as well as for non- subscribers.	Skype is free with limited call options. The paid account includes additional features like PC-phone calls conference calls etc. Pay per minute and pre-paid rates varies by countries. Premium monthly rates can be as low as \$4.49/ month.
Maintenance and Upgrade	No maintenance is required. Registered users can subscribe to different channels, which are mostly free.	No maintenance is required. Free membership can be upgraded to pre-paid service, pay as you use, and monthly premium plans.
Technology Experience	Watching a video on YouTube is very easy. A person with basic computer skills can easily search and navigate through the site. Uploading a video requires some advance technical skills	Users are required to download the Skype software to their devices. Basic accessories like headphones, microphones may be a requirement for some devices.

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	for converting, synthesizing a video.	
Reviews and Ratings	Common sense Media (www.commonsemesdia.com) rates YouTube 4/5	According to whichvoip (www.whichvoip.com), Skype is rated as 3.5/ 5
Additional Information	YouTube is a great site for sharing videos. Some content may not be appropriate for all the users. YouTube videos may not be available after a period of time. Users can now subscribe to different channels on YouTube. Some sport matches like IPL cricket match was available to watch live on YouTube.	Customers can make calls from Skype to a non-member for a very little cost. Installing the software and troubleshooting may be tricky for some.

	 <p>www.wikispaces.com</p>	 <p>www.instructure.com</p>
Company	Tangient LLC	Instructure
Description	Wikispaces is a web application where users can post, publish and share text, images and files.	Canvas is a Learning Management System(LMS). The platform provides various synchronous and asynchronous tools for e-learning.
Applications in e-learning	Wiki is a server software where users can create, edit and share text, images and files. Educators use wikis in e-learning as asynchronous mode of learning. Instructors encourage students to use wikis to share ideas and promote critical thinking and online community building.	Canvas provides solid tools for the learners and the instructors. Institutions buy Canvas platforms and populate the courses. Students and instructors get a user id and password. Instructors update the Canvas site with the course material, media, assignments, discussions etc. Students respond asynchronously. Synchronous mode is possible through live audio and video chats. Tinychat application can be installed on



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		iPhones/ iPads as well.
Specifications	Wikispaces is an online application and does not require any software downloads.	Institutions are required to buy Canvas platform. The web site can be accessed from anywhere with a valid username and password.
Price	Wikispaces offers free basic membership. The premium membership for the individuals and the groups can be as low as \$ 5/ month and for the organizations, it is \$ 1000/ year for 100 users. For Higher Education purposes, Wikispaces offers a private account for free.	Not available.
Maintenance and upgrade	Wikispaces does not require any maintenance . The entries made by the users are saved in their accounts. Upgrades are available for a price and includes more storage, private wikis, custom themes, domain name etc.	No maintenance is required . Updates are not available.

Technology experience	Basic computer knowledge is required to use Wikispaces. Basic of a text editing skills are highly recommended.	Users are required to have basic knowledge of computer, Internet, audio/ video chat, audi/ video recordings, File uploads and downloads
Reviews and Ratings	Wikispaces is compatible with other Wiki sites such as pbwiki, wetpaint etc.	Canvas is getting popular amongst educators. It is easy to use and integrates with the popular web 2.0 technologies for cloud computing.
Additional Information	Private account of Wikispaces is free for Higher education. Wikispaces now integrates with Glogster EDU, which embeds Glogs in Wikispaces.	Canvas is first open source LMS. Innovative features, comparable tools are competitive to existing LMS like Blackboard, Moodle etc. Canvas is based on the latest platform, Ruby, which is a powerful, flexible and user friendly. Canvas integrates with some of the popular web 2.0 technologies like Facebook, Twitter, LinkdIn, Scribd, GoogleDocs, Kartura online videos.

	 www.facebook.com	 www.twitter.com
Company	Facebook, Inc	Twitter, Inc.
Description	<p>Facebook is a social networking site. Users create their account and create a profile. Facebook allows media sharing, status updates, live audio/ video/ text chats, and groups formation . Individuals or organizations can also create pages to promote and advertise. Users can connect with other facebook users and share information and media.</p>	<p>Twitter is a social-networking and microblogging site. Users can send and receive text posts upto 140 characters. Users can group post on a certain topic and can follow the author for a particular subject.</p>
Applications in e-learning	<p>Instructors use Facebook in teaching and learning. Students form groups and discuss topics under that group. Instructors can also conduct live chat (audi/ video or text) and engage the</p>	<p>Twitter can be a great tool in e-learning. Distance learners often lack the social presence. Students can connect with peers and the instructors via social-networking sites such as</p>

	students in synchronous learning.	Twitter. Instructors and learners can share quick information through microblogging. Group blogging is a great way for quick discussion and following a particular author or a subject can enhance users' knowledge.
Specifications	Facebook does not need any software installation.	Twitter does not need any software installation.
Price	Membership to Facebook account is free.	Membership to Twitter is free.
Maintenance and upgrade	No maintenance is required. Updates are not available.	No maintenance is required. Updates are not available.
Technology experience	Basic computers skills are required. Advanced skills like media uploading, tagging, website sharing can be very helpful.	Basic computer skills are required. Text editing skills are recommended.
Reviews and Ratings	According to Common sense media (www.common sense media.com) Facebook gets 4/5 stars. Language is not filtered, may not be	According to Common sense media (www.common sense media.com) Twitter gets 4/5 stars. The language may not be suitable for

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	suitable for all the users. Facebook users should edit privacy settings according to their preferences.	all the users and some users may face a privacy issue.
Additional Information	Facebook has more than 800 million active users all over the world. Facebook supports 70 languages. Facebook is a great social networking site but at the same time, it can be very distracting for the learners. Privacy may be compromised if the account is not controlled properly	At present, twitter has about 200 million users worldwide. All the contents on this website may not be suitable for everyone and can cause harm if not monitored properly.

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