

05/14/09 - What's Twitter, and why should I be using it?

Many of you have probably heard of RSS, a technology that helps people keep up with new blog entries and news articles. RSS works by updating a feed when new content is published. It's a lot easier to keep up with a single feed than constantly browsing all of your favorites sites to see what's new.

Even more groundbreaking than RSS, in my opinion, is a rapidly growing service called Twitter. There's a lot more to Twitter than first meets the eye. Meaningful updates from friends and family are nice, but its ability to quickly feel the pulse of the internet is incredible.

Today when Google went down, I logged into Twitter and noticed by looking at the right sidebar that #googlefail was the most active topic this morning. When I clicked on #googlefail, I was able to see other Twitter users' updates talking about the failure? updates that were only a few seconds old. Amazing!

So, go ahead and sign up, and when you do, be sure to follow KentComputers!

The screenshot shows the Twitter web interface. At the top left, there's a text input field with the placeholder "What are you doing?" and a "140" character count. Below it is a "Latest" section with a link to a new post on Kent Computers. The main section is titled "Real-time results for #googlefail" and contains four tweets:

- monbocal**: Quoi, #googlefail ? APOCALYPSE ! (less than 20 seconds ago from Gravity)
- xnt**: Parece que el mundo volvió a la normalidad ahora... #googlefail (less than 20 seconds ago from web)
- JimContext**: The ramifications of #googlefail: http://bit.ly/q46qO (less than 20 seconds ago from web)
- hotiou**: Today's #googlefail reminds me that even if I lose my Google, I'll always have my trusty AltaVista and Lycos. #searchenginesnobodycaresabout (less than 20 seconds ago from web)

The right sidebar shows the user profile for KentComputers, including a "Tip-Joy" message and a list of trending topics: #googlefail, #why, #googlefail, Gmail, #fixreplies, and AT&T.