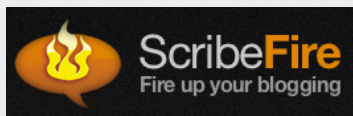eLearning & Distance Education

iDESIGN

Online Productivty

Letting social media spread your message for you

Getting your message out, whether it is sending a course announcement, sharing an interesting and relevant resource, or publishing original content, can be a daunting and time-consuming task. Take a moment to think about the social software that you use on a regular basis. Are you duplicating your efforts by posting the same information to multiple places? Do you wish you could get your message out to multiple social media tools without actually going to (or using) them? If your answer is "yes," then some of these applications might be just what you need.

Before you begin, there is one common feature of these tools: you will be agreeing to allow applications to talk to one another. If you want your tweets from Twitter to be posted on your Facebook account, you must agree for this to happen. Be mindful of who may be seeing your posts and messages. Typically, you will agree to let the application read your timeline, update your profile, and post for you (which doesn't mean it will actually post anything for you unless you click on a submit button). All these applications allow you the option to revoke this access at anytime, if you change your mind and want to discontinue the relationship.

SCRIBEFIRE

Scribefire is a browser-based application that lets you write one blog post and publish to one or more blogs. This free application pulls in categories and tags from your individual blogs so that your post shows up correctly in its regular platform. Scribefire works with Wordpress and Blogger and is available for Chrome, Safari, Firefox, and Opera. http://www.scribefire.com/
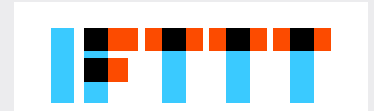
BUFFER

Buffer is a browser-based application for Chrome, Firefox or Safari that lets you post to Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn. There are free and paid account with differeing levels of service. When you find a resource or item that you want to share, click on the buffer icon in your browser to get a dialog box. You enter your comments, choose the social software you want your comment sent to and submit. The best thing about Buffer is that you can schedule when these comments/links are sent out. For various reasons you may wish your comments to be spread out over a schedule. Buffer can help you manage this. http://bufferapp.com/

HOOTESUITE

Hootesuite is available on the internet or via mobile apps and has both free and paid accounts. This tool lets you pick and choose where your information goes: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Google+, Wordpress and more. Create your message in Hootsuite and post it to one, two or all of your social networking sites. http://hootsuite.com/

IFTTT

If This, Then That is the ultimate helper application! You create recipes (directions) for the connections you want to make. If "this" (the trigger) then "that" (the action). For example, If you create a bookmark in Diigo (the trigger) it gets posted to Twitter (the action). The best part of IFTTT is that you can designate "ingredients" that are pieces of information to further define the recipe. For example, maybe you don't want all of your Diigo bookmarks sent via Twitter, maybe you just want the bookmarks that are tagged with a certain class ID. You can customize each of your recipes so IFTTT makes exactly the right connection. http://ifttt.com

For more information on this topic, please see: http://elearning.uaf.edu/go/tt-productivity
Contact us at: http://distance.uaf.edu/go/iteachu-contact

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