

DML Commons Online Identity Q&A

WHO ARE YOU?
digital identity
WHO YOU ARE.

[A DML Commons Live Discussion](#) (Apr 15, 2015)

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[Q. How much time do you invest in this space? What is the importance/value/payoff for devoting this time?](#)

[Q. Do you find yourself justifying this to family, colleagues? How do you explain this giving to people you may never meet?](#)

[Q. How does this identity differ or similar to how you see yourself? Is it true that "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog" ? \(Bill Smith\)](#)

[Q: How are you making it easy for those who may want to learn with/from you to "find" you? \(Lisa Noble\)](#)

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[Q: What if anything do you do to monitor the impact of yourself in this space \(metrics, tracking, noting followers\)? Does this have an affect on the way you communicate?](#)

[Q: Have you met people in person that you first knew online? \(do not name names!\) Have you found incongruities with people's in person versus online personalities?](#)

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[Q: What are the Pros/cons of separation identity \(accounts\) for personal/professional use? \(Ken Bauer\)](#)

Q: What extent do we even need to make a distinction between physical/virtual ID? Which to we "edit" more? (Amy Burvall)

Q: What is the "body language" of the Web? What kind of paralinguistics are part of our digital presence? (Amy Burvall)

Q: What role do affinity spaces / filter bubbles, etc. play in contributing to our identity? (Amy Burvall)

Q: The extent to which performance and simulation- the adoption of alternative identities - can lead to experiential learning? (Amy Burvall)

Q: Thoughts on post-mortem digital presence? (Amy Burvall)

Q. How much time do you invest in this space? What is the importance/value/payoff for devoting this time?

@bali_maha i integrated social media into my daily life. 3 hour commute (1.5 hours each way) to work; checking feeds occasionally and almost all my time at night after my child sleeps. It gives me 24/7 support and learning whenever i need it and 24/7 space to jot down ideas and get feedback. The payoff is tremendous - deep meaningful relationships, awesome collaborative projects like research or fun things, and perpetual opportunities for further learning.

Q. Do you find yourself justifying this to family, colleagues? How do you explain this giving to people you may never meet?

In the hangout @googleguacamole said how she explained it to her kids that she was talking with people from all over the world

Q. How does this identity differ or similar to how you see yourself? Is it true that "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog" ? (Bill Smith)

@cogdog Actually no knows I am not a dog. I really think what is projected online is very much a mirror of who I am, the voice in my head I know well. I've had people actually say I am nicer in person (not sure what they are implying). But just the day before this hangout, I was in a Skype call with my friend/colleague Bryan Alexander, and he started out of the blue telling me the differences between how he sees me online and what he knows from our time together (he has visited and stayed at my house once, and I have been 3 times to his house). I asked him if I could record it -- here is the conversation we have about identity and more so, personality <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-FbSzgWFFs>

Q: How are you making it easy for those who may want to learn with/from you to "find" you? (Lisa Noble)

Q: What have been unexpected outcomes of being active with this identity?

Q: What if anything do you do to monitor the impact of yourself in this space (metrics, tracking, noting followers)? Does this have an affect on the way you communicate?

Q: Have you met people in person that you first knew online? (do not name names!) Have you found incongruities with people's in person versus online personalities?

@catherinecronin This happens to me all the time! I often say that I never threw my arms around someone upon first meeting them, as a friend, until Twitter. I've developed rich relationships with many, many people on Twitter over the years, and it has been a joy to meet some of them in person. I describe the process of getting to know someone on Twitter as building up a "pointillist" picture. Each tweet (that I see) is a dot. Over time, those dots build to create a portrait... meaning I can get to know someone very well: their personality, sense of humour, values, etc.

Q: Have you experienced negative consequences of your online activity?

Q: What are the Pros/cons of separation identity (accounts) for personal/professional use? (Ken Bauer)

@bali_maha i don't separate them. I do use Facebook more personally (except for groups) and twitter more professionally, which means i am comfortable using Twitter with my students. I can see the usefulness of separation of accounts, though, to clarify what each account is for. However, if you have two twitter accounts they are both publicly viewable so the main pro would be just that one is filtered differently than the other.

@cogdog I hesitate to prescribe which is “better” -- it is a choice we get to take and should think of it as an evolving movement on a spectrum. I frankly find the distinction blurry, but my context is different from many others. I am one person, not 2; I go about in the world as 1 person, but project myself slightly different in professional versus personal contexts. I prefer to find way to do the same online w/o creating multiple personalities. This was something I tried to explore in “We, Our Digital Selves, and Us” <http://cogdog.wikispaces.com/flatclassroom2012>

@catherinecronin Sorry I missed this hangout (was traveling), so I’m glad to be able to join the conversation here. Like @cogdog, I think it’s hard to say which is better -- it depends on the person and the context. However, I do use one Twitter account for me (all aspects of me!), and another Twitter account for an undergraduate module @CT231 (though someone else is teaching that module this year). We used Twitter in this module and I asked students to follow @CT231, and @CT231 followed them back. DM’s to/from this account became the predominant form of messaging between me and my students for small questions (replacing email). Students can, of course, follow me @catherinecronin -- but they don’t have to. I can be noisy, about lots of different topics, on Twitter ;) ... and like to give students a more focused option.

Q: What extent do we even need to make a distinction between physical/virtual ID? Which to we "edit" more? (Amy Burvall)

@bali_maha i actually try as much as possible to have all aspects of my identity present both online and f2f. In some ways my online identity is more complete because I can bring my parenting self and teacher self and researcher self all at once ; whereas f2f sometimes i need to separate them

Q: What is the "body language" of the Web? What kind of paralinguistics are part of our digital presence? (Amy Burvall)

@googleguacamole I could see someone answering this question in terms of emoticons and gifs and that’s a great way to approach it, but recently I’ve been focusing on how I (and others) use “hints” about my (their) physical environment to convey context. Time of day...things like “just got done with class”...morning coffee...anything about physical location or presence of other people in the room...these things act almost as annotations in that they tell me how to situate your comments, and help me imagine you as you are writing. I think a lot of us drop this sort of thing into a tweet without even thinking about it, and they have nothing to do with the content of the tweet, but they definitely set tone. They also help me understand inconsistencies - you might say the same thing in two tweets and mean completely opposite things, but one was said on a Saturday morning and the other on a Monday night. Offering me insights like that into your context help me understand your digital presence in a reassuring, “natural” way that I don’t

think emoticons will ever achieve.

Q: What role do affinity spaces / filter bubbles, etc. play in contributing to our identity? (Amy Burvall)

Q: The extent to which performance and simulation- the adoption of alternative identities - can lead to experiential learning? (Amy Burvall)

Q: Thoughts on post-mortem digital presence? (Amy Burvall)

@bali_maha: Amy, this question has been driving me nuts ever since you posted it. I had not thought about it before but my ego wants my blog to live on without me and I realized that I have to renew my domain every year. Now I'm (probably unnecessarily, but you never know when you're going to die) worried.

@catherinecronin Great article on this in today's Irish Times by @marievonboran:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/facebook-and-gmail-what-happens-to-data-after-your-death-1.2177011>