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Subject: Re: Move Newsgroup to Facebook  
Posted by [T.H.](#) on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 22:24:28 GMT  
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On Jan 9, 4:03 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> At a programmer's meeting yesterday I learned that Usenet  
> newsgroups are "completely passe, 1970's technology".  
> Naturally, I was totally chagrined to learn that I was,  
> once again, the last one to know this. :-(  
>  
> Anyway, it offers a possible explanation for why the  
> holdouts here think the old IDL was a hell of a lot better  
> than the new IDL.  
>  
> Do you suppose we could breath new life into the ol'  
> lady if we moved her over to Facebook?  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Since Facebook is "social" networking site, I'd suggest that there could be many employers out there which block access to it. This would keep people have getting access to the great discussions that occur here.

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Subject: Re: Move Newsgroup to Facebook  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Sat, 10 Jan 2009 03:21:26 GMT  
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Oh, but a move to facebook would certainly revitalize IDL Usenet and IDL as a whole. This would lead to the popularizing of IDL in the world. Think of the IDLphone, the Chevy ENVI, and best of all IDL Vista. People would wear IDL t-shirts around town and instead of the constant shunning that normally occurs those people people be revered in the community. Normal people would be saying things like "dude, did you see that latest post on facebook from IDL? That guy is awesome" replies would be "oh wow, IDL is your facebook friend, he just ignored me, you are totally leet". People would start to understand what leet means and the meaning of these jokes:

Yo mama's so fat she looks like an IDL program with a FOR loop!  
Yo mama's so fat a snapshot of her has to be displayed in XVOLUME.  
Yo mama's so fat dividing the number of Julian seconds this year by  
her weight caused a floating underflow error!  
Yo mama's so fat you have to use 64-bit integers to subscript her  
image!  
Yo mama's so fat her shape can be modelled with the DIST function.

While this may sound like a Utopian vision to some it sounds like a  
nightmare to me...

Smile,

Brian

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Brian Larsen  
Boston University  
Center for Space Physics  
<http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL>

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Subject: Re: Move Newsgroup to Facebook  
Posted by [Mort Canty](#) on Sat, 10 Jan 2009 11:28:14 GMT  
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David Fanning schrieb:

> Do you suppose we could breath new life into the ol'  
> lady if we moved her over to Facebook?  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

Why don't we all chip in to pay for a good troll?

Mort

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Subject: Re: Move Newsgroup to Facebook  
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Sat, 10 Jan 2009 13:47:47 GMT  
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In article <MPG.23d169839f6f88d398a5be@news.giganews.com>,  
David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> At a programmer's meeting yesterday I learned that Usenet  
> newsgroups are "completely passe, 1970's technology".

Maybe we should just all Twitter each other. Then we can keep  
up to date on everyone's programming on a line-by-line basis. :-)

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: Move Newsgroup to Facebook  
Posted by [Robbie](#) on Mon, 12 Jan 2009 02:13:47 GMT  
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Perhaps a usenet plug-in for eclipse. That would be certain to stop  
anyone from reporting fatal workbench issues.

Robbie

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Subject: Re: Move Newsgroup to Facebook  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Mon, 12 Jan 2009 08:34:16 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Jan 9, 10:03 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Do you suppose we could breath new life into the ol'  
> lady if we moved her over to Facebook?

Wrong posting date, should have been April 1st. But I guess David's  
connection would choke on that number of posts on a single day ;-)

Maarten

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Subject: Re: Move Newsgroup to Facebook  
Posted by [Mike\[2\]](#) on Tue, 13 Jan 2009 15:41:38 GMT  
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On Jan 9, 10:21 pm, Brian Larsen <balar...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Oh, but a move to facebook would certainly revitalize IDL Usenet and  
> IDL as a whole. This would lead to the popularizing of IDL in the  
> world. Think of the IDLphone, the Chevy ENVI, and best of all IDL  
> Vista. People would wear IDL t-shirts around town and instead of the  
> constant shunning that normally occurs those people people be revered

> in the community.

Hmmmmm, maybe this shunning is the reason that David's site has been banned in China...

As for facebook, IDL 7.0 is already five better than web 2.0, making facebook and its ilk look like archaic relics from the early part of the 21st century. Perhaps all we need to do to get web 2.0 back up to the mainstream is extend Zawinski's Law [1] by adding a twitter api to IDL? Certainly IDL 7.0 + web 2.0 + facebook + twitter will go all the way to 11.

On a (barely) related note, I saw a post on the risks digest (which is an actual email digest - but it's ok, I read it via an RSS feed so I'm not hopelessly 80s) about how numeric keypad text-ing software tends to replace "cool" with "book". (Numerically both are 2665 and book is a more commonly used word than cool). So now "book" means "cool" in some circles. If IDL were mainstream, we'd have to learn to deal even more people who open, doors and print, papers.

Mike

Every program attempts to expand until it can read mail. Those programs which cannot so expand are replaced by ones which can.

—Jamie Zawinski, <http://www.catb.org/~esr/jargon/html/Z/Zawinskis-Law.html>

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