

Tech Stuff - Corey Dahl



Educational Service Unit #8 - Neligh, NE 68754 - 402-887-5041 - <http://www.esu8.org>

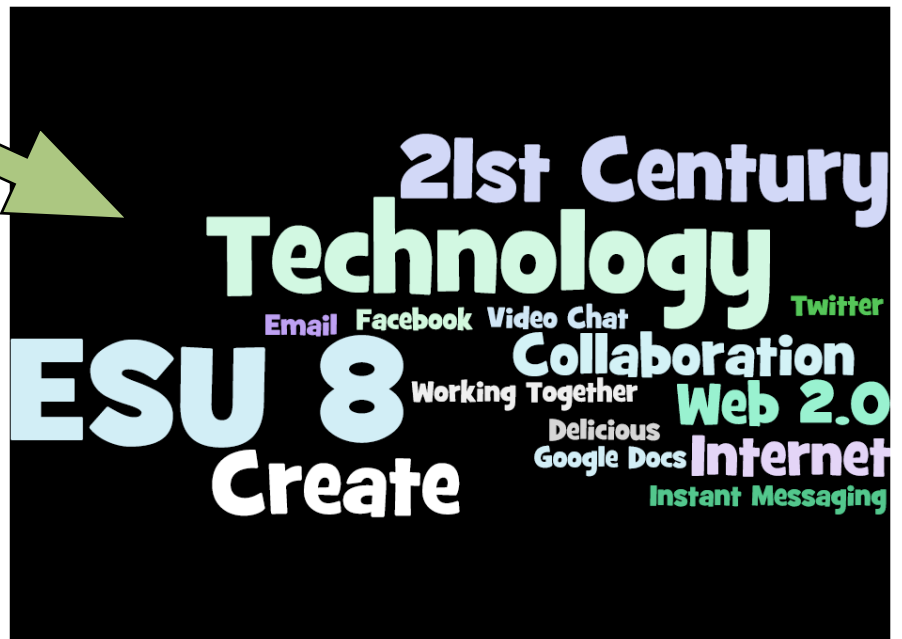
Wordle...is...Awesome!

<http://www.wordle.net/>

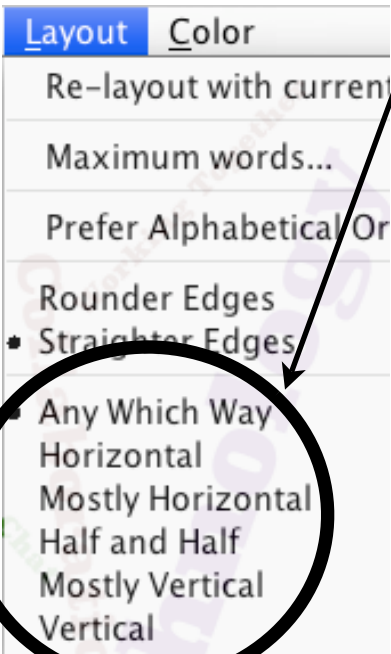
The person that shared this with me said that they had been using "Wordle" and it was her "...new favorite tool." I agree. It's really cool (I think).

What you do to make one of these is to first, go to their website. Next, click "Create" and then type (or copy / paste) a bunch of words into the space they provide (put a space between the words, not a comma...and when you're done, click SUBMIT.

I had some trouble getting two words to stick together. For instance "ESU 8." The trick is to put a tilde ~ in-between the words.



So, when I typed "ESU 8" and I want them together, I had to type "ESU~8" and that kept the space and the words were just right! (Ignore my quotation marks around ESU 8) as they are just for the article. The trick is to get the ~ in the middle. If you can't find the tilde, it's in the upper left-hand corner of the keyboard. The next trick that was shared with me was how to get one word bigger than the others. All you have to do is type the same word several times. So, if I want "ESU 8" to be bigger than the other words...I simply type it more times. When you see the finished product, you can change colors, fonts, etc. If you don't like the changes you've made, just Edit>Undo.



But wait, there's more! If you want to change the layout, you can! Just choose "Layout" and pick "Horizontal" or "Mostly Horizontal" or "Any Which Way." See what you like!

If you want to print, you can do that or you might want to turn it into a ".pdf" to email or send it to another person.

Educational uses...plenty! You might list all of the characters in a novel you're reading. The main characters, type several times to make them bigger. How about a list of adjectives, nouns, etc. etc.

One person I talked to had their name (LARGE) and all of their "positive qualities" around their name...and then printed the "Wordle" on nice paper and put it in a frame (someone had made this for her). Not a bad idea!



Skype
(FREE Videoconferencing!)
[http://www.skype.com/
 welcomeback/](http://www.skype.com/welcomeback/)

If you haven't tried Skype for videoconferencing...you should! Skype has a FREE video service that you can use to talk with other teachers, students or family anywhere in the world! You need a computer with a dual core processor (which is most any new computer, a video webcam and a fast connection. Hey! If Oprah uses Skype...shouldn't we all!



Gmail
(FREE Videoconferencing!)
<http://tinyurl.com/397h9r>

Do you have a FREE Gmail account? If you do, now you have FREE videoconferencing as well! So, like Skype, if you and the person you are contacting has a webcam, you can see them and talk with them as if they were sitting right next to you! Awesome!

Did I mention this is FREE!?

If you set up a Gmail account (or Skype) and want to try out the video feature, let me know and I'll "videoconference" with you.

YUCK!
<http://yucky.discovery.com/flash/>

Here's a site that is...well, yucky!

This site, by Discovery, has Yucky Fun & Games, Roach World, Gross & Cool Body, Worm World...and more!

The Gross & Cool Body section covers everything from Belches and Gas to Spit, Zits, Ear Wax and...many more that you'll have to check out yourself.

Hey...it's science and health!

Ewwwwww.....

January - 2009

Podcasting For Administrators

Lifelong Learning Center - Norfolk, NE

Learn how to make a podcast of your own!

This is a MUST attend!



FREE WORKSHOP

Lunch will be provided!

WHEN: Thursday, January 29, 2009.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Lifelong Learning Center,
Northeast Community College, Norfolk, NE

WHO: This workshop is designed for school
Superintendents and Principals.

To get the most out of this workshop, please prepare the following: First, write a brief (1-2 minutes) message to your community, which you will record during the workshop. Next, gather digital photos and/or images of slides related to your message to incorporate into your podcast. Please bring your digital files on a USB flash drive. You do not need to bring anything besides your USB flash drive and message. Apple will provide the hardware and software. Even if you have never used a Mac, you will find it amazingly simple to use these tools to create your podcast.

Maximum enrollment for the workshop is 20, so please register for this workshop ASAP!

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In the past, Superintendents and Principals have contacted parents and members of the community by publishing a letter in the local newspaper or mailing a newsletter. Although these are still viable methods of communication, the increase in computer/internet savvy parents requires an upgrade in communication. Podcasting is a quick, easy way to get information out to your constituents, and demonstrate the effective use of 21st century communications technology.

Apple, Inc., ESU 8 & ESU 1 are offering a 3-hour hands-on workshop to teach you how to create podcasts. Presenters from Apple will demonstrate the tools, tricks, and techniques to create and publish a podcast. They will share how to use different types of podcasts to communicate different messages.

What is a podcast? A podcast is a series of audio, image-enhanced audio, or video files broadcast on the Internet. But, unlike radio or TV, once it is posted on your website, members of your community can "subscribe" to your podcast online. This allows them to download your communication to their computer (Mac or Windows), and even sync it to their iPod. And, they will be automatically notified when new communications are posted.

Contact: Corey Dahl (ESU 8) or Lanita Recob (ESU 1) with questions or if you'd like help preparing for this day.

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lrecob@esu1.org, 402.287.2061

Register @ ESU 8

<http://www.esu8.org>