

Twitter

<http://www.Twitter.com>

Twitter is the free service that lets users micro-blog 140 characters at a time that has accumulated around 1.9 million users as of December 2008.

Here are some Twitter tips for Beginners:

+ Choosing a name

To set up your Twitter account, go to <http://www.Twitter.com>. You will be prompted to choose a user name. Choose wisely, it is how people will find you.

+ Search for Friends

Search.Twitter.com is where you can search for friends, celebrities, or organizations.

+ Shrink your url's

The most common use of Twitter is sharing links, but you have a limited number of characters. Use services such as <http://www.tinyurl.com>

+ Retweet (RT)

If you share someone else's tweet, it is acceptable as long as you give the original tweeter credit. Use "RT@name" in front of the tweet and post it yourself

+ Direct Messaging (DM)

A direct message or private message can be sent through Twitter. You can only DM people that are following you. Some people like to send a DM when someone new is following them.

+ Categorize Your Tweets for Added Visibility

If you are "Tweeting" about a popular subject, putting a # in front of the subject makes it easy for others to find your tweet.

+ Share Pictures

Services like [TwitPic](http://www.TwitPic.com) let users easily upload their photos and post them directly to Twitter.

+ Tweet from your Phone

Twitter allows you to update your status and receive updates via text messages. You can also download to your iphone or blackberry the application.

Visit <http://www.lachapelle.com> for more articles on Twitter and other social networking topics.