

"Getting to know you,"

"Getting to know all about you."

"Getting to like you and hoping that you like me..... "

(Pity Elvis didn't sing it, then it could be the King & I singing).

Ok you social butterflies it's time for you to spread your wings and get them firmly stuck in the web. This week we're socialising and what better way to catch up with people you haven't seen in ages or to get to know someone from another country then to socialise online.

Week 4: Social Networking

According to pcmag.com's online encyclopaedia, a social networking site is a website that provides a virtual community for people interested in a particular subject or just to 'hang out' together. Members create their own online profile with biographical data, photos, likes, dislikes and any other information they choose to post. They can communicate with each other by voice, chat, instant message, videoconference and blogs, and the service typically provides a way for members to contact friends of other members. Online social networking services have been around since 2002 with Friendster being the first, followed by others such as MySpace, Bebo, Tagworld and Facebook.

Facebook



Facebook, one of the most popular social networking sites today was founded in 2004, initially targeting Harvard students but by 2006 it opened up and allowed everybody to join in the fun. Soon after it introduced an application platform to would-be software developers, which meant you could generate content that was fun, interesting or relevant. There is virtually an application for everything ranging from games to alerts, quizzes to slide shows which can be added to your own profile to create some fun and add personality.

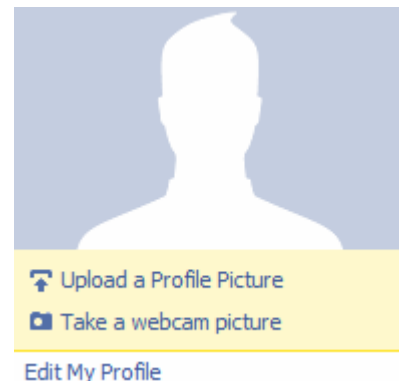
Step 1: Go to [Facebook \(www.facebook.com\)](http://www.facebook.com) and sign up.

Step 2: Click on 'Edit My Profile' and fill in the basic information about yourself and any added information you care to include (personal, contact and education and work).

Step 3: Search for a friend or work colleague and add them as a friend.

Step 4: Add to your blog post your thoughts about Facebook and any advantages/disadvantages you can see.

Step 5 (optional): Upload a photo or graphic to your profile.



GoogleTalk



You can get talking to your friends and family with Google's free service feature in instant communication - Google Talk. You can chat to them by instant messaging (real time typed text communication), or grab a microphone and talk with them PC to PC (VOIP – voice over internet protocol). If they aren't online you can leave a voicemail message, and you can even send photos and other files to them without size restrictions. Google recently launched the Gmail voice and video chat feature which allows you to use your Gmail account to see and hear friends and family through your PC. All you need is a webcam and a free plugin that is simple to download and install. Some other well known instant communication services which you may have heard of include Skype, Windows Live Messenger, Jabber and Yahoo Messenger.

Step 1: Learn more about Google talk at 'Using the Google Talk Client'

<http://www.google.com/support/talk/bin/topic.py?topic=12176>

Step 2: Learn more about the Gmail voice and video chat by watching this YouTube clip

<http://www.google.com/mail/help/videochat/learnmore.html>

Step 3: Add to your blog post your thoughts about Google Talk and Gmail voice and video chat. If you have friends and family overseas would you use these features?

Step 4 (optional): Download Google talk and Google voice and talk with friends and family (<http://www.google.com/talk/index.html>)