

Motime: Create Your Own Blog

Below: Create a Blog, Set up a Description, Add Links, To Change a Template, User Manual, Note on MAC.

Create a Blog

1) Log in and go to your main Motime Home page:

- Click on the "new blog" button in the blue blog header on the left.
- Choose your blog title (that will appear at the top of your page).
- Choose the URL (which is the standard Internet address of your blog).
- Write a brief one line description of your blog (which will also appear as a subtitle on your blog).
- Set who can view it the blog.
- Set whether your updates will be posted on the main Motime page.
- Then click the "create" button.

2) Choose a basic template:

- Click on the "Example (enlarge)" link to get a pop-up for a closer look at the thumbnail.
- Close the pop-up when you have finished examining it.
- Click the "Click to choose" button next to the template you want.

Note: The "template" really just means the ready-made graphic layout for your weblog. Don't worry about locking yourself in to any one look. You can change your template whenever you want to and you will not lose any of your posts or archives. (see below)

Note: Once your blog is created it should show up on your main motime Home page under the "blog name" list on the left.

3) Enable post titles:

- Choose the main "Blogs" tab across the top.
- Select Settings.
- Select Format.
- Go down and click "yes" under "enable post titles."
- Click the "save changes" button at the bottom.
- Go back to the publishing page by clicking the "post" link on the far right.
- The title dialog box should appear above the writing dialog box.

Set up Description:

If you want to write a brief description of the blog that will appear in the upper left of your main blog page;

- Click on "Account" in the main/top Tab row, far right.
- Click on the "profile" link.
- You can type in a description to appear on your main blog page. If you have some web space already set up, you can add in an image url.
- Click the "save changes" button when you are done.

Add Links:

If you want to add links to other blogs or web sites to the side bar of your blog;

- Click on "Account" in the main/top Tab row, far right.
- Click on the main "Blogs" tab.
- Select Links.
- Select Add.
- Write the name of link as you wish it to appear on your blog in your link menu. (This is the text that people will read and click on.)
- Type in the web address of the site or blog that you want to link to in the second dialog box.
- Type in the text that you see when you place your mouse pointer over the link (it is usually a further description of the link) in the third dialog box.
- Click on the "Add" button. (Your links will appear immediately on your blog in alphabetical order.)

Note: You can modify your links whenever you feel the need. Click on the main "Blog" tab, select Links and then List. Choosing *edit* allows you change any part of your link. Clicking the hide checkbox will preserve the link in your database, but will remove it from the link menu. *Delete* does just what you'd expect—it eliminates the selected link. When you have finished working with your links, click on the *Save changes*.

To Change Template:

If you want to change your blog template:

- Click on the main "Blogs" tab.
- Select Templates.
- Select Browse.
- Click on the "Example (enlarge)" link to get a pop-up for a closer look at the thumbnail.
- Close the pop-up when you have finished examining it.
- Click the "Click to choose" button next to the template you want.

Note: You do have full access to the source code of your template and can customize it. The template uses html, CSS, and Blogcode. If you understand these basics, you can go into the template and hack around by selecting the "Edit" tab under Template. See links for html and CSS info on the links page in the syllabus.

User's Manual:

Check out the motime user's manual for more info on working with the interface and templates:
<http://www.motime.com/book/view/1476>

A Note for MAC/Linux Users:

Often times the full "What You See Is What You Get" text editor (which automatically converts your formatted text into html code for your template) does not come up in Mozilla or Netscape. But Motime now has a fix for this for Mozilla 1.4, with OSX. (To download this free browser go here: <http://www.mozilla.org/releases/old-releases-1.1-1.4rc3.html>)

In order to get the full functionality of the Motime interface, you must go to this URL http://vietdev.sourceforge.net/vinamozie/mo_installer.php and download a small plug-in named Composite. Important note: it will install properly only if you go to this address using the Mozilla browser that you just downloaded.

Choose the link "Mozilla v. 1.3" and the installation will take place automatically. Restart the browser, go to the motime control panel, put your cursor in the text area and press the key combination "Command (apple)-E". This makes the text editor pop up. After formatting the text the way you want, find the "Apply" menu on the topmost part of your computer screen. Choose "Apply" from that menu and your html-formatted text appears. Click "Publish Post."