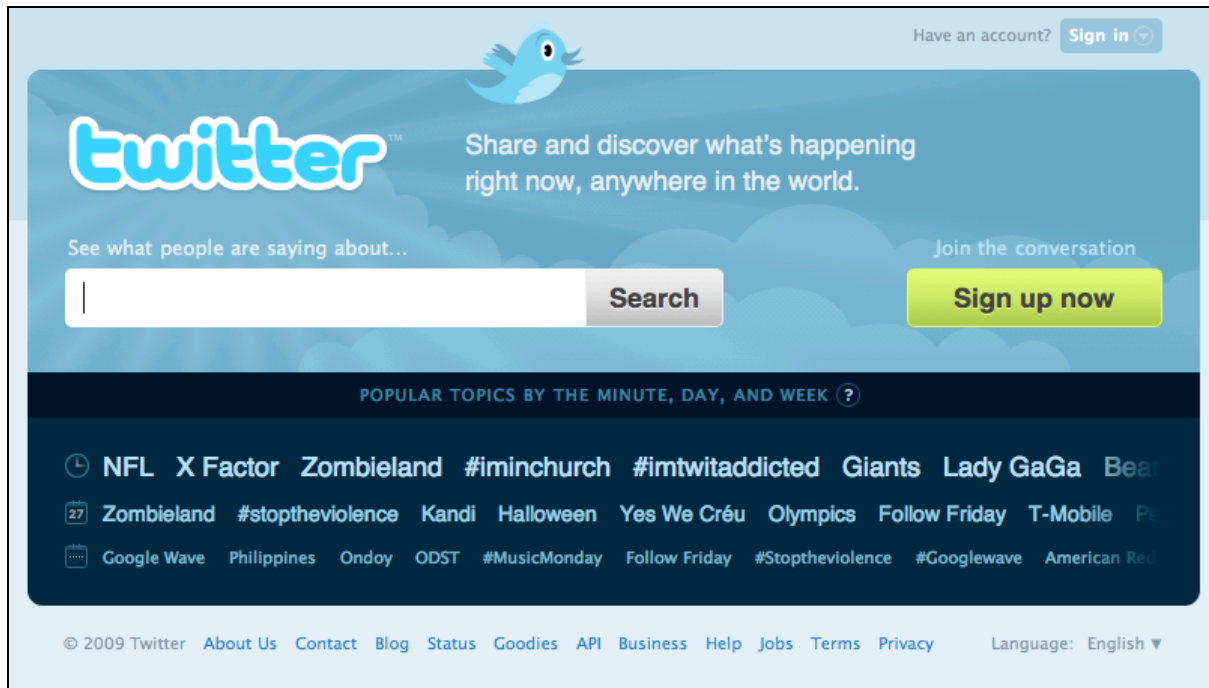


Setting up a Twitter and adding a Twitter feed to your blog

A key component of establishing social and learning networks is to allow your contacts to be aware of your work and research based activities. Your contacts can be alerted to your activities and you can also immediately post news and action items to the web. One method of achieving this is via Twitter. It is quite easy to set up a Twitter account and to place a Twitter badge on your blog or web page. You can use your Twitter account to keep track of your contacts as well.

Launch a web browser application such as Internet Explorer, Firefox or Safari. Type the following address in the web address field.

<http://www.twitter.com/>



Click on the **Get Started - Join** link located on the Twitter window. The following window will appear.

Join the Conversation Already on Twitter? [Sign in.](#)

Already use Twitter on your phone? [Finish signup now.](#)

Full name ⇒ enter your first and last name

Username
Your URL: <http://twitter.com/USERNAME>

Password

Email

I want the inside scoop—please send me email updates!

Type the words above Can't read this?
[Get two new words](#)
[Hear a set of words](#)
Powered by reCAPTCHA.
[Help](#)

Follow the instructions and create an account. When you are finished click on the **Twitter** name or **Home** link.

Twitter main page

As you can see in the example below I can directly enter news items or Twitter posts in the field at the top of the screen.

Beneath that my own Twitter posts and those of other contacts will be visible.

The screenshot shows the Twitter interface for user john_larkin. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Profile, Find People, Settings, Help, and Sign out. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a text input field for posting a tweet, with a character count of 140. Below the input field, there is a 'Latest' section showing a tweet from 'Down in the urban jungle' with a link and a timestamp of 'about 12 hours ago'. The 'Home' section displays a list of tweets from other users, including 'jeanlucr', 'Lilylauren', 'teacherman79', and 'michelledodd'. The right column shows the user's profile information, including their name 'john_larkin', a profile picture, and statistics for following (621), followers (636), and updates (2,655). There is also a 'Twit-pic' section and a search bar.

Settings in Twitter

Click on the **Settings** link at the top right of the Twitter window. The window below will appear.

john_larkin's settings

Account
Password
Mobile
Notices
Picture
Design

Name
Enter your real name, so people you know can recognize you.

Username Your URL:
http://twitter.com/john_larkin
No spaces, please.

Email Change

Time Zone (GMT+10:00) Sydney

More Info URL
Have a homepage or a blog? Put the address here.
[\(You can also add Twitter to your site here\)](#)

One Line Bio
About yourself in fewer than 160 chars.

Location
Where in the world are you?

Enable geotagging [What is Geotagging?](#)
Allow third party applications to annotate your tweets with location information.

Delete all location data

Delete all historical location data from your tweets. The process can take up to 30 minutes.

Language English
What language would you like to Twitter in?

Protect my tweets
Only let people whom I approve follow my tweets. If this is checked, you WILL NOT be on the [public timeline](#). Tweets posted previously may still be publicly visible in some places.

Save

[Delete my account.](#)

Account
From here you can change your basic account info, fill in your profile data, and set whether you want to be private or public.

Tips
Filling in your profile information will help people find you on Twitter. For example, you'll be more likely to turn up in a Twitter search if you've added your location or your real name.

Change your Twitter user name anytime without affecting your existing tweets, @replies, direct messages, or other data. After changing it, make sure to let your followers know so you'll continue receiving all of your messages with your new user name.

Protect your account to keep your tweets private. Approve who can follow you and keep your tweets out of search results.

Take the time to explore all of the settings. They are self-explanatory. One of the more significant settings is to decide whether or not to protect your updates. By setting your updates to private you are only allowing people that you approve to follow your updates. If this is checked, you will not be on the public timeline. Updates posted previously may still be publicly visible in some places.

Badges

Let's set up a **Twitter badge** on your blog. Type in the following url on your browser after you have logged into Twitter.


http://twitter.com/badges


The following page will appear. Choose the option that best suits your need. I shall select other for my Wordpress blog. If you are working with Blogger you will select **Blogger** of course.


Display updates on your web page


Here's a neat way to let visitors to your blog or profile page on the web know what you're up to at the moment: Display your latest updates there with a customized widget (aka, "badge").

Where do you want to put it?

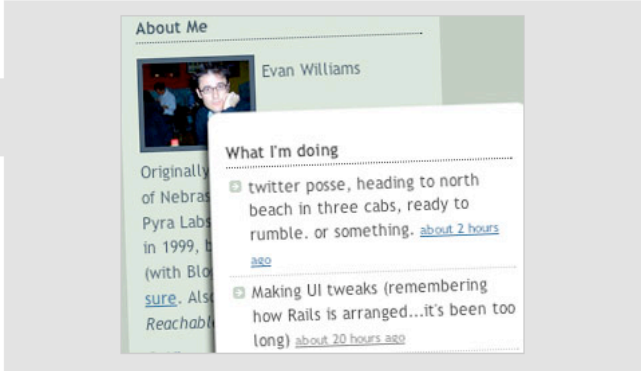
 myspace.com
a place for friends

 Blogger

 facebook

 TypePad

Other



Add Twitter to your Blog!

[Continue »](#)

If it is a Blogger blog the following page will appear.

Add Twitter to your Blogger blog

1) Customize

Number of updates:

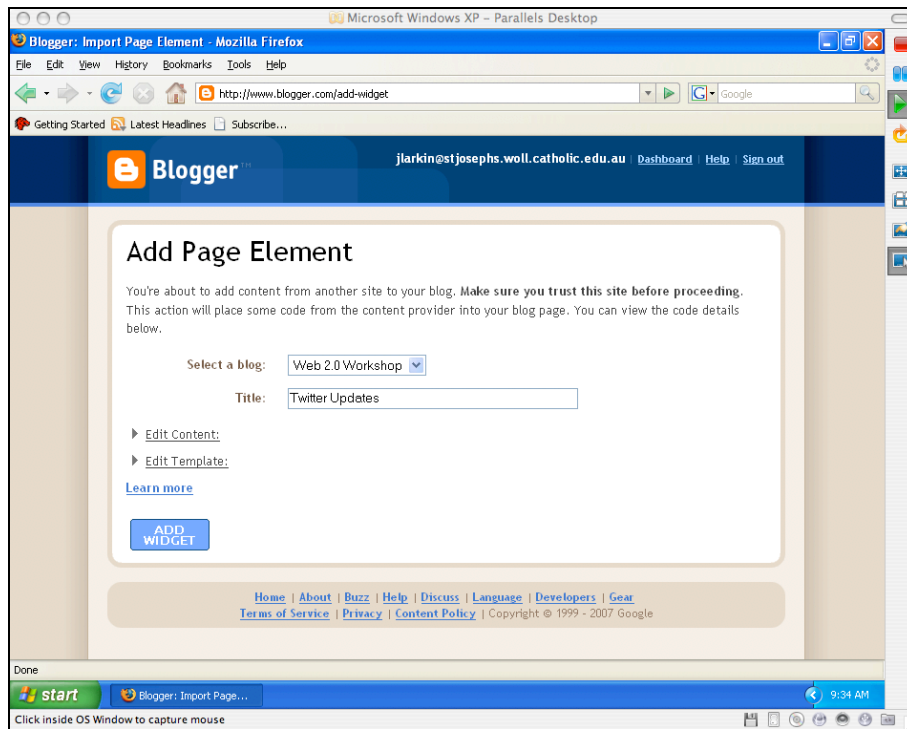
Title: No Title

2) Insert into your Blog

 If you're using new Blogger Layouts (or are not sure), just click the button on the left.

If you're not using new Blogger layouts, just **grab the code** and insert it into the sidebar of your blog template.

Set the number of **updates** for your Twitter badge. I have set mine to **1 update**. Click on the **Insert into your Blog** button located on the left. The following window will appear if you are currently signed into your Google account. Otherwise you will simply need to sign in.



Select a **Blog** from the drop down menu and give it a **Title**, as above. Click on the **Add Widget** button. The following gadget will appear on your blog's page elements page.



The **Twitter badge** or widget has automatically been added. You can drag it to a new position among the page elements if you wish. Click on the **View Blog** link at the top of the window. The following window will appear.

As you can see the **Twitter badge** is visible in the margin on the right.



You should let your contacts know of your **Twitter** home page address so that they can keep in touch with your news and activities. They can subscribe to your feed and you can subscribe to them in turn.

Blocking followers

You can remove a follower from your page (and yourself from theirs) without protecting your updates and approving each and every friend request.

When you click on the Followers link on the right hand side of the screen you will see a list of those persons that are following you. Unfortunately spammers, marketers and other unsavoury characters may follow you from time to time.

The screenshot shows a Twitter profile page for John Larkin. The main content area is titled "Your 858 followers" and lists four users:

- gcooney**: Gavin Cooney | Drogheda, Ireland. New South Wales Higher School Certificate Examinations on laptops <http://bit.ly/ykS6g> about 4 hours ago.
- charbrown**: charles brown | Fort Worth, Texas USA. RT @christinrose: now blogging: : Indie Publisher Pros & Cons <http://bit.ly/ncHXR> about 4 hours ago.
- therisingsea**: The Rising Sea | Sydney! Writing song and planning recording. about 17 hours ago.
- scttw**: Rowen Atkinson | Wollongong, Australia. keeping a netbook clean and fast is an uphill battle, especially with adobe/apple involved about 7 hours ago. Status: **Following**.

The sidebar on the right contains the following information:

- Name: John Larkin
- Location: New South Wales
- Web: <http://blog.larki...>
- Bio: Teacher of humanities with an information technology background. Based in NSW, Australia with overseas experience in secondary, higher and corporate education.
- 863 following, 857 followers
- 3,628 Tweets
- Following section with a grid of user avatars and a "View All..." link.

You can block the persons that you do not wish to follow by clicking on the button at the right of the person's details and select Block.

This close-up shows the "Actions" menu for the user "gcooney". The menu options are:

- @ Mention gcooney
- Direct message gcooney
- + Follow gcooney
- Block gcooney

You can also block an unwanted follower this way.

1. Log in to Twitter.
2. Go to the profile page of the person you wish to block.
3. Click Block (at bottom right, in the sidebar.)
4. Click OKAY to confirm the block

When you completed these steps you will not appear on the blocked person's profile page, friends time line, badge, or anywhere else. The person will not be notified that they've been blocked, and they will not be able to add you as friend.

Twitter Lists

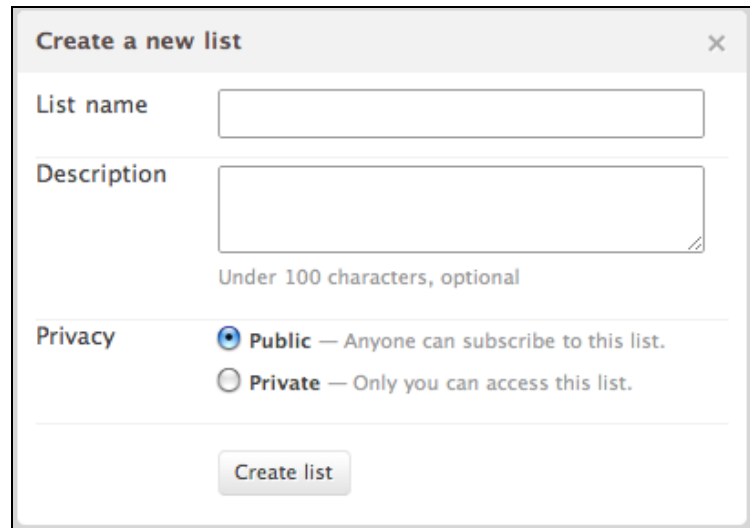
Recently Twitter added Twitter Lists to its list of features. This is a most useful addition for educators. You can create lists of specific people that you follow. You can create categories according to research, faculty, friends, etc.



In the image on the left you can see that I have been added to 123 lists.

Further down there is a link to my own list of particular educators.

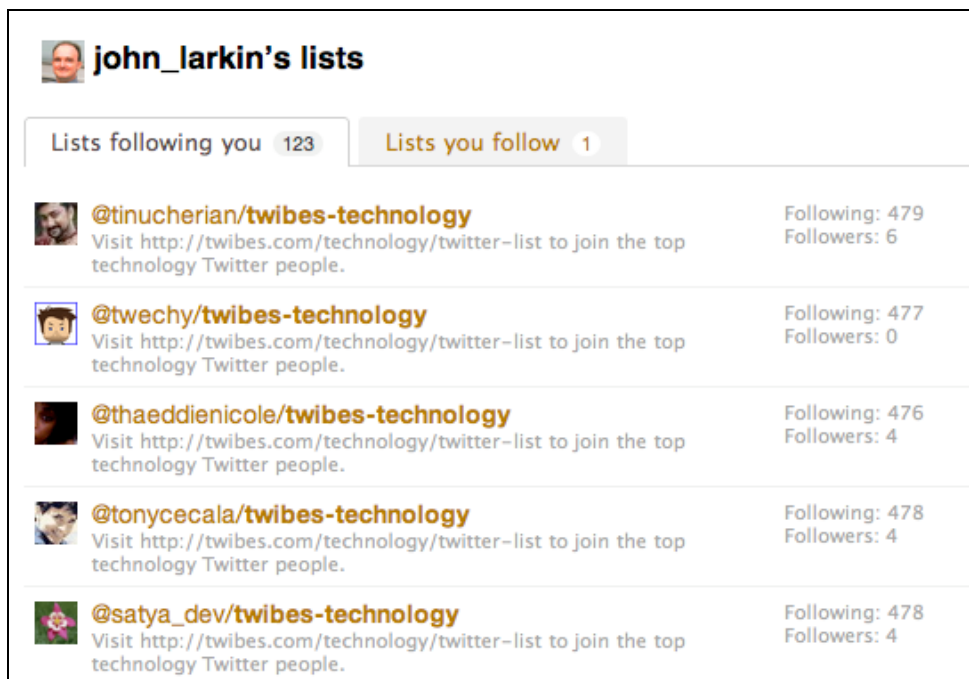
I can create a new list by clicking on the **New List** link. The window shown below will appear.



Give your list a name and a description. You can make it public or private.

Click on the listed link to see the **Twitter lists** to which you have been added.

Lists that you appear on will appear as follows.



Getting more out of Twitter

There are some tools and web sites that can help you get a lot more out of Twitter. Some of the best are listed below. There is a complete list at the **Twitter Fan Wiki**: <http://twitter.pbwiki.com/Apps>

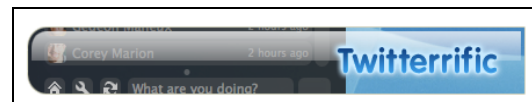
Twihrl

This is an excellent software tool that allows you to keep up with Twitter without logging into a Twitter via a browser.



Twitterrific is an excellent Macintosh application that will enable you to monitor and update Twitter.

<http://iconfactory.com/software/twitterrific>



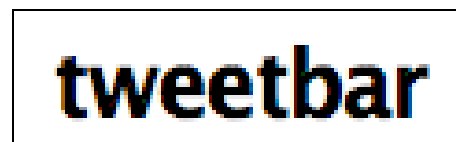
Snitter is a neat app that works on both PCs and Macs. You can use it to monitor and update Twitter.

<http://snook.ca/snitter/>



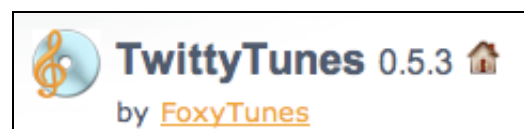
Tweetbar is a plug-in for the **Firefox** and **Flock** browsers.

<http://mikedemers.net/projects/tweetbar/>



Twitty Tunes is a plug-in for the **Firefox** and **Flock** browsers.

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/4994>



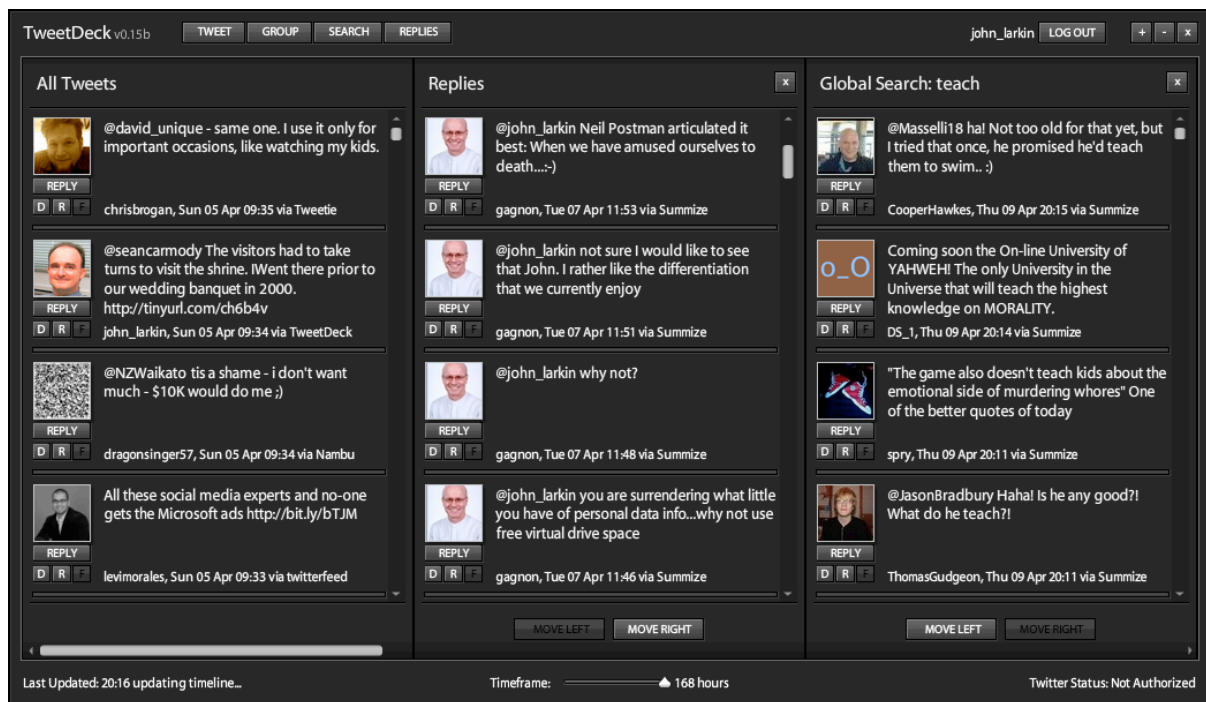
Tweetscan is a real time search for Twitter posts

<http://tweetscan.com/>



Tweetdeck is what frequent Twitterers utilise. It has powerful search and grouping tools. Tweetdeck also has an excellent iPhone application.

<http://www.tweetdeck.com/beta/>



Tweetie

This app allows you to use Twitter on an iPhone.

<http://www.atebits.com/tweetie-iphone/>

