Using Twitter effectively
By
Scott Herbert

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For Kate, Thanks giving me the confidence when I needed it and the kick up the a** when I needed that to.

Also thanks to Keith and Kate for the proof reading, without your help and guidance, no one would have been able to make any sense out of the words in this book.

About the Author.

Scott Herbert has been involved in Internet projects since 1993, and tweets about environmental issues, Christianity, Webdesign and marketing. Find him at www.twitter.com/Scott_Herbert , www.our-party.org.uk and http://sahakara.co.uk

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What is Twitter

Twitter describes it's self as a micro-blogging and social networking service, micro-blogging because posts (messages “posted” to the system) or as Twitter calls them Tweets, can only be 140 characters long, unlike normal blogs where posts can be of any length.

Twitter is a social networking service, because rather than see everyone's tweets, or just your own tweets and others to reply to your tweets, you can choose who's tweets you read. Twitter also allows you to reply to tweets, and those replays can be seen by not only your followers (those who have chosen to to see your tweets) but also the person who you are replying to, regardless of if they have opted to follow you or not.

This has had the effect of turning Twitter from just a simple micro-blogging service to more of a communication medium. It has been compared to a virtual cocktail party, where you can tune-in to the thoughts, ideas and conversations of anyone there. This perceived intimacy and a number of high profile stars (both IT “stars” like Kevin Rose and mainstream stars such as Steven Fry). This has lead to an explosion in members, and like any service that has a huge explosion of members over a short amount of time, there will be a huge number of these new users who will either have unrealistic expectations or just get it ‘wrong’. The purpose of this book is to help those new users get

it right, in order to prevent them becoming disillusioned with the service.

Twitter Basics

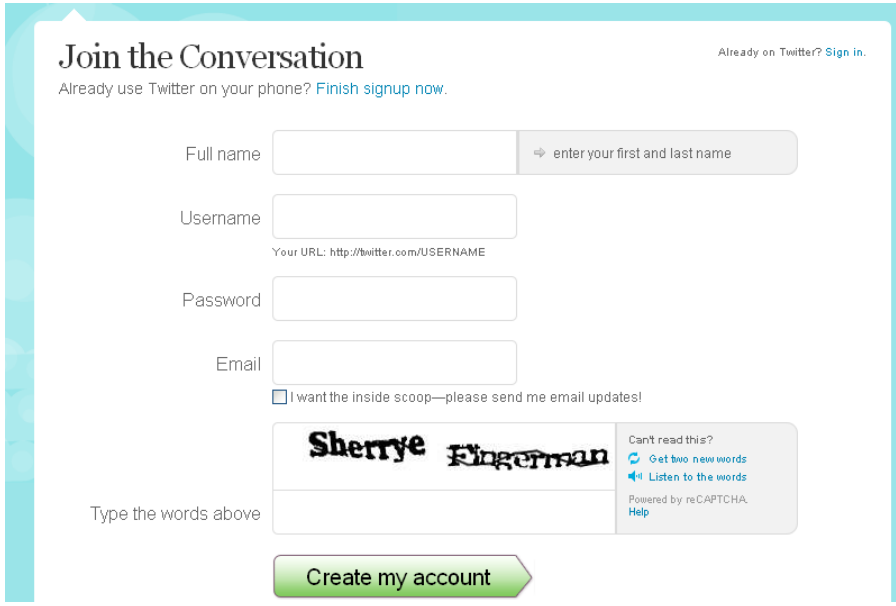
In this section, Twitter Basics, I hope to show you how to do the basic tasks in Twitter. I'll use only the web based interface from www.twitter.com, but there are a number of different ways to access Twitter, and some of them I'll discuss later in Twitter tools. However all the basic tasks can be done fairly easily via the standard web based interface.

Sign-up

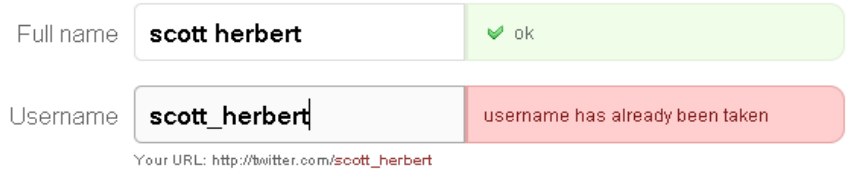
When you first go to Twitter.com you are presented with a welcome screen like the one above, if you already have an account with Twitter, you can login on the right hand side of the screen, however as this your first time here you'll need to sign-up (well you don't need to either sign-up or login to view most users Twitter streams, but you do to post messages).

Clicking on the “Get Started – Join!” takes you to the sign-up screen.

As you can see, the sign-up screen is very simple, you just need your full name, a username and password of your choosing, your email address and to prove your a human.

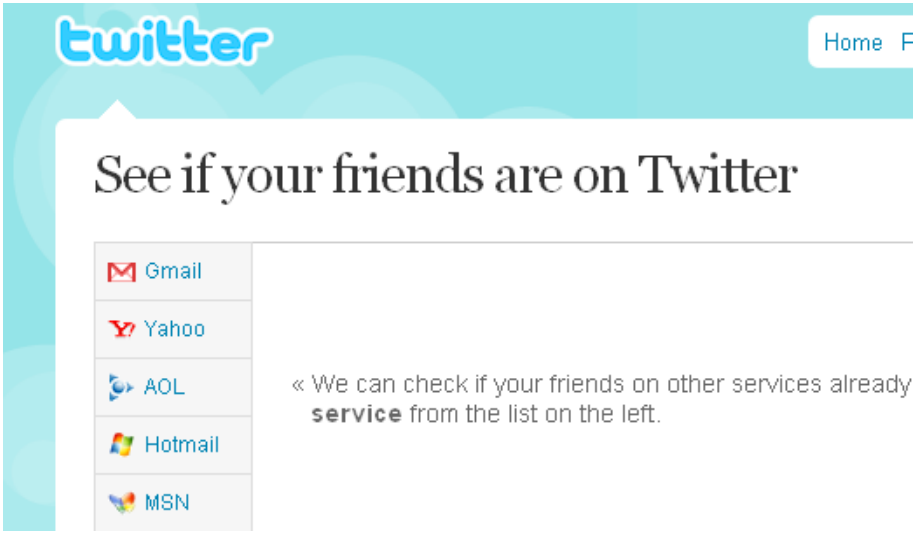


While you can amend your username later if you wish, the user name must be unique and its best if you can use your real name or some variation of it. Thankfully if you choose a username that has been taken then you are informed as you type, this gives a you the chance to amend your username before you fill out the rest of the form.

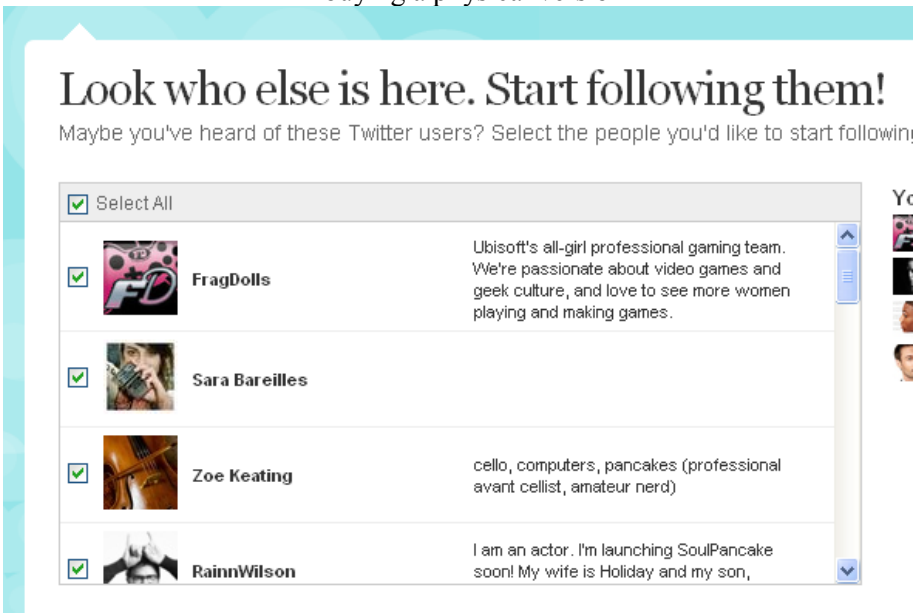


Assuming you choose a valid user name, you will see an a green tick and an ok next to both the full name and the username boxes.

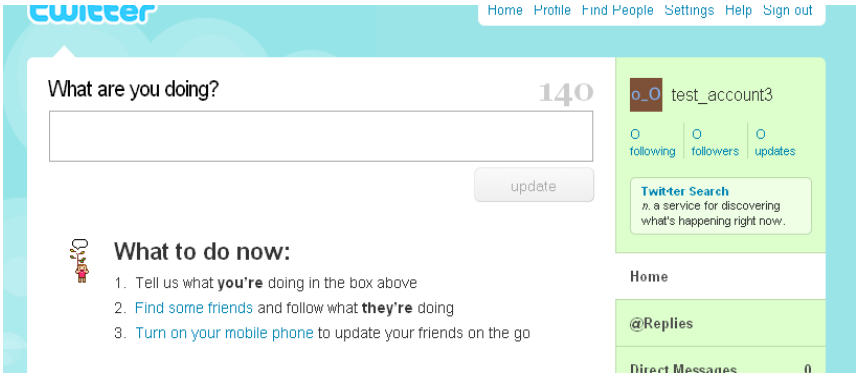
Then once you have proven that your a human and not a spam bot, by typing the two words that have been slightly mangled, and supplied a valid e-mail address, the next page you'll see allows you to check some of the web's best known e-mail services to see if any of your friends are on Twitter.



You'll need to login to the service, then Twitter will compare you contacts list with it's e-mail database, allowing you to follow your friends.



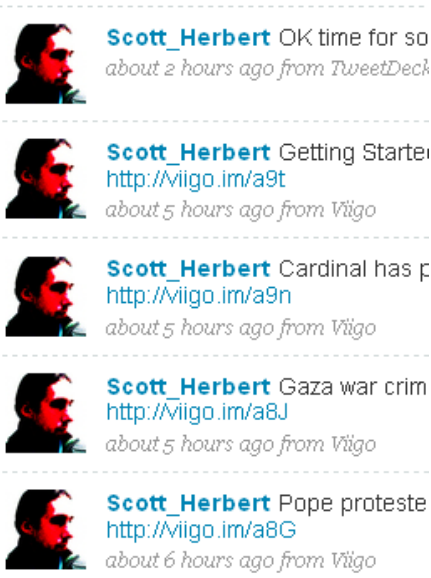
Regardless if you import your contacts from your e-mail, you'll next be able to add twenty popular Twitter users, from people like Al Gore to Britney Spears to the CNN news team. After you've added (or not) the people on this list you will see your Twitter stream.



Following others.

One of the first things you'll likely to want do is to follow others, to see what they are up to.

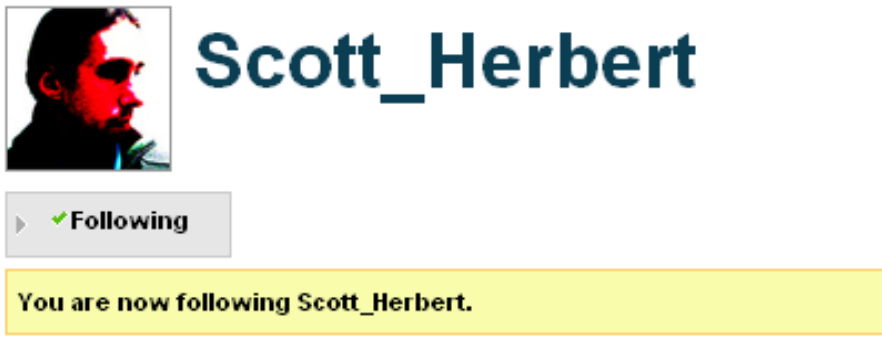
When you first go to another users' page, you will see a photo and their username towards the top of their page. Below that is a little button call Follow...



Yes you guessed it, to follow them you just click on that button.

Of course you won't be able to follow anyone if you can't find them. There are a number of ways to do this, however if you know their user name, the easiest way is to type it into your browsers' address bar.

This will take you to their stream.



Regardless of how you find other users, once you start to follow them a number of things happen. Firstly, straight away you will notice that the button marked “Follow” has changed to a green tick and the phrase “Following”, and also that a new bar has appeared under that, stating that you are now following this user.

If you now return to your friends stream page (your home page, which can quickly be reached by clicking on the Twitter logo, or the “Home” link on the menu bar) you'll notice that you can now read the person you where following’s stream.

Sending tweets

As well as following someone you will probably, at some point, want to tell the world what you're doing.

At the top of your screen (just about Where the follow button was for the person you've just followed) their will be a small area where you can post your tweet,

As you can see on the right hand side of the box is the number 140, as you type your message that number will decrease, if it get's below 0 (zero) you won't be able to post.

Once you're happy with your message click on the update button, and Twitter will then post your tweet.

Your tweet will then appear on your timeline and those of everyone who's following you. .

Short URLs

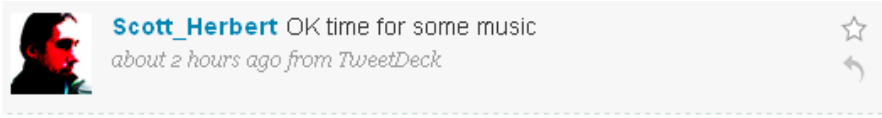
Sometimes you want to tweet about a great blog post you are reading, or a great website that you've found, or maybe you want to complain about such and such a web service. Either way sometimes you want to add a web address to your tweet. Normal web addresses (also known as URLs) tend to be quite long and on Twitter, with your tweets being limited to just 140 characters, you want to use a few as you can. That's where Short URLs come-in, while there not strictly part of Twitter, and they have existed before Twitter, they have really come into their own on this platform.

Simply put, Short URLs are a service supplied by a company or groups of people, who will supply you with a short URL that when clicked on will re-direct you to the original longer address. Tinyurl.com was one of the first to provide this service, however over the past year or so a huge number have grown up including bit.ly, snipurl.com and twurl. There are some differences in the service they provide but they are all free to use and can save a huge amount of space.

Replying

Sometimes you see a tweet, and you just have to comment on it, for what ever reason.

If you move your mouse over to the right hand side of any message two small icons will appear: a star and an arrow.

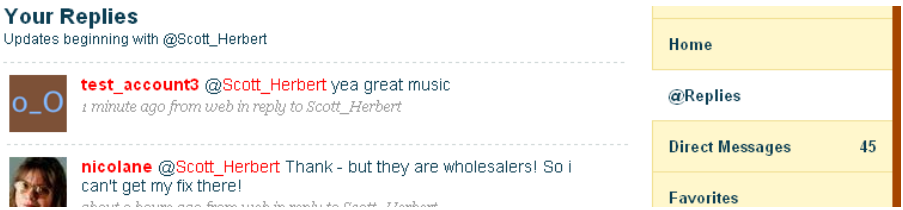


The star adds that post as a favorite which is a handy way to bookmark tweets you think are important. The arrow underneath it allows you to reply to that tweeter, even if they are not following you.

If you click on the reply button, the users name appears with an at “@” symbol before it, this tells Twitter that it's a reply to a user’s tweet. You can then type your reply as normal, for example “yea great music”.

To post that tweet, all we need to do is click on the update button, now helpful called reply.

Now if I login to my real account I can see the reply from test_account3 by clicking on the @Replies tab on the right hand side of the screen.



Direct message

However sometimes you don't want the world to know what you've said. To allow you to post things that don't directly appear on anyone timeline, twitter has a function called Direct message. However you can only send Direct messages to throes who've chosen to follow you. This is of course is to prevent Spam.

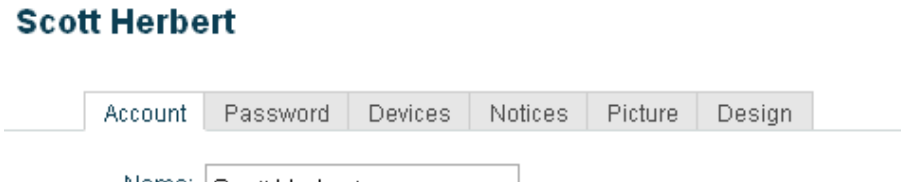
Sending a direct message is just like sending a reply except. You use “D” (a capital d) instead of an '@' and leave a space between the D and the name of the person your direct messaging.

By not posting things publicly Direct Messages make it possible to send information you my not be happy everyone knowing (your age, home town or email address for example). However please remember even private direct messages are stored on a server, and that can be hacked.

Settings.

Twitter allows you to amend several options, including the background image of your timeline, some of the colours and your profile picture. To access your settings, click on the settings menu once you are logged in.

The settings screen its self has a number of sub-menus,



They are,

Account: This is the default tab, and is where you will find and can edit, your name, user name, e-mail address, Bio, etc. it's useful to ensure these are up-to-date.

Password: This tab lets you amend your password, for the sake of security you of course need to supply your current password before you can change it.

Devices: This lets you set-up and amend your twitter mobile phone up-dates.

Notices: Here you control how many e-mails twitter sends to you, and over what issues.

Pictures: Twitter allows you to upload a picture of yourself, that the your followers see when you tweet. It's best to post a real image of yourself, and to remember that the image can be up to 700kb in size, and will if someone click on the thumbnail, be shown at full size, so you may as well post a nice large image of yourself.

Design: Here you can choose either the built in twitter theme that best suits you or you can upload your own background image, and amend the colours

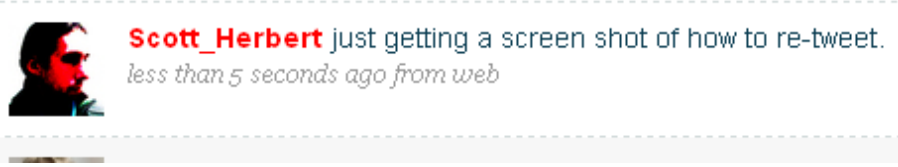
Twitter Etiquette

Re-Tweets

Every so often you will see a tweet that you wish you'd written, the temptation is just to copy it and tweet it, but within the twitter community it's considered impolite just to steal someone else tweet.

The right way to do this is called re-tweeting (general abbreviated just to RT), effectively re-tweeting just means your giving credit for the tweet.

Say you saw a message you felt you just had to re-tweet



To do this all you need to do it put 'RT' then @username, as if you where replying to the tweet, and copy and paste the tweet in. e.g.

This then gives the original tweeter the credit for their tweet. You may have noticed that by re-tweeting someone tweet you add some characters to it, this can become a problem for long tweets and so, anything I would like others to re-tweet I ensure I keep to 122 characters or less so that people have room to add 'RT @Scott_Herbert ' to the front of it.

You may also see a number of tweets with something like '(Please RT)' on the end, this stands for, as you may have guessed, “please re-tweet” personally I don't have to much of a problem with this, I do think it's a bit cheeky, a waste of

characters and I wonder how well it works but each to their own. You can over do it however, there is one twitter user who insists on putting it at the end of almost every link they post, and the rare times I do re-tweet his tweets I make sure I remove the “Please RT” begging note from the end.

Hashtags

One of the other strange symbols you may see around are called hashtags, these have nothing to do with brownies or any plant based subsidence, they are words prefixed with the '#' character. They are used to “tag” a tweet with keywords so that someone searching for that keyword can find the tweet.

There is no fixed format for the tags and no rules about what you can or can't post with each tag, however as they take up space it makes sense to only post reliant tags.

Because hashtags have become so popular, a website (http://hashtags.org/) has been set-up to list the most popular tags, so that tweeters can tweet to popular and reliant categories and anyone looking for tags can find relevant ones quickly.

#followfriday

One of the problems of social networks is that it can be difficult to find people who you maybe interested in talking to, there are just so many people out there. How do you separate the good interesting people for the self-serving want-a-be's?

Well just as in the real world, personal recommendations count for a lot in twitter, and that's the idea behind follow Friday. Each Friday people recommend some of the people they follow to their followers, there is of course no requirement to follow these people and no fixed way of doing it. For example since I follow a number of different groups of people for different reasons, I tend to say something like “For environmental issues #followfriday @username”, but as long as the #followfriday hashtag and the @username is there then that really all that matters.

Thank you.

One of the nice things about Twitter, it that people tend to say thank you to throes who recommend them, re-tweet there tweets or do something in someway for them. It makes the experience a much more enjoyable one and means that people will be more inclined to help you out later.

Twitter tools

At its inception, the founders of Twitter made a decision that has helped to make Twitter the success it is, they wrote special functions that allowed outside programs (websites and desktop applications) to Access Twitter. These API's (Application Program Interfaces) meant that people could write widgets that allowed people to automatic post links to blogs on Twitter, or access Twitter from a desktop program rather than a website. Of course as those who found Twitter first where the more tech savey, it allowed them to write programs and website they, as Twitter users, found useful.

This has lead to a huge array of Twitter tools. For any number of tasks, I'll try and outline some of the ones I think are most useful.

Desktop Applications for Twitter

Twhirl (http://twhirl.org/) Based on the Adobe AIR platform, Twhirl runs on both Windows (2000, XP and Vista) as well as Mac OSX, Twhirl also supports Friendfeed and Seesmic as well as allowing you to

cross post your updates to Facebook, MySpace and Linkedin.

TweetDeck (http://www.tweetdeck.com/) Like Twhirl, TweetDeck is based on Adobe Air, and therefore it is cross-platform, TweetDeck's main selling point is that it allows you to place those you follow into groups, this is an extremely popular fetcher with power users, as there is no way to remember why you're following all off the 2,000 people you are. So placing people into groups allows them to be allocated to groups that make sense to you (such as news, programmers etc.)

Snitter (http://getsnitter.com/) another Adobe Air application, Snitter doesn't have all the fancy add-ons of Twhirl or TweetDeck, and so is simpler to use and learn, however of course this means it's also less powerful.

Twitterriffic (http://iconfactory.com/software/Twitterrific) Is the only application here that doesn't sit

on Adobe Air, this means that some of the bugs that the Adobe Air suffers from in Mac OSX don't effect Twitterriffic users, however it's only available for Mac OSX.

Applications for phones

TwitterBerry (Twitter for the blackberry)

(http://orangatame.com/products/Twitterberry/) TwitterBerry, as the name suggests, is the blackberry Twitter client, it's a basic client, but it does the job nicely, also allows you to post images directly from your blackberry to TwitPic, and then onto Twitter. Personally I find all mobile web applications too slow for general use so TitterBerry does just what I need it to do (check reply and Direct Messages to me, and post tweets on the move).

Tweetie for iPhone (http://www.atebits.com/software/tweetie/)

Tweetie is one of the iPhone clients, it like, Twhirl, allows you to handle multiple Twitter accounts, Post links via the Bit.ly address shorting service, images via TwitPic, as well as all the other services you would expect a Twitter client to do (send tweets, show friends timelines, etc.)

Pocket Twitt (Twitter for Windows Mobile) (http://code.google.com/p/pocketwit/)

PocketTwitt is Twitter for Pocket PC style smart phones (those that run Windows Mobile) it supports multiple Twitter accounts, link shortening with is.gd, and TwitPic for images. It works with all VGA, QVGA and SmartPhone Windows mobile devices.

Tiny Twitter (http://tinyTwitter.com/) tiny Twitter is a small basic Twitter application designed to work on any phone with internet access and Java (and that's going to be most phones today).

Twitter Mobile(http://m.Twitter.com/) - the mobile version of Twitter's web site, in my opinion this should only really be used if you can't install any other application.

WebApps (Other Twitter apps on the web)

Twittermail (http://Twittermail.com/) Twittermail, allows you to send tweets via e-mail by giving you your own e-mail address. This appears a very useful service, however it is open to abuse, since there is no way to check where an e-mail has come from. Twittermail just gives you a random address, so it could be possible to send spam to other Twittermail e-mail addresses and then on to Twitter itself, as if they where posted by valid users.

Twitpic (http://twitpic.com/) lets you share photos on Twitter, in effect it's a photo hosting environment, and then it posts the links to Twitter. This simple idea has really taken off and it has become a

very popular (if not the most popular) way of sharing images via Twitter.

Tweet Later (http://tweetlater.com/) Allows you to automate a whole host of everyday Twitter functions, such as sending Direct Messages to new followers, following those who are following you, unfollowing those who unfollower you. It comes as both a free version and a paid for version. As you may guess, the paid for version has more functionality than the free version, but even the free version is highly useful.

Self marketing

What is self marketing?

When people think of self-marketing or self-publicity, throes who know about it think it's just for enterperners or the rich and famous, but as more and more companies are doing things like Google searches before employing someone having a good image and being able to be found, which is really what self-marketing is about, becomes important for everyone.

So what does you Google search say about you? Do you know? If not open up your favorite web browser and Google yourself, put quotes round your full name and hit search, if you can't find anything relevant add the town where you live to that.

Now based on the information presented there, would you employ yourself in you dream job? How about the one you're doing now? The chances are you wouldn't, it either would not be relive or there would be nothing there, or worse still it may be embarrasing.

So how can Twitter help you get a job? Networks. One of the nice things about twitter is that if you tend to tweet about things that interest you, you also tend to follow people who interest you, so without trying, your network becomes a group of people who are interested in the same things as you, the perfect opportunity to learn, and get your name out there.

If you also blog about your interests, and you tweet links to your blog, the chances are that the people who see your tweet will have at least a passing interest in what your writing about, and if it's good, they may well retweet it as well, and their follower are also likely also to be interested in the same sort of issues, and more importantly you never know who might be following them, the CEO of the company you've just applied to? Of course just as with anything, there is no magic bullet, no grantees of success but twitter can help you build a base of people who are interested in the same stuff you're interested in.

Twitter as a research tool

As I mentioned above, twitter users tend to group themselves into gangs who share the same interests, this not only allows you to show how much you know about a subject, but also learn from the people you follow, allowing you to keep at the forefront of the news and views in the area of things you're interested in.

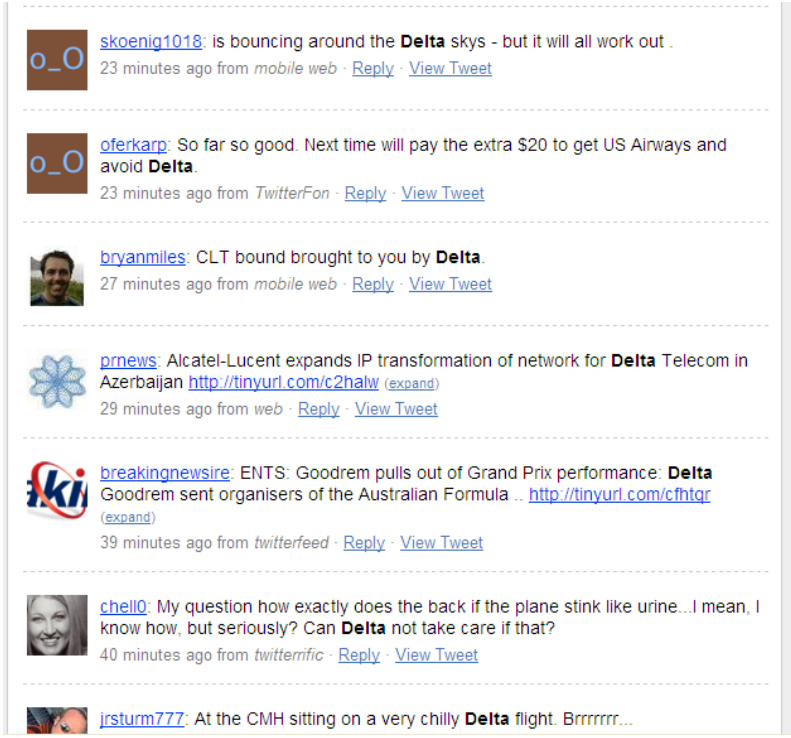
Search.twitter.com

One of the things that have helped to propel twitter into the mainstream media's headlights is the way it's covered breaking news.

Twitter has a built in search function, that allows you to look for keywords, and since the point of twitter is to let people know what you're doing, it lends it's self very nicely to reporting on braking news stories.

Products

Not only can twitters search facility be used to search for news, you can search for any keyword, including that airline your thinking of booking a ticket on…



As a quick search of twitter for information about Delta, shows, you get real reviews from real people about real things, that they either like or dislike. The urine smell being one of the most noticeable. Of course you're more likely to get negative comments than positive ones; it's a well known fact of marketing that people are more than 10 times likely to write about bad service than good service, it's just the way we are. But it does give you a snapshot of people views of a product or service.

If you are a company however this doesn't have to be a bad thing, Meany businesses have turned poor service into a PR success. Just image, if you tweet about some example of poor service, and shortly after you get a reply from a customer service rep for that company, asking how they can help resolve the issue. Engaging with the twitter community can help turn the faceless corporate persona into a caring sharing company just trying to do what's best.

How not to use Twitter.

Most new Twitter users, for whatever reason they use Twitter, tend to make some fundamental mistakes when they first start using it. Of course Twitter isn't the only area of life where new people make mistakes. In most, if not all areas this is true, however as this book is about Twitter and as a new Twitter user you can easy become disillusioned if things don't happen straight away.

So here's some common mistakes new Twitter users make, and how to avoid them.

Messing up your bio.

One of the most common mistakes I see new Twitter users making is not filling in their bio's or just making them worthless. When people follow me one of the first things I do to see if I'm going to follow them back is hover my mouse over their name, and read their bio. If nothing shows up, then why would I want to follow them? Your bio tells the world (in just 160 characters) what you're interested in, and what to expect if they follow you. Good bio's are a short list of the key things you're interested in, what you're likely to post, and anything you feel is important about you. It's your elevator pitch, and so not having a good, well thought out bio is almost as bad as not having one at all. I

won't name names but one of the worst bio's I've seen (not however the worst, not by a long stretch) was the one that read "AFFILIATES - click web link for huge opp". Now compare that to "Im a professional Web Developer, Programmer (primarily PHP, Javascript and Actionscript), Family man, and All around advocate of all things Tech. #hashtagmafia "

The second one (from @andysowards) is much, much better. It tells you not only what to expect from this user, but a little bit about him as well, you know he's a family man, not that that is going to make his tweets any better, it's just that little bit of personal information, that makes him human, as opposed the first one who for all you can tell from his bio, is a spam bot (he's not, but you wouldn't know that just from his bio).

After your bio, the next thing I will look at is your photo. If you haven't been bothered to up load a nice picture of yourself (or even a photo of a pot of Jam, as I had as my avatar initially) or if you just have this strange wonky owl avatar then I'll just assume you're a bot, or at least that you don't want people to follow you on Twitter. Yes there are security issues about having your photos on-line, but at the end of the day, Twitter is about telling people what you're doing, so you're hardly going to be able to do that with-out releasing some personal data into the internet - and you can

always find a funny image to add as your avatar if you're really worried about it.

Connected to this is the layout of your Twitter page, the background image you choose and the colour scheme you select. Of course you don't have to be a graphics wiz to use Twitter, and a lot of people stick to Twitters default images, which is fine. However if you do feel the need to change the background image, or the colours of Twitters elements, please remember that people other than you will be reading it. Pink text on a dark blue background may look cool to you but to everyone else it hurts their eyes, and is an instant turn off. Colour theory is outside the scope of this book but you can get an idea of what works and a good colour scheme via some good on-line colour scheme generators. For example http://www.colorschemer.com/online.html allows you to generate a scheme based on one colour of your choosing.

Posting rubbish

After the bio, the next thing I look at when deciding to follow someone or not is what they post. It is after all the whole point of Twitter. Now let me make this clear, I don't expect great literary prose in 140 characters. I do however look for someone who posts stuff I'm interested in.

In my humble opinion, one of the worst mistakes new users make is not posting anything. What would I follow you if you're not posting anything? It doesn't make sense. A mistake that is almost as bad is the user who thinks they must tell the world everything. Yes Twitter asks the question "What are you doing?", but you don't have to answer when you're on the loo!. A similar mistake to posting too much information is carrying on a conversation between via reply. Yes Twitter is about having a conversation, and yes it's simple to reply but remember not all of your followers will be following the person you're having a conversation with. Now if it's an extremely important conversation (important not to you and the other person, but important to your followers) they may, and only may, decide to follow the other party, but I wouldn't bet on it. What's more likely is that your users will feel like they are standing next to someone on a mobile phone, they can only hear half the conversation, and that's annoying. Of course that's not to say you shouldn't reply to someone, just don't hold a long conversation with them, unless you decide to do so via Direct Messaging, or if you know them well, just ring them up. Yes it is a difficult line to draw between posting too much and not enough, and really a lot of it comes down to what you think your followers want to know. Likewise, posting your own links to Twitter can be a juggling act. Too many and people will think you're a spammer (and you may well be regarded as one), too

little and you're losing a way to reach a large group of people who may well be interested in what you have to say/sell. My rule of thumb is, would I tweet it if I saw it on someone else's blog? Of course, since I'm tweeting about my own stuff, I'm more likely to think it's good, but still I'd only post it if I thought others would find it useful.

Not joining the community

That leads me nicely on mistake number 3, not being part of the community, Twitter is about a community, and if you're not part of it you stick out like a sore thumb. There two main tell-tale signs that a user isn't part of the Twitter community, firstly not re-tweeting and secondly not replying.

Twitter is about communication, communication in small 140 character size chunks. Communication, for the most part, with people you don't personal know, but communication none the less, by replying to people who post things you're either interested in, or disagree with, you are providing that all-important feedback. You're letting people know that firstly you've read what they posted, and secondly that you have a view on it. You may not agree with what they posted, but at least you've said your bit. Likewise, re-tweeting someone's post says "thank

you" - it says "I wish I had thought of that". It allows people to know their views are important.

If you follow someone who posts a lot of content but never appears to reply or re-tweet anyone you end-up asking yourself, do they ever read anything anyone else's posts? Maybe they do, but how would you ever know? Just as with anything else you can go too far the other way, replying to everyone, and retweeting everything, no matter how pointless. This falls under the same category as carrying on a conversation too long - it's just plain annoying.

Twitter Glossary

A

ab/abt:*shorthand for- about.*

adventuritter: *an adventurous twitterer.*

AMFYOYO: *adios MOFO you're on your own*

Auto-DM-Killer: *a destroyer of auto DM's -@auto_dm_ender*

B

B: *shorthand for be.*

b4: *shorthand for before.*

beetweet: *a buzzing tweet; a "hot" tweet.*

beertweet: *twitters drink beer together and talk about...twitter (and another stuff).*

b/c: *shorthand for because.*

BFN: *shorthand for bye for now.*

bgd: *shorthand for background.*

BigTweet: *a bookmarklet that helps you post to Twitter. -BigTweet*

BiggerTwitter: *a service similar to Twitzer which allows you to post longer messages, although works by placing a link in the Tweet. -BiggerTwiter*

Blackbird: *a Twitter client for BlackBerry smartphones. -Blackbird*

Blogo: *a weblog editor which is also a full-featured Twitter client integrated with Twitpic, tinyURL, tweetburner and Ping.fm. -Blogo*

BLT: *a perl script that lets you see what your friends are doing right from the terminal. -BLT*

BR: *best regards.*

BTW: *shorthand for by the way.*

C

Celebritytweet: *Stalk or follow celebrities on Twitter as they tweet in real-time. -Celebritytweet*

Check Yes or No: *create simple yes or no polls and use the 'send to twitter' feature to easily share with your twitter buddies. -Checkyesorno.info*

Chirrup: *Twitter client with extensive Japanese language support. -Chirrup*

chk: *shorthand for check.*

cld: *shorthand for chould.*

clk: *shorthand for click.*

co-twitterer: *a partner that tweets on your Twitter account.*

Cullect: *Collaborative feed reader optimized for Twitter; sign in with your Twitter id, post to twitter. Cullect also auto-expands shortened urls. -Cullect*

D

da: *shorthand for the*.

deets: *shorthand for details*.

detweet: *the tweet you wrote but erased, for whatever reasons, before it was posted*.

dweet: *tweet sent while intoxicated*.

drunktwittering: *similar to drunk dialing, just drunk posting on Twitter.*

drive-by-tweet: *a quick post inbetween tasks*.

DM: *shorthand for direct message.*

E

EM/eml: *shorthand for email.*

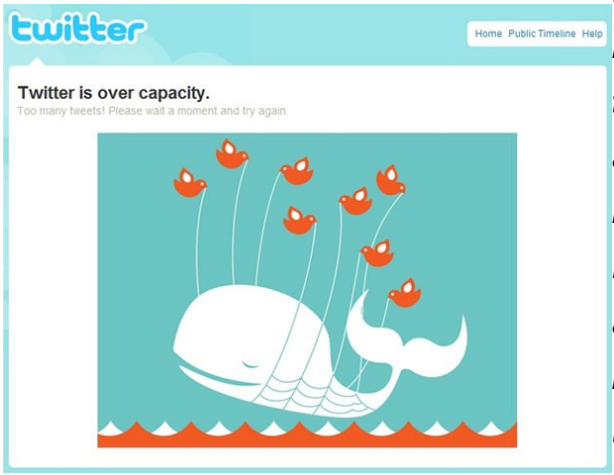
EMA: *shorthand for email address.*

F

F2F: *shorthand for face to face.*

fab: *shorthand for fabulous.*

fav/fave: *shorthand for favorite.*



Fail Whale: *while not technically a term, the fail whale is a drawing illustrated by Yiying Lu. The Fail Wail is displayed as a method of informing Twitter users that Twitter is d-o-w-n. There is even a Fail Whale Fan Club.*

Fake Whale: *when the twitter phishing site is down.*

Flock: *a social web browser- a way to access, create and share videos, photos, blogs, feeds and comments across social communities such as Twitter, media providers, and popular websites. -Flock*

FML: *shorthand for - For F**K My Life, also website that collects f'ed up stories about peoples lives- fmyLife.com.*

follow: *choosing to sign up to receive someone's tweets.*

followers: *the instruction to keep up with a user's flow of Twitter messages.*

foul owl: *when you have a follower with a suspended account that you visit (You get the big orange owl).*

friendapalooza: *a quick burst of friend-adding.*

FriendFeed: *puts all of our RSS content onto one page, making it easy to see from one glance (rather than going to different properties) and you can even reply from friendfeed to different tools. It's smarter to organize around people, rather than tools. - FriendFeed*

Friend Or Follow: *a way find out who you're following that's not following you back, and who's following you that you're not following back. -FriendorFollow*

friendscrapping: *the act of friending all of your friend's friends. "I found her by friendscraping."*

FTL: *shorthand for - For The Loss*

FTW: *shorthand for - For The Win (on occasion it can also mean f**k the world).*

fwd: *shorthand for forward.*

FYI: *shorthand for - For Your Information.*

G

Geotwitter: *tracks the geographical location of the most recent tweets. -Geotwitter*

get+username: *a command that retrieves the most recent updated Tweet from that user.*

GR8: *shorthand for great.*

gTwitter: *a linux tool, GTK+ based app inspired by twitterrific. - gTwitter*

H

hastags(#): *a way to track/group/filter content that is related. you create a hashtag simply by prefixing a word with a hash symbol: #hashtag*

Hastags: *provides real-time tracking of Twitter hashtags. -Hashtags*

h/t: *shorthand for hat tip.*

I

IC: *shorthand for I see.*

IM: *shorthand for instant message.*

IMHO: *shorthand for in my humble opinion.*

intwituation/intwituated: *being in a state of infatuation with someone on Twitter.*

IRL: *shorthand for in real life.*

iTweet: *Twitter better from your iPhone. -iTweet*

itz: *shorthand for it is.*

J

Jack Dorsey: *widely acknowledged as the inventor of Twitter*.

Jargong: *browse Flickr, do some social networking, but most importantly, check and publish tweets. -Jargong*

JK or j/k: *shorthand for just kidding*.

JSYK: *shorthand for just so you know*.

K

K: *shorthand for okay.*

kk: *shorthand for kewl kewl (cool cool).*

KipFolio Widget: *simple windows based Twitter widget for KipFolio.*

kyso: *shorthand for knock your socks off.*

L

L8: *shorthand for late.*

L8er: *shorthand for later.*

LMAO: *laughing my ass off.*

lmk: *shorthand for let me know.*

LOL: shorthand for *laughing out loud.*

Loudtwitter: automatically transfers your Tweets directly to your blog. -Loudtwitter

M

MadTwitter: *a Windows application that lets you read "twits" written by your friends and publish your own. -MadTwitter*

micro blogging: *a form of multimedia blogging that allows users to send brief text updates (Twitter allows 140 characters or fless) or micromedia and publish them, either to be viewed by anyone or by a restricted group which can be chosen by the user.*

mil: *shorthand for million.*

MILT: *shorthand for mom I'd like to tweet.*

mistweet: *a tweet in which one later regrets*.

Mr. Tweet: *a service that looks through your extended network to help you build effective relationships on Twitter. -Mr.Tweet*

N

neweeter: *a new tweeter*

njoy: *shorthand for enjoy.*

nudge+username: *a Twitter command used to remind a Friend to update their Twitter status*.

O

Obvious: *the company that created Twitter.* .

occasionitter: *an occasional tweeter*.

OH: *shorthand for overheard*.

OMG: *shorthand for oh my gosh/god*.

Overheard: *eavesdropping on Twitter. -Overheard.it*

P

peeps: *shorthand for people.*

plz: *shorthand for please.*

PocketTweets: *a Web-based Twitter client for the Apple iPhone. -PocketTweets*

politweeter: *a political tweeter*.

politweet: *a political tweet*.

ppl: *shorthand for people.*

props: *shorthand for proper respect.*

Pwytter: *a Cross platform Python Twitter client with Asian character support. -Pwytter*

Q

Qwitter: *a tool used to catch twitter quitters- UseQwitter*

R

R: *shorthand for are.*

reportwitters: *reporter style twitterers*.

retweet: *the re-posting of an interesting tweet from another twitterer*.

RetweetMe: *a new reminder/todo service for Twitterers.*
-RetweetMe

ROFL: *shorthand for rolling on floor laughing.*

RT: *shorthand for retweet.*

RU: *shorthand for are you.*

Ruby on Rails: *the programming language used to create and develop Twitter.*

S

speets: *spam + tweets*.

sweeple: *sweet twitter people*.

Saytweet: *create a Twitter badge that shows your updates on a picture!Upload a picture and then tag some Twitter users in that picture. voila − that's all it takes to make a dynamic mashup like the one above. give it a try, and then share the badge!*
-Saytweet

Search Plugin: *tweet right from the Firefox search box -Search Plugin*

Shareaholic: *share links and webpages via Twitter right within Firefox. -Shareaholic*

shld: *shorthand for should*

Snaptweet: *snapping a mobile photo, uploading to Flickr, and using SnapTweet to post it to your Twitter stream is what its about. -Snaptweet*

Spaz: *the open-source desktop Twitter client for Mac, Windows, and Linux. -Spaz*

T

Teletwitter: *experimental open source client. -Teletwitter*

thx: *shorthand for thanks.*

TIA: *shorthand for thanks in advance.*

TikiTwit: *match your iChat status to your last tweet using your mac. -TikiTwit*

TinyTwitter: *works with any Java enabled device (includes the BlackBerry) and any Windows Mobile Pocket PC or Smartphone. -TinyTwitter*

trabling: *traveling to meet other tweeters.*

TreoTwit: *easily check and update your Twitter right from your Treo. -TreoTwit*

ttyl: *shorthand for talk to you later.*

ttys: *shorthand for talk to you soon.*

Twa-

twadd: *to add/follow someone to your Twitter account as a friend.*

Twadget: *Simple gadget that lets you view and submit tweets right from Vista's Sidebar. -Twadget*

twaffic: *Twitter traffic.*

twaggle: *a gaggle of followers.*

Twaigslist: *to sell something via Twitter (also Twebay).*

twaiting: *twittering while waiting.*

twalking: *walking while twittering via text.*

twammers: *Twitter spammers.*

twanker: *wankers who tweet.*

twapplications: *Twitter applications.*

twardware: *Twitter hardware.*

twashdot: *news for twitterers. stuff that doesn't matter.*

twatrix: *the Twitter grid.*

twatters: *two tweeple who have extended tweet sessions w/each other. With apologies to Brittweeps*.

twaunt: *to taunt someone overTwitter.*

Twb-

TWTBL: *tweet back later.*

Twe-

twead: *to read a tweet from a fellow twitterer.*

tweaming: *dreaming about Twitter.*

tweavesdropping: *eavesdropping on Twitter conversations that don't involve you.*

twech: *Twitter tech.*

tweek: *a comment you add to a retweet before sending it.*

tweekend: *spending your entire Saturday and Sunday reading and posting via Twitter.*

tweeker: *someone who tweeks often (adds comments to retweets before sending them).*

tweenk: *thinking about random things and posting the thoughts on Twitter.*

tweepish: *feeling sheepish or regretful about something you tweeted.*

tweeple: *Twitter people, Twitter members, Twitter users.*

tweeps: *Twitter people that follow each other from one social media/network to another.*

Tweetag: *a way to browse the twittosphere through nested tagclouds. -Tweetag*

tweetaholism: *the continued use of Twitter as an addiction that is difficult to control.*

Tweetake: *a way to backup your tweets. -Tweetake*

Tweetahead: *a way to schedule tweets to be posted ahead of time with a simple Dashboard widget, for mac. -Tweetahead*

tweetaholic: *someone addicted to Twitter, so much so that it may be an actual problem.*

tweetard: *a Twitter re-tard.*

tweet-back : *bringing a previous tweet conversation or reference back into the current conversation.*

TweetBar: *a way to put Twitter on your Firefox sidebar -TweetBar*

TweetBeep: *alerts you when someone else is talking about you on Twitter! -TweetBeep*

TweetBomb: *a bombing of @'s. Just follow:-@tweetbomb*

Tweetburner: *a URL shortening service. -Tweetburner*

tweet-cred: *trying to impress a twitterer with more followers increases your "Tweet Cred".*

Tweetcrunch: *Twitter and micro blogging news. -TweetCrunch*

TweetCloud: *allows you to create a word cloud from a public Twitter users stream, or from any words of text you freely input. -TweetCloud*

TweetDeck: *an Adobe Air desktop application. A different kind of application. -TweetDeck*

tweet-dropping: *eavesdropping on someone else's home page in friends mode.*

Tweeter: *Java based client with customizable UI. -Tweeter*

tweeter: *a user of Twitter.*

tweeterboxes: *twitterers who tweet too much.*

tweeterities: *a"good" illness which manifests itself as an uncontrollable urge to tweet, accompanied by nightmares of getting banned by Twitter for "questionable activity".*

tweetfaced: *tweeting while drunk... err sh*t faced.*

tweetheart: *that special tweeter who makes your heart skip a beat.*

tweetin: *when a group of twitterers agree to get together at a set time to twitter.*

tweeting: *the act of posting to Twitter.*

TweetLater: *a service that allows you to schedule tweets, use it as a reminder system, send automated thank you notes to new followers, and automatically follow new followers, and more. -TweetLater*

tweetoker: *a stoner or pothead who tokes and tweets their favorite strain.*

Tweetr: *submit tweets, upload files, urltea built in, delete messages. -Tweetr*

tweets: *posts on Twitter by twitterers.*

Tweetscan: *search by term and username. -Tweetscan*

Tweetstats: *a way to graph your twitter stats. -Tweetstats*

Tweetstalk: *a simple way to stalk Twitter users without having to follow them. -Tweetstalk*

tweetsulted, tweetsult: *what do you think it means, you dumb twitterer?*

tweetup: *when twitterers meet in person- a Twitter meet up.*

Tweetwhatyoueat: *your daily food diary. setup your own Twitter food diary in moments. -Tweetwhatyoueat*

Tweetwhatyouspend: *cash tracking made simple through Twitter. -Tweetwhatyouspend*

Tweetwheel: *find out which of your Twitter friends know each other! -Tweetwheel*

twegosearching: *scanning Twitter Search for yourself/business to see who is talking about you in an attempt to boost one's ego... has the potential to backfire as well as you might lose your twego. (a favorite Mashable pastime)*

twego: *Twitter ego.*

Twellow: *a way to help you finding people who are simialr to you, your interests, or your business. -Twellow*

twemment: *Twitter comment.*

tweory: *Twitter + Theory. -TWEORY.*

twerminology: *Twitter terminology.*

Twerpscan: *check the number of followers of everyone on your contact list, the number of people they are following, and the ratio between those. If the person is following more than (n) people (can be customised), and has a followers-to-following ratio higher than 1:(m) (can be customised), you'll be notified by a link. -Twerpscan*

Twessenger: *updates Live Messenger status to reflect latest tweet. -Twessenger*

twexplanation: *sending a nebulous tweet and having to explain it while offline from twitter.*

twezhead: *a Twitter pezhead. more specifically a devotted pez collector who tweets about all things Pez!*

Twh-

twhepherd: *the Twitter employee that finds and restores lost followers to your twaggle.*

twhiner: *a twitterer who only ever posts whiney, negative tweets.*

Twhirl: *a twitter desktop client powered by Adobe AIR. -Twhirl*

twhore: *somebody who does everything to get attention on Twitter.*

Twi-

Twictionary: *A Twitter Dictionary Wiki- Twictionary*

twideo-cronicity: *when you're watching someone's videos and they are simultaneously leaving a comment or tweet for/at/about you.*

Twidget: *a free Dashboard Widget for OS X that allows you to update your Twitter status. -Twidget*

Twiddict: *whenTwitter is down you can post tweets here- great for twitteraholics.- Twiddict*

twidentity theft: *when spammers use a legit account name & avatar with a "_" at the end then follow same followers*.

twi-five: *giving someone a high five via Twitter.*

twilence: *a state of silence in Twitterville.*

twiking: *biking while twittering via text.*

Twim: *small simplistic twitter interface client. - Twim*

twimidated: *when you are to intimidated to tweet because you envy others tweet streams. This is a disease that turns tweeples into lurkers.*

Twinja: *AIR based client which allows you to follow users on the fly. -Twinja*

Twinfluence: *a simple tool using the Twitter API to to measure the combined influence of twitterers and their followers, with a few social network statistics thrown in as bonus. -Twinfluence*

twinkedIn: *inviting friends made on Twitter to connect with you on LinkedIn.*

Twinkle: *contact old friends and make new ones, all with Twinkle, the location-aware network for the iPhone and iPod Touch. -Twinkle*

twino: *meaning one who is part of a legion of wine drinkers that tweet out their thoughts about wine and wine tasting notes via Twitter.*

Twippera: *Twitter widget for Opera that can send and view tweets. -Twippera*

twirlfriend: *a Twitter girlfriend.*

twirting: *flirting via the Twitter platform.*

twirror: *two twitterers updating basically the same thing that they are doing together.*

twis: *to dis a fellow twitterer. very bad form.*

twist: *see trends in twitter.*

twisticuffs: *fighting with a fellow twitterer over twitter.*

Twistory: *your Twitter history. you can add your Twitter backlog feed to your favorite calendar application and view your Twitter Diary. -Twistory.*

twit-AD: *Twitter advertising network. -twit-AD*

Twitbacks: *Twitter backgrounds. -Twitbacks*

Twitbin: *Twitter sidebar for firefox. Get twitter messages from anywhere. -Twitbin*

TwitBox: d*esktop client. view and submit tweets, see replies and direct messages, delete your own tweets, and multiple account support. -Twitbox*

twitch: *when you accidentally hit the enter key before you are done typing your tweet.*

TwitDir: *a Twitter directory. -TwitDir*

Twit.el: *another utility that allows publishing of tweets within Emacs. -Twit.el*

Twit4Life: *set status message as latest tweet, send tweets from within Live Messenger, and send tweets to contacts. . -Twit4life*

Twitgit: *read your friend's tweets and submit your own, right in dashboard (for mac). -Twitgit*

Twitkit: *TwitKit is a Twitter sidebar for Firefox. TwitKit has a 6-section interface, using tabs to separate content. -Twitkit*

Twitlive: *interact with the live shows on Twitlive. the official TWiT Live Twitter. -Twitlive*

twitophant/twitophantic: *one who repeatedly tweets the Top 100 in an attempt to gain more followers.*

twitosphere: *community of twitterers.*

twitoverse: *the community of twepple.*

Twitpic: *a way to share photos on twitter. -Twitpic*

Twitsaver: *a Windows screensaver that lets you see what photos people are uploading on Twitter. -Twitsaver*

Twitstamp: *allows you to create badges to display your most recent Twitter statuses on your blog or website. -Twitstamp*

Twitstat: *real time Twitter analytics. -Twitstat*

twittastic: *fantastic, wonderful, superb.*

twittcrastination: *avoiding action while twittering, procrastination enabled by Twitter use.*

twittduit: *If you need to tweet a friend that does not follow you, post a twittduit asking your followers to pass a message.*

twittectomy: *an unfollowing of friends.*

Twitter: *a social networking and microblogging service. Twitter.com*

Twitter Counter: *a daily updating Twitter counter you can add to your blog so everybody can see how popular you are. -TwitterCounter*

Twitter Grader: *measures the power of your Twitter profile. -Twitter Grader*

Twitter Search: *find out whats happening right now on Twitter. -Twitter Search*

twitter keys: *character keys for Twitter. -Twitter Keys*

twitter light zone: *where you are when you return to Twitter after any time away and feel disoriented and lost.*

TwitterLocal: *tool for finding and filtering out public tweets within a certain geographical area. -TwitterLocal*

Twitter Mail: *your own Twitter email address, ex: @twittermail.com -Twittermail*

twitter stream: *a collection of tweets often times in alphabetical order.*

twitteracy: *Twitter literacy, or knowledge of all things Twitter.*

twitterage: *rage at a twitter post.*

twitterati: *the A-list twitterers.*

twitterazzi: *twitter-paparazzi.*

twitterbole: *figure of speech by which an inane action is made to appear as interesting or enigmatic. -Cartoon*

twittercal mass: *a community that has achieved a critical mass of twitterers.*

twitterer: *a user of Twitter (similar to tweeter).*

twitterfly: *being a social butterfly on Twitter evidenced by extreme usage of @ signs.*

Twitterholic: *twittastic robots scan the Twitter public timeline for new users to watch. -Twitterholic*

twitterholics: *a Twitter addict.*

Twitterhood: *a daily fun quiz with points and prizes, quiz-mastered by @linnetwoods.*

twittering: *to send a Twitter message.*

twitterish: *erractic behavior with short outbursts.*

twitteritas: *women who play with their twitters.*

twitterject: *interject your tweet into an existing tweet stream of conversation.*

twitter-ku: *those who either post on both Twitter and Jaiku or load their Twitter feed into Jaiku.*

twitterlicious: *something on Twitter that is very cool.*

twitterlinkr: *a service collecting the best links posted trough Twitter.*

twitterlooing: *twittering from a bathroom.*

twitterloop: *to be caught up with friend tweets and up on the conversation.*

twittermaps: *a mashup technology that lets Twitter users find each other using google maps.*

twittermob: *an unruly and ragtag horde of people who descend on an ill-prepared location after a provocative Twitter message.*

twitterness: *a person's contribution to the twitosphere.*

twitterpated: *to be overwhelmed with Twitter messages.*

twitterphoria: *the elation you feel when the person you've added as a friend adds you back.*

twitterology: *the art and science of using Twitter effectively*.

Twitteroo: *an application that lets you send Twitter tweets from your PC.- Twitteroo*

twitterrhea: *the act of sending too many Twitter messages.*

Twitterrific: *an application that lets you both read and publish posts or "tweets" to the Twitter community website on mac/pc. - Twitterrific*

twitterspeak: *talking about the language of Twitter.*

twittertories: *clusters of twittererers that follow and friend each other with little overlap with other clusters.*

twittertude: *bad Twitter attitude. tr a state of being, like solitude only with other people present.*

twitterzine: *a magazine published through Twitter.*

twittfeinated, twigged out, twired: *to be so hyped up on twittering that you cannot sleep.*

twittfessional: *a confession made on Twitter.*

twitticisms: *witty tweets.*

twittilate: *to arouse with tweets.*

twittish: *too skittish to twitter.*

Twittonary: a *dictionary of twitter terminology.-Twittonary*

twittorial: *twitter tutorial.*

twittsomnia: *twittering due to inability to sleep, thus compounding inability to sleep.*

Twitt(url)y: a *service for tracking what URLs people are talking about as they talk about them on twitter. -Twitturly*

twittworking: *networking with twitterites using Twitter.*

twixt and tween: *can't decide who or what to tweet.*

Two-

twocal: *local Twitter user.*

twob: *a Twitter snob. One who has so many followers, he/she cannot be bothered to talk to you.*

twoet/twoem/twoetry : *a poet, poem, or poetry on Twitter.*

twofor: *replying to two unrelated twitter messages with a single tweet.*

twondle: *Twitter fondling*.

Twonvert: *easily convert your tweets into SMS shorthand language that allows you to say more with less characters.* -*Twonvert*.

twoogle: *Twitter as the human Google.*

twootball: *football discussion over Twitter.*

tword: *words formed by appending "Tw" to the original word.*

twoops: *when you accidentally send a private message through your public Twitter stream.*

twoosh: *a full 140 character twitter.*

twopsies: *when you drop things because you are twittering.*

twopular: *Twitter popular.*

tworgasm/ing: *a Twitter orgasm, being very excited on Twitter.*

Twoxit: *allows people to embed a twitter update form onto their website for visitors to use. free. -Twoxit*

Twr-

twriller: *scary, spooky, exciting.*

Twu-

twuck it: *f**k it in Twitter terms.*

Twuffer: *allows the Twitter user to compose a list of future tweets, and schedule their release. -Twuffer*

twurvey: *a survey sent out over Twitter.*

twutty: *going nutty overTwitter... happens a lot when Fail Whale shows itself too much.*

Twy-

twype: *to type a tweet.*

W

w or w/: *shorthand for with.*

w/e: *shorthand for weekend.*

wazzup/whaddup: *shorthand/slang for whats up.*

w00t: *an expression of joy and excitement.*

Whats Up: *gadget that allows you to see latest tweets from your friends. -Whats Up*

WidSets: *extensve Twitter app for mobile phones. support more than 300 phones . -Widsets*

whoot: *Another word for yay.*

wld: *shorthand for would.*

woz: *shorthand/slang for was.*

wtf: *shorthand for what the f**k.*

wth: *shorthand for what the heck.*

Y

ykyat: *shorthand for you know your addicted to.*

#ykyat: *is a little service we put together for fun to aggregate all those randomly amusing nuggets of goodness posted to twitter each and every day -ykyat.*

Z

ztwitt: *tweet very quickly*

Thanks to http://www.twittonary.com/ for compiling the above list.