Title of Session: Mapwing: Creating Virtual Tours with Photos, Maps, and Comments
Moderator: Andrew Hagenbuch
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BJB2: Welcome, everyone, to today's special discussion on Mapwing. Andrew Hagenbuch has agreed to tell us about this wonderful field trip program.

BJB2: As always, let's start with brief introductions

BJB2: please tell Andrew where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

BrendaJB: I am the technology coordinator at a middle school in Columbus, GA

MidgeF: I'm a technology consultant, author and genealogist living in Bridgewater, MA

ShayneTr: I teach high-school art and computers in Toronto

JaneOst: My name is Jane Ostacher, and I teach ESL at Middlesex County College in NJ. I am also an ed tech student at NJCU

JessicaMur: I teach HS photography and graphic design in NJ

AndrewMH: Nice to meet everyone. Is that all for the introductions?

MidgeF: Where does Andrew live?

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to Andrew

DavidWe waves

AndrewMH: I live in Dillsburg, PA. My company Redbug Technologies is based in Carlisle, PA which is nearby.

AndrewMH: Yep, I'm just a few blocks away...

MidgeF love the company name

AndrewMH: So, I'm a little new to this format for speaking, so be gentle

DavidWe: We are with you, Andrew

BrendaE: Sorry, I had to leave for a moment. Baking a cake for a meeting tomorrow. I am a tech coordinator at a very small elementary school in New Jersey.

MidgeF: We are very friendly

AndrewMH: Excellent. Well it is nice to meet everyone, and I'm excited about people in education trying Mapwing.

BrendaE: I have a fellow teacher from Carlisle

AndrewMH: Mapwing started as a real estate tool but is quickly changing into something everyone can use...

AndrewMH: I'm not sure if everyone got a chance to check it out...if you haven't checked out Mapwing, open http://www.mapwing.com in another window

MidgeF out of the chrysalis

AndrewMH: I'll probably throw out a couple URLs so, yes, make sure you open them in other windows

BrendaE: I checked it out last week and am very excited about the possibilities for educational uses.

BrendaJB: same here

AndrewMH: In a nutshell, Mapwing helps you do more with your digital images. Right now some services (like flickr) let you tag images to maps. But, we wanted to do more. Mapwing let's you specify a location of a picture you took as well as the direction it was taken.

AndrewMH: Also, Mapwing lets you draw or place your own map...this is essential for creating a tour of a home or building where you can't see inside of with satellite imagery

AndrewMH: I'll just place a link here of a virtual tour and take some questions about exploring the tour to start. Then we can get into making them.

MidgeF: Can we use a map from Google Earth?

BrendaE: Can it be used for a field trip of, say, a fishing vessel?

AndrewMH: If you can capture the google earth map via a screenshot you can import that into mapwing. we don't hook into the google maps API right now

AndrewMH: you could definitely use it for a field trip. I've seen a couple tours of trails and buildings...one of an art exhibit.

BrendaE: I thought field trips would be a good use since all grade levels could participate.

AndrewMH: Sure. Basically anytime you want to give your photos space or have a custom map for them, Mapwing will help.

AndrewMH: okay here is a tour that was in the description for this talk: http://www.mapwing.com/explore/view_tour.php?t=llPDbPDSDPvSv

BrendaE: Our annual Kindergarten trip to the pumpkin patch will never be the same!

BJB2 smiles

AndrewMH: That's a cool idea. I have read a couple suggestions of how Mapwing would help children learn to give directions and organize things.

AndrewMH: You have to have an understanding of space, or it will force you to learn it

AndrewMH: So if you look at this Mapwing tour of the lab, you will see it is autoplaying

AndrewMH: You can stop it at any time and begin playing with it yourself.

AndrewMH: Just press the Stop button or click on the viewer anywhere.

AndrewMH: Once it stops playing you can interact with the images or map

BJB2 . o O (everyone doing ok?)

JessicaMur: I got a "can't find url" message twice

BrendaE: Yes

JaneOst: The link didn't work for me.

BrendaE: I got that also, but I had played with the tour, so I think I know what you are talking about.

AndrewMH: try it again

AndrewMH: http://www.mapwing.com/explore/view_tour.php?t=llPDbPDSDPvSv

ShayneTr: Yes, I already played with the tour, too

JaneOst: I typed it all in and it worked

AndrewMH: well anyway. you can go to Mapwing.com and click on any tour you see

JessicaMur: okay thanks

BJB2 . o O (a reminder that the urls will be in your transcript and you can look later, too)

MidgeF: Gosh, I miss my old life working in the lab

AndrewMH: Let me just finish describing the tour by saying that you can click on the edges of each image (you will see some yellow turn arrows) this enables you to turn the images. Or, you can just use the black arrows under the image.

AndrewMH: So does anyone have any questions or problems about exploring a mapwing tour?

StephaniK1: can the pictures go up and down or just left/right?

AndrewMH: just left right at this point. you can move side to side or forward if two points are linked together

AndrewMH: it is meant to mimic turning 90 degrees. if you ever played the game Myst it is something like that.

MidgeF: This is a very complex tour. It must have taken them a lot of planning to create.

AndrewMH: Funny you should say that. I don't think it did. I met the girl who made it after she built it. She lives nearby. She made it with a cell phone camera and a couple of hours of shooting/building time.

JaneOst: that's amazing

AndrewMH: Yeah, I thought so too, especially because Mapwing was very young at that point and I was surprised it didn't have an issue!

JessicaMur: wow, I can't wait to use this in my digital photo class when we go on gallery tours

MidgeF: That's the difference in the way people teach film now as opposed to before.

MidgeF: Teachers teach scripting and planning first and it drives kids nuts.

AndrewMH: There is a tour made by a student teacher showing off her students' artworks in the Mapwing gallery.

AndrewMH: In fact, there is some really interesting stuff in there if you are bored

ShayneTr: I think it is here: http://www.mapwing.com/explore/view_tour.php?t=llcJcerzczFlF0

BJB2: thanks, Shayne!

AndrewMH: Yep, that is it. Thank you Shayne

AndrewMH: So, okay, how do we build these things?

AndrewMH: First you need an account

AndrewMH: like almost all Web apps need these days.

AndrewMH: To get a Mapwing account, just click the Sign Up button in the upper right of the Mapwing.com page

ShayneTr: Do you want us to do that now?

AndrewMH: It's free and will continue to offer free tours once we leave beta.

AndrewMH: Sure, let's get accounts if you don't have one.

AndrewMH: That way, I can walk everyone through getting started.

MidgeF: I've got one.

AndrewMH: Is anyone having a problem signing up for a Mapwing account?

AndrewMH: Good work, Midge. You are ready to roll then!

ShayneTr: Just the "are you human question."

AndrewMH: haha, some days I have issues with that too!

StephaniK1: Or the addition problem........whatta stumper!

AndrewMH: well you have to stop bots. they are such a pain.

MidgeF: Yes, I have ideas of how I want to use my photos. I've already done the historical background research.

AndrewMH: anyway, so if you all have your mapwing accounts let's go create a tour

AndrewMH: click on the Create tab in the center of the top of the Mapwing.com page

MidgeF: I can see why real estate can use this...

AndrewMH: There you will see two options: Basic and Premium. Let me say a word about the two types of tours

AndrewMH: Basics are free. they will always be free. we want people to be able to build nice things without paying.

DavidWe: cool

AndrewMH: Premiums will eventually be changed to Pro. These are for Pros like Realtors. They will cost money per tour. We also realize there are a bunch of people in the middle that want some nice features but don't have tons of money to dish out for software.

AndrewMH: Mapwing will soon have a Plus tour. You will pay a nominal yearly fee to create as many of those as you want.

AndrewMH: For now, let's just click on the Basic Virtual Tour button.

BrendaJB: don't have tons of money; particularly true of public education

AndrewMH: This will load Mapwing Creator Online which requires Flash 9. If you don't have Flash 9 it will ask you to install it.

AndrewMH: Right, we have multiple levels to reflect the different types of people out there and their budgets. But, we have to get paid too!

DavidWe smiles

AndrewMH: Is anyone having problems so far?

ShayneTr: I'm ready to go...

AndrewMH: Can everyone see the Mapwing Creator web app?

MidgeF: Yes

StephaniK1: where is that?\

AndrewMH: **StephaniK1**, are you on Mapwing.com?

StephaniK1: yes

MidgeF: Resizing my images (cool...)

AndrewMH: okay, go to the Create tab

AndrewMH: then click the green, Basic Virtual Tour button

AndrewMH: this will load Mapwing Creator

JaneOst: The installation went well, but them I'm sent to the log in page

StephaniK1: I'm there... named my map and resized

AndrewMH: okay good. you are in Mapwing Creator

AndrewMH: Jane, you have to log back in

AndrewMH: sorry just the security on Mapwing

AndrewMH: now that you have Flash 9, you won't have to go through that anymore.

AndrewMH: Any other problems?

JaneOst: I'm in

MaryannA: I'm in

AndrewMH: I'm going to begin talking about building your Mapwing tour from the Start Your Tour step which is where you begin

AndrewMH: On Start Your Tour you can give your tour a title and select a ratio of your images. Almost all cameras are 4:3 so just leave that as is.

AndrewMH: We have a nice Get Help button on there if you need it later on

AndrewMH: Once you have a tour title click Next in the lower right corner

AndrewMH: This is where you can draw a Map. You can also upload a JPEG as a map too (like if you scan a floor plan)

AndrewMH: Press Add Canvas Image to do that. Or just start drawing. This can be fun!

AndrewMH: Any questions about the Map drawing area?

MaryannA: Can you use google earth?

AndrewMH: You can go to google earth and take a screenshot of a map, then upload it into Mapwing

MaryannA: good

AndrewMH: we have users do that. basically, if you have it as a picture or if you can draw it...you have a map

MidgeF: Ah, I see my new folder with the resized images (separate from my original) that's good.

AndrewMH: alright, let me just say Mapwing has a SAVE button. This is important as we all know. I'd suggest using it

AndrewMH: Yes, Midge. I'm going to talk about that in a minute. Cool, huh?

MaryannA: What does select object do?

AndrewMH: If you draw a box, line, or circle, you can use the Select Object tool to grab it an move it

MaryannA: ok, thanks

JaneOst: how do you delete images if you make mistakes

AndrewMH: Jane, a Map image?

MidgeF: Super good. I can get my map from Google Earth tomorrow and get started!

MidgeF: Got to go..thanks Andrew.

MidgeF left the room (signed off).

AndrewMH: If you place a Map image you can delete it by hitting the Delete Canvas Image button.

JaneOst: I was drawing, just to practice

AndrewMH: Oh okay

AndrewMH: Select the object with the Select Object tool

AndrewMH: it will highlight yellow

AndrewMH: then press Delete Object

AndrewMH: Alright, let's keep moving along. Press next to go to the next area.

AndrewMH: This will show the Place Your Points card

JaneOst: thanks

AndrewMH: Here, you can click on your map and it will place points - points are the places that will have pictures

AndrewMH: you can click and drag them around, title them, or delete them.

AndrewMH: No problem, Jane. Any questions about placing points?

JaneOst: Not so far

AndrewMH: Cool. After you have your points places. Save and hit Next.

AndrewMH: Okay next is the Add Image Views area.

AndrewMH: Here you will click on a point you placed. It will highlight yellow.

AndrewMH: Then on the lift you will see 4 places to add images.

AndrewMH: You can think of these as North East South and West. You can upload images into these spots. When you tour is finished the viewer will be able to "turn" between these images.

AndrewMH: Now let me say a word about images

AndrewMH: most cameras take very large pictures

AndrewMH: these can take a while to upload into your tour. to help with this, use the Image Resizer which you will see in the upper right corner of the Mapwing Creator window

AndrewMH: Mapwing Image Resizer enables you to select a folder or group of images and batch resize them BEFORE you upload them

AndrewMH: this makes building a tour a lot faster.

BJB2: Andrew, we have five minutes left....

AndrewMH: Once you have resized images, then you press Add Image, select the image, and upload it. You can do this for all of the points you place. The idea is to place the image in the relative direction of where it was shot. That will produce the best results.

AndrewMH: Okay, thanks BJ.

BJB2: would you be interested in doing another session in March?

DavidWe encourages Andrew to say, "yes"

AndrewMH: There is a lot more to building a Mapwing tour, but we do have online tutorials to help with it

AndrewMH: Sure

BrendaJB: I concur David

AndrewMH: I can do March

AndrewMH: I'll work something out with you tomorrow BJ for March

MaryannA: Thanks this is very useful

ShayneTr: Andrew, is there a way to remove a tour?

BrendaJB: great resource!

JaneOst: I can see with practice this will work really well. Thanks.

AndrewMH: Thanks everyone. I can't wait to see your tours

AndrewMH: Shayne, you can remove a tour

BrendaJB: thank you Andrew

BJB2: I think we owe Andrew a huge round of applause for sharing this wonderful resource with us!

DavidWe: Thank you, Andrew. Very interesting. Good luck with the software

DavidWe cheers

BrendaJB: bravo

BrendaE: Andrew, thank you. I'll review the transcript when it arrives. Looking forward to trying this out.

JaneOst: Thank you!!

AndrewMH: Go to the Home tab and click on My Tours. You can delete a tour in there or Manage it/Modify it.

AndrewMH: No problem everyone!

JessicaMur: Thanks!!!

StephaniK1: very cool resource! thanks

AndrewMH: good night, nice meeting you!

[Ed. Note: The next Mapwing tour will be on March 7 BJB]