

THE COMMIT ARENA

Chris Maybury, the BDC Chairman is still looking for a response to his email regarding the level of support from members to wish to continue with COMMIT the Communications & IT Special Interest Group.

Please drop him a line if you'd like to join in.
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BLOGGERS?

If you haven't heard about blogging then you've probably been living in the Empty Quarter for the last 18 months!

What is Blogging? Well it's one of those services which has picked up a lot of momentum of late, but has actually been around for some time. Blog, is actually short for web log, and is a web application that contains periodic posts from the authors of the blog and can receive comments back from its readers.

Blogs collect relevant information and present it in an easy-to-read format. Users can search a specific blog and feel confident that they have a good idea of what's happening on the project, in their company or in their industry.

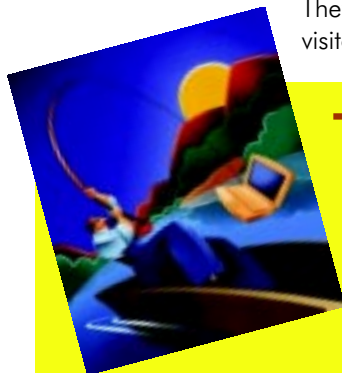
They provide a central source: Blogs put information in a central location, making it highly accessible to large numbers of visitors. The information is stored in a searchable format for future reference. This is useful when a visitor wants to find some information from a previous period, or wants to review information available about a particular subject or trend.

They create a community of knowledge: Blogs let visitors share, discuss, annotate and edit information.

This interactive use highlights the value of the information and allows users to be effective in identifying their required information. With over 5 million sites around devoted to it, blogging has become the biggest online craze of the last couple of years, with some blogs having become so popular now that their authors have developed cult followings.

Blogs are also proving to be a vital form of communication for expatriates living abroad and looking to stay in touch with friends and family back home. It turns out that expat blogs are proving to be a compelling read, not only for family and friends, but for anyone in the cyber world looking to take a peek into someone else's overseas life.

Recently Expatica (www.expatica.com), the leading news & information source for expats in Europe, introduced its own blog section to allow expats the chance to share their own stories. Company representative Mark Batty says "blogs are a great way to share your new life abroad with pals back home". Batty says "A lot of people ask us for an inside look at life abroad, an individual point of view you can't get from a guide. We're adding bloggers for each of our country sites and so far the response has been terrific". It looks as though blogs are here to stay. If you thought the b-word was just one of those passing cyber fads, it time to rethink the whole thing—and get blogging.



Top Ten Tips for Finding a Phish

- 1. Know yourself:** Know the companies you deal with. When a suspect email arrives, remember: it could be fraud, if it's definitely spam, and it is not for you. Delete it.
- 2. Subject matters:** Consider the subject line of an email carefully. Citibank will never send you an email headed "_Citibank_account_update ACT-NOW". These messages may get through spam filters because they appear to come from a reputable source, but that doesn't mean it's really from Citibank.
- 3. Learn the language:** Understand how the companies you deal with want to interact with you. For example, banks usually want you to access your account through their website—not an email link. "Phishing" emails stand out because they don't follow the rules.
- 4. Browsing:** Practice safe browsing. Open a new browser window each time you log on to a web site that displays personal information. When you are done at that site, log out and close that browser window.

- 5. Spelling:** Be sure to read emails that say they are from companies you know. Sometimes a real email will have a spelling or grammatical error, but anything more than one error is suspicious.
- 6. Use your mouse:** Scroll over the links in emails you receive and check them. In some email systems, you can scroll over the different links in an email and see the actual contents of the link. If the email says PayPal, but the link content says "www.paipall.com", be careful. But note: URLs can be disguised—so don't take a suspect link at face value.
- 7. All form, no function:** Never enter your personal or credit information into a form in an email. If you feel the email is legitimate, call the company or visit their web site and log in to provide the requested information.
- 8. It's personal:** Expect good customer service. Unless your name is "Website User" or "johnsmith93", most "phishing" emails are not personalized. If you receive a "Dear Customer" email, it may be time to move on. Stay on Guard
- 9. Check statements:** Read your statements – every one, every month to ensure your charges and debits are correct. Often information obtained through phishing is not used right away. Stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately.
- 10. Stay current:** Use and maintain your email protection software for spam blocking, fraud blocking, and anti-virus. If you have any questions, there are many fine web sites which can provide the latest information on the latest virus, "phishing" attack, or on-line scam.