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## BLOGS

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Blogs are internet-based sites created and maintained by individuals or groups of people for the purpose of sharing content or discussing specific topics. A blog site consists out of separate entries or posts, like the pages of a journal. The blog owner(s) creates and shares new posts on the site and followers (readers of the blog) can comment on and engage in discussions around the posts. Posts can contain various types of media including text, video/audio material or images.

Here are some things to consider when contemplating the use of blogs in teaching and learning.

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### AFFORDANCES

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- Students can create individual blogs to reflect on a course, module or other learning experience.
- Internet-based blogs can be continued indefinitely, thus, after students have completed a module or course they will still be able to maintain their blog site.
- Multimedia support: Students can post videos and images as part of their blog entries.
- Each student is given a platform to express their voice, views and comments.
- Blogs can be private or public thus opening up the possibility of including a greater audience than only the class. This is however, easier to manage on internet-based sites than on a SUNLearn forum.
- Students gain exposure to multiple views on the topics being discussed.
- Individual blogs are linked to other blogs which can constitute communities, for example where students work together on a group assignment/project.
- Students can comment on and give feedback to each other's blog posts.
- There are numerous internet-based platforms available to create blogs.
  - Blogger is part of the Google suite, thus it does not require Inetkey to access on campus.
- The forum activity in SUNLearn can be used for online discussions, similar to blog-discussions and the entries on the forum can be graded.

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### POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

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- There is a slight learning curve for both lecturers and students.



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- Since blog entries, as well as related comments, are often posted on internet sites that is open to the wider public lecturers need to equip students with the necessary online etiquette.