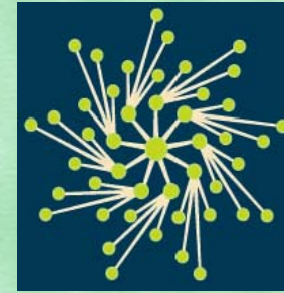




# The Internet: What you're doing and what we're doing

Presentation by the  
Bahá'í Internet Agency

# Bahá'í Internet Agency



- We support the International Teaching Centre with its Internet related work.
- Today's goal: Helping you to bring a Bahá'í perspective to the Internet.

"The presentation of the Faith on the Internet, and through other media will undoubtedly prove an important area of experience and learning in advancing the process of entry by troops..."

International Teaching Centre, 12 July 2006



# The Internet in Context

“A mechanism of world inter-communication will be devised, embracing the whole planet, freed from national hindrances and restrictions, and functioning with marvelous swiftness and perfect regularity.”

Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, Selected Letters, pp. 202-03

“The powers released by Bahá'u'lláh match the needs of the times.”

From the Message of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World, Ridván 1983

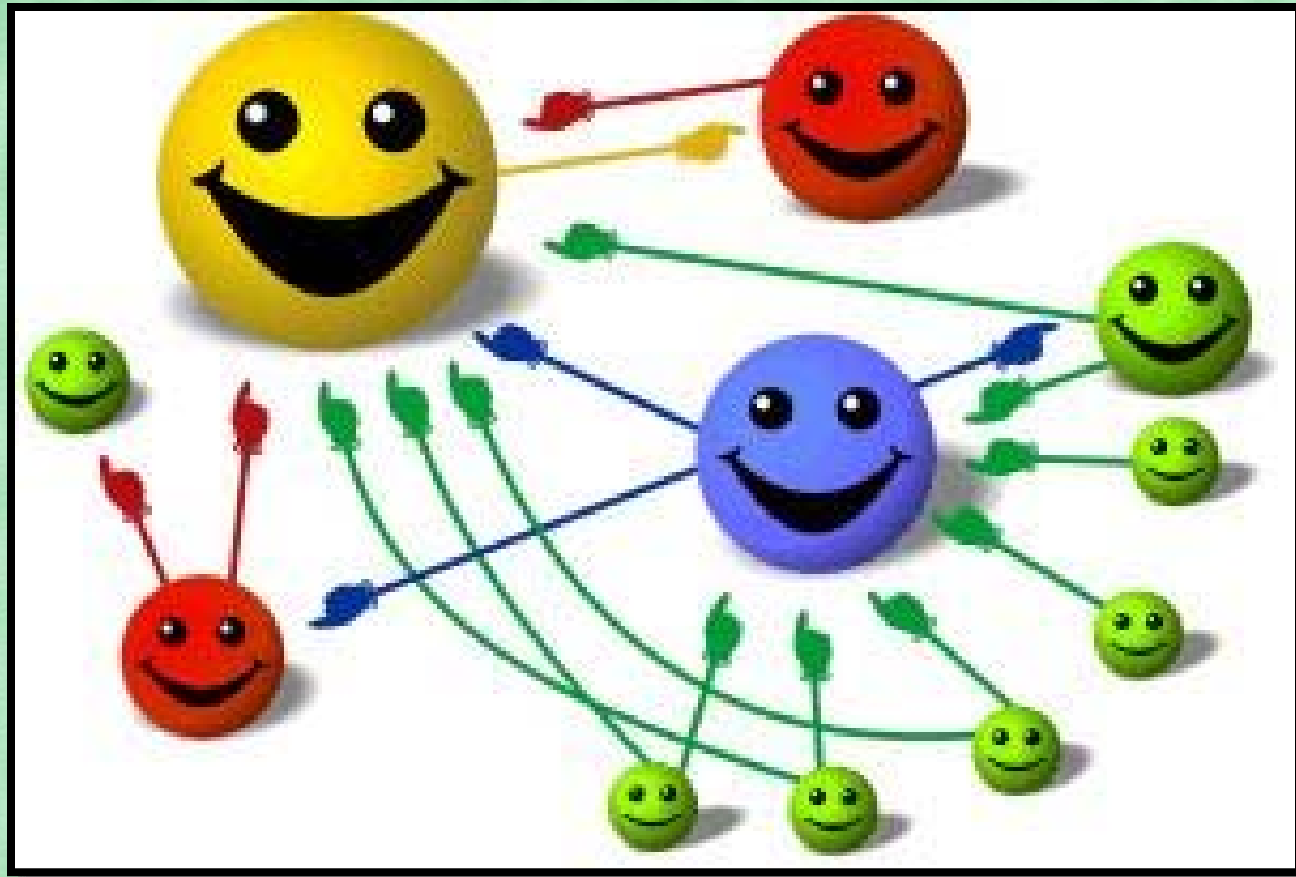


**You are here**

Each color represents a region;  
North America, blue;  
Europe/Middle East/Central  
Asia/Africa, green; Latin  
America, yellow; Asia Pacific,  
red; Unknown, white. (Image:  
Opte.org)



# Reaching Out for Community





# How to Build Your Community



# The Faith as Guidebook

- If a building can be based on Bahá'í principles, just think how the principles can be used for the design of web sites, blogs, podcasts, etc.
- You're dealing with real people. Apply Bahá'í principles accordingly.
- Perfection is impossible. Sincerity of purpose almost always comes through and people are forgiving of mistakes made by people with good motives.

# Possible Activities

- Youth Year of Service experience
- College/high school club
- Service project for a Bahá'í community that wants a blog but does not have the technical ability
- Mentoring of younger youth
- Youth magazines/podcasts
- Support study courses



# Specific Ways You Can Help

- The BCCA has a design competition for the best new logo for the BCCA.
- The Bahá'í Internet Agency is looking for all types of volunteers.
- Write for One Magazine ([one-magazine.com](http://one-magazine.com))
- Volunteer to help the BCCA Conference the first weekend of May, 2007.
- The Bahá'í World Centre has a number of positions open that work with the Internet.

# Finding Help

- Encouraging Bahá'í Participation on the Internet
- Guidance for Blogging
- Search Engine Optimization Basics
- Guidance for Online Behavior

## Encouraging Bahá'í Participation via the Internet The Bahá'í Internet Agency Fall, 2006

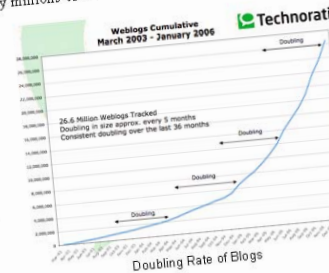
### Introduction

The powers released by Bahá'u'lláh match the needs of the times. We may therefore be utterly confident that the new throb of energy now vibrating throughout the Cause will empower it to meet the oncoming challenges of assisting, as maturity and resources allow, the development of the social and economic life of peoples, of collaborating with the forces leading towards the establishment of order in the world, of influencing the exploitation and constructive uses of modern technology, and in all these ways enhancing the prestige and progress of the Faith and uplifting the conditions of the generality of mankind.<sup>1</sup>

The Internet is truly one of this age's most revolutionary and transformative technological developments. New terms, such as wikis, RSS, podcasting, blogs, FOAF, VoIP, and folksonomies,<sup>2</sup> while virtually unknown to the general public are terms that in fact represent the activities of many millions of Internet users. The Bahá'í Internet Agency believes that these new forms of communication technology represent major social trends that the Bahá'í community can take advantage of.

However, to take advantage of these new trends, it is important to understand these new communications technologies and how they can provide new avenues for furthering the interests of the Faith.

Bahá'u'lláh makes it clear that while the old world order disintegrates around us, there is simultaneously the creation of new structures and tools that are required for the new world order. The Internet appears to



<sup>1</sup> From the Message of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World, Ridván 1983  
<sup>2</sup> Wikis are a form of publicly editable web site; RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a communications protocol being used by blogs and podcasts; blogs are online journals; FOAF (Friend Of A Friend) describes social networks such as Friendster; VoIP (Voice over IP) is the use of the Internet for telephone service; and, folksonomies (or social tags) are systems by which the author and/or users classify content based on keywords.



# What You're Doing

Online Survey:  
[www.bahai.org/bia/youth.htm](http://www.bahai.org/bia/youth.htm)

**Bahá'í Youth Internet Use Survey**

Your Gender:  Your Age:

Did you attend the Internet workshop?  Yes  No

Which is your preferred form of communication?

Cell Phone (voice)  
 Cell Phone SMS messaging  
 Instant Messaging  
 Email

How many hours do you spend on the Internet each week?

How many times per week do you visit Baha'i web sites, blogs, discussion forums?

Your home connect to the Internet?

Rate your Internet skill level:

---

Mark all that apply to you.

- Read blogs
- Have your own blog
- Have your own web site
- Listen to podcasts
- Visit MySpace sites
- Have a MySpace site
- Visit Facebook
- Have a Facebook home page
- Visit discussion forums
- Visit Baha'i discussion forums
- Visit chat rooms
- Use iPod/MP3 player
- Download Baha'i music
- Use RSS Readers
- Use YouTube
- Have a video on YouTube

---

**The Baha'i Internet service you would most like to see:**

**Volunteering Opportunities:**  
If you are interested in volunteering for some project, please put your email address below and provide some information about your interests and skills in the Other comments window. Otherwise, leave this field blank.

**Comments**