



Connecting with Twitter

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What is Twitter? Twitter, created in 2006, is a form of microblogging. Initially based upon SMS messages, 'Tweets' are limited to 140 characters, displayed and delivered to the author's 'followers'. A 'retweet' (RT) is when another user reposts your message, thus circulating it to their followers – a true compliment.

What is Twitter good for? Twitter is great for making and maintaining contacts with others with similar interests, with hashtags, e.g. #digidisciple, functioning as active links and helping find others interested in the same content. Hashtags are particularly useful for making contact before/ during/ after an event. Third party applications, especially via smartphones, expand the usability of Twitter.

Setting up a Twitter Account

Go to <http://twitter.com>

Enter your full name, email (can only be used once), and password. Click 'Sign Up'.



When you click sign up, it will give you the option to choose a user-name (many are already in use, so you may need to be creative; choose the shortest one that seems memorable).

Profiling and Connecting

Twitter frequently changes the log-in screens, but you will encounter options to follow certain users, and add your profile information. You can choose to do this, but the quickest route may be to skip through all the screens, then select 'Profile' when into Twitter. Find 'profile', and click 'Edit Profile'

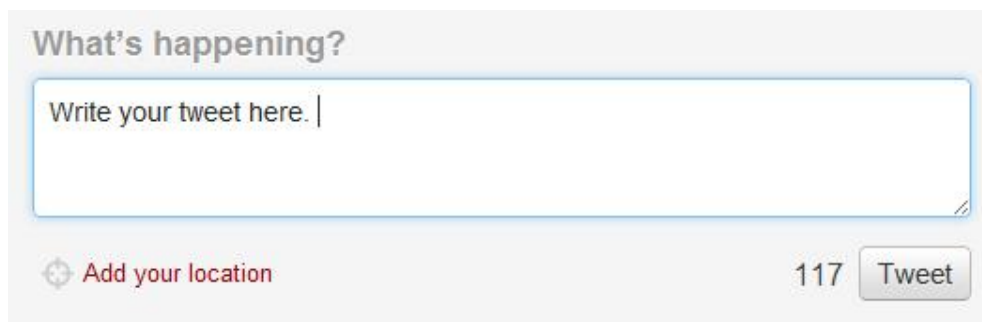


- Account: Username; email; security settings
- Password: Change password
- Mobile: Set up your phone to text Tweets
- Notifications: Decide what email notifications Twitter will send you
- Profile: **Add picture, name, location, web address, 160 character biography**
- Design: Change the screen background
- Applications: Check/revoke access to applications you've given permissions to

Sending a Tweet

Click on 'Home' (next to Profile), and start writing under "What's happening", maximum 140 characters (text-speak is acceptable).

Press 'Tweet', and your first tweet is live.



Following Others

Go to 'Who to Follow'. Use the search box if you know a name, a company, a Twitter user name, or have a particular interest, or 'browse interests'. If you want to find people you know/have email addresses for, try 'Find Friends'.



When you have found someone interesting, click on their user name to see more (see right), or just click 'Follow' (You can always de-follow later if you change your mind).

Start engaging!



What have others written?



- Timeline: All the tweets from the people you 'follow'
- @Mentions: Where others have mentioned your @twittername in their tweet
- Retweets: Material that those you follow have retweeted
- Searches: Searches you have saved (e.g. hashtags you frequently access)
- Lists: Lists you can make/made by others that you follow (e.g. local users, interest groups).

Initially, Twitter feels a little strange, but persist, and suddenly you'll "get it".