

99 Web Sites Every Business Professional *Must* Know About

**A Guide to Using the Internet More
Efficiently at Work (and at Home) –
including The Best of Web 2.0**

Compiled by
James Spellos, CMP
President - Meeting U.
<http://www.meeting-u.com>
jspellos@meeting-u.com

Updated: January 22, 2010

Meeting U.

t

Section Headings

- Blogs & Microblogs
- Business Productivity
- Cool Tools
- Education
- Food
- Media/News
- MS Office
- Portals
- Protecting Your Computer
- RSS & Podcasting Tools
- Search Engines/Directories
- Travel
- Web 2.0 (the collaborative web)
- Wireless

Please note that while each site is only listed within a single category, many sites serve multiple functions. For example, a number of sites double as information portals. Many Business Productivity and Cool Tools can easily be switched. Many meeting planning websites have site selection engines. In order to not show preference to any single site, each one is listed within the category deemed as most useful.

Meeting U.

Ninety Nine Web Sites Every Business Professional *Must* Know About

URL	A Few Words...
Blogs & Microblogs	
www.blogger.com	Free blogging site, owned by Google (redirects from Blogspot.com as well)
www.technorati.com	Service which allows you to search for blogs, as well as organize your favorite blogs in one location.
www.twitter.com	Most popular micro-blogging service, based on frequently answering the question, "What am I doing now?"
www.twittorati.com	Companion to Technorati, tracking the tweets from the highest authority bloggers.
www.typepad.com	Premium blogging service, with extensive customization tools.
www.wordpress.com	Free & premium blogging service, chosen as preferred tool for many writers.

Meeting U.

Business Productivity	
http://babelfish.altavista.com	Translation engine, providing both phrase and website translation in various languages.
www.alexa.com	Free info on web traffic, top web sites, broken down into country & category (and more)
www.answers.com	Previously named Atomica, this free download provides one click dictionary and encyclopedia information.
www.broadbandreports.com	Resource for information and availability on high speed internet connectivity around the US.
www.countrycallingcodes.com	International phone calling portal & information
www.gethuman.com	List of companies and how to reach a human being in their customer service voice mail setup. Exceptionally useful!
www.lostpassword.com	Purchasable software that can break passwords in MS Office products and other software
www.stamps.com	Print US Postal Service approved postage from your PC
www.usps.gov	Offers postage calculation and other U.S. mail services
www.worldtimeserver.com	International time zone information.
www.xe.com	Free online, real-time currency conversion tool
Cool Tools	
www.chrome.com	Google's browser. Strength include it's speed, however,

Meeting U.

	no RSS icon in Address bar is disappointing.
www.filext.com	Comprehensive listing of all computer file extensions, and associated programs that will open them.
www.firefox.com	Open source browser that many folks believe is more secure, and better, than IE.
www.holidays.net	International holiday information portal.
www.howstuffworks.com	Site that explains how things work
www.letstalk.com	Compare mobile service plans
www.lii.org	Librarian's Internet Index. Publicly funded information portal, as well as distributors of weekly newsletter identifying websites of interest.
www.loc.gov	Online access to the Library of Congress collections
www.makeuseof.com	Resource & blog of cool websites, many of which are Web 2.0.
www.pcpitstop.com	On line PC maintenance check
www.tinyurl.com	Free web service allows you to take long URL and create a short version. Great for easy link insertion into Twitter & emails.
Education	
www.blackboard.com	Online teaching tool used by corporations, educational institutions and single users

Meeting U.

www.free-ed.net	Free education portal with thousands of courses.
www.readytalk.com	Online webinar service. Great service and support provided.
Food	
www.chowhound.com	Interactive postings by foodies to critique restaurants and food resources
www.opentable.com	Restaurant portal for online reservations. User receives points for every reservation, which can earn free meals.
www.zagat.com	Restaurant & other info for various cities. Both free and premium services available.
Media/News	
www.news.google.com	Google's RSS news feed, culled from over 4,500 sources and updated regularly.
www.newspaperlinks.com	Portal to find U.S., Canadian and International newspapers.
MS Office	
http://j-walk.com	Excel information site with add-ins that can be purchased. Also author of Excel Bible.
www.mvps.org	Portal of Microsoft MVP (Most Valuable Professional) information resources
www.slipstick.com	Provides support and information on Outlook, including

Meeting U.

	various useful add-ins.
www.windowssecrets.com	Free e-letter providing tips to reveal the secrets of Microsoft Windows. Formerly known as Briansbuzz.com
Portals	
www.bigblueball.com	Information site for all Instant Messaging clients. Good primer on "how-to" IM, including a list of user acronyms.
www.ceoexpress.com	Portal directed at CEO's (but highly useful for all business professionals) with hundreds of useful links
www.ipl.org	Internet public library, using resources of librarians to further how they contribute to the internet (note – in 2010, this will merge with LII.org to create IPL2.org).
www.refdesk.com	Extensive portal of reference material, including news, dictionary, thesaurus, etc.
www.yahoo.com	Great multi-purpose site for a huge variety of topics. Portal, search engine and content provider all rolled into one.
Protecting Your Computer	
www.hoaxbusters.org	Listing of all computer & virus hoaxes distributed around the internet.

Meeting U.

www.antiphishing.org	Site dedicated to identifying and eradicating anti-phishing scams. If you don't know what these are, you should go to this site.
www.firewallguide.com	Free information resource about firewalls, anti-spyware programs, and many other tools to protect your hardware.
www.pandasoftware.com	Anti-virus software, donates part of company proceeds to charitable organizations.
www.spywareguide.com	Public reference resource site to research info about spyware, including searchable spyware database
www.vmyths.com	Independent site to learn about viruses, hoaxes and urban legends
RSS & Podcasting Tools	
http://audacity.sourceforge.net/	Free audio editing software, allows users to upload and create their podcasting content.
www.feedburner.com	Service that helps to deliver blogs, podcasts and RSS feed content across the web.
www.feedsdirect.com	Free news headline feeds you can integrate into your website
www.feedfeeds.com	Site which allows you to build a branded feed reader. Simple to setup. Premium (but inexpensive) service.
www.igoogle.com	Google's customized home page, which allows user to

Meeting U.

	read RSS feeds and blogs, along with accessing the Google search engine.
www.podbean.com	Online podcast hosting service. Free (and premium) options available.
www.podcast.net	Directory of available podcasts, organized by topic.
www.podcast411.com	Information, tutorials, and links to podcasts on various subjects. Good directory resource to help you start podcasting.
Search Engines	
www.bing.com	Microsoft's latest search engine, as well as their best.
www.dmoz.org	The Open Directory Project. Largest human-edited directory of the web. Very much a Web 2.0 tool.
www.dogpile.com	Meta engine, searches other search engines to provide results
www.google.com	You've heard of it?
Travel	
www.airports.com	Searchable portal to locate URL on all U.S. airports
www.citysearch.com	Local search service for info on businesses, restaurants and nightlife in various US cities
www.flightstats.com	Information on airline flights history, providing historical

Meeting U.

	info on the likeliness of on-time arrivals, as well as other useful information.
http://flightview.com	Universal flight tracker
www.joesentme.com	Business travel portal, with exceptional links and worldwide concierge information
www.maps.google.com	Google's map/direction service, with expanded features for various cities (live traffic, photo imagery)
www.orbitz.com	Travel portal established by 5 major airlines to compete with proliferation of other discount web travel services.
www.seatexpert.com	Airplane seat configuration tool for international carriers
www.seatguru.com	Provides specific seat information for any U.S. domestic flight, and many international flights/planes as well
www.subwaynavigator.com	Interactive directions for subway travel around the world.
www.traveldocs.com	Obtain Visa requirement and other international travel information, including quick passport processing.
Web 2.0	
www.clipmarks.com	Browser add-on that allows you to clip text, images & videos and save & share them
www.craigslist.com	Local classifieds and forums for over 450 cities worldwide. Very bare-bones layout, but highly used.

Meeting U.

www.creativecommons.org	Free tools that allow authors, scientists, artists & educators to mark content as free for sharing. Includes Web 2.0 search engine.
www.delicious.com	Social bookmarking tool, allows you to save links to web pages and share with community.
www.digg.com	News stories that are voted upon and shared by readers. All stories are submitted by the community
www.doodle.com	Free, web-based polling and scheduling tool. Very simple interface.
www.facebook.com	Social networking site started by & for college students (@ Harvard), now has migrated into social and semi-business networking service.
www.furl.net	Web clipping service that maintains links to articles you've selected. Also part of social networking, allowing users to share favorites.
www.linkedin.com	Online network of millions of professionals, developed to enhance business networking.
www.lulu.com	Self publishing website, allowing authors to write books and print them in any quantity (including a single copy at a time).
www.mashable.com	Excellent blog to learn and be updated about various social media tools

Meeting U.

www.meetup.com	Site to help people meet others who share their interest or cause
www.ning.com	Site which allows groups to create and customized their own social networking site, integrating all aspects of Web 2.0 within the site
www.secondlife.com	Virtual community with over 15 million residents. Social networking tool which is used more & more for business.
www.seomoz.org/web2.0	Listing of the best of the Web 2.0 sites. Also company providing SEO tools & support.
www.squidoo.com	Website creation tool (using term lens instead of website) allowing people to quickly share their information and expertise with others.
www.stumbleupon.com	Social tool, allowing user to find new sites in various categories based on what other have selected as popular.
www.wetpaint.com	Provider of free wikis for individuals and businesses.
https://wiki.mozilla.org/Labs/Ubiquity	Open source Firefox extension (download), which allows user created mashups to interface many web services. User can just use, or choose to write new mashups to share with community.
www.wikihow.com	Online collaborative how-to manual that is written by users. Wiki-hows range from business oriented tools to humorous.

Meeting U.

www.wikipedia.org	Encyclopedia that is completely edited & updated by users. Huge amounts of great information.
www.yelp.com	Resource guide for products & services with all recommendation written by and for the site users.
www.youtube.com	Recently purchased by Google, site contains tens of thousands of videos uploaded by us all. Social networking site.
Wireless	
www.hotspot-locations.com	Global hotspot director of public wireless LAN Access points
www.wi-fihotspotlist.com	Resource of worldwide 80211 access points.