

Creating an Online Community

edWeb.net

<http://www.edweb.net/>

A free online social network that lets educators connect with colleagues, collaborate on goals and projects, for their own professional learning communities, mentor one another, and practice using different technologies.

Intel® Teachers Engage Online Community

<http://engage.intel.com>

You can create a private group in the Teachers Engage Online Community to hold discussions, share files, create wikis and blogs, and create projects with to-do tasks and checkpoints. You can also learn from and participate in discussions with the full community. When you first log in to the Community, scroll down to view *How do I create a group?* and read additional group tips under *Tips on how to use our community*.

Moodle

<http://moodle.org>

Moodle is a Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It is a free Web application that educators can use to create effective online learning sites that can include forums, databases, and wikis to build richly collaborative communities.

Ning

<http://www.ning.com/>

Create your own community with Ning. Bring people together, create your own look and feel and choice of social integration.

Tapped In

<http://tappedin.org>

<http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/help/groups.jsp>

Create a hub for a learning community, including setting up group rooms to share files and discussions.

Technology for Online Communities of Practice

http://connectededucators.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/0143_Platforms-and-Tools-march-2011.pdf

Launching a successful online community is much more than choosing which technology platform to use. It requires a thoughtful strategy that considers your goals, incentives, roles, and content, for example. The technology should support the types of interaction that will make participation worthwhile for community members. Choosing a collaboration platform and tools can be overwhelming, but careful planning can help create a successful online community. Start small and focus on a narrow set of features. This document helps you plan an online community.