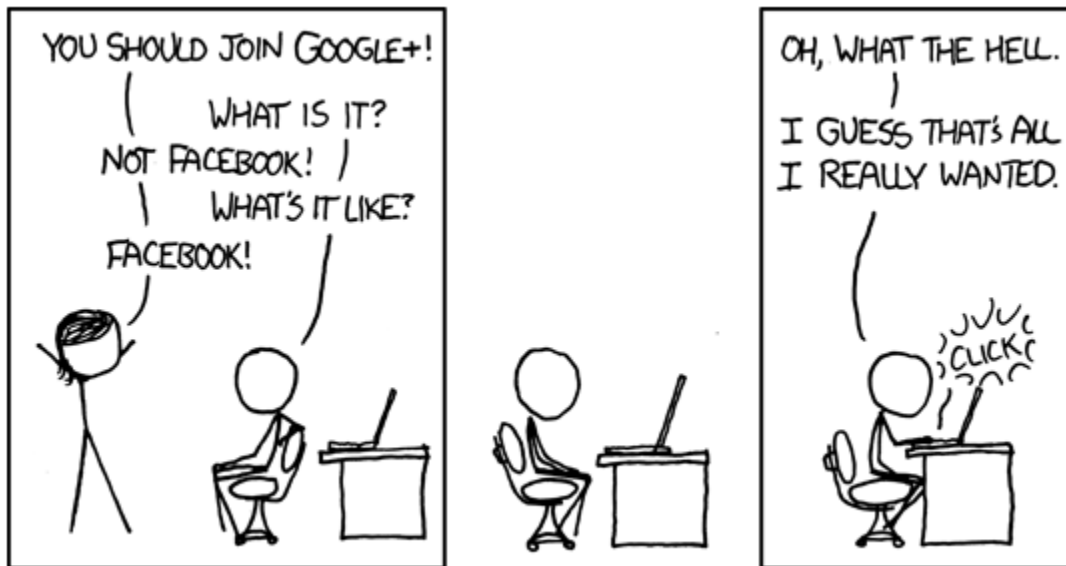


Google+ : a nice, basic, need to know primer



<http://xkcd.com/918/>

In its first three weeks Google+ had 10 million users, sharing more than 1 billion pieces of content daily. Some projections say it may surpass Twitter in a year, others say it is collapsing under its own weight.

But what is it? Google+ is a collection of several social products: Stream (newsfeed), Sparks (topical recommendation engine), Hangouts (video chat), Huddle (group texting), Circles (friend management), and Photos.

G+ combines features of Twitter, anybody can "follow" you, and Facebook, you can define friend relationships, but it allows the user to really customize sharing and privacy.

Google+ is still invite-only and you must use a Gmail account to register.

Stream

The screenshot displays the Google+ Stream interface. On the left is a sidebar with the user's profile (Lindsay) and navigation options like 'Stream', 'Sparks', and 'Chat'. The main area shows a 'Stream' header with a 'Share what's new...' input field. Below are two posts: one by John Pappas discussing a talk on Zen practice, and another by Andy Woodworth about shelf tags in a library, accompanied by two photos of library aisles. The right sidebar contains sections for 'In your circles', 'Suggestions', 'Send invitations', and 'Hangouts'.

All content shared by your circles – status updates, links, photos, etc. – is displayed in your stream.

Here you can:

- Share what's new...
- +1 ("like"), comment , reshare posts
- "Mute" a post
- Block all posts by a person
- Filter your stream for posts by circle

Circles

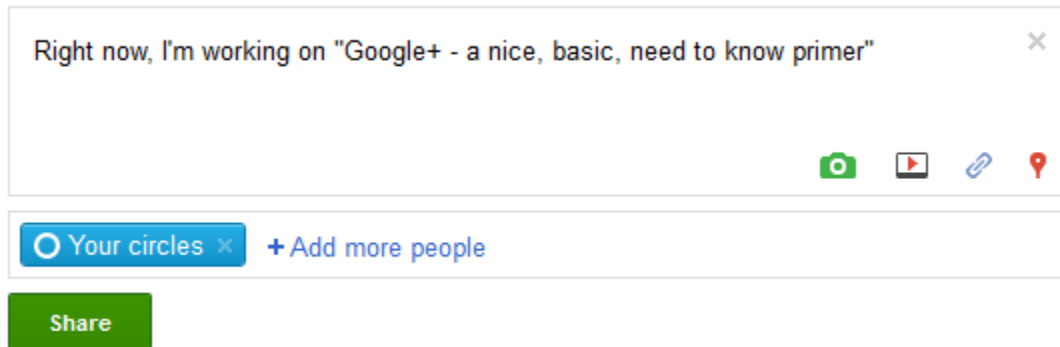
The screenshot shows the Google+ interface. At the top, there's a search bar for "Find people" and a navigation menu. Below that, it displays "People in your circles (26)" and "People who've added you (39)". The main area shows a grid of 24 people's profile cards, each with a small profile picture and name. Below this grid, there's a section for "Circles" with a prompt "Drag people to your circles to follow and share". This section includes a "Drop here to create a new circle" button and several existing circles: "Friends" (0), "Family" (0), "Acquaintances" (0), "Following" (0), "Pioneers" (5), "Librarians with things to say" (23), and "Instructional Literacy" (0). A copyright notice "©2011 Google - Terms - Content Policy - Privacy" is visible at the bottom of the interface.

Circles allow you to organize your contacts into meaningful groups to make sharing different types of content with different groups of people easy.

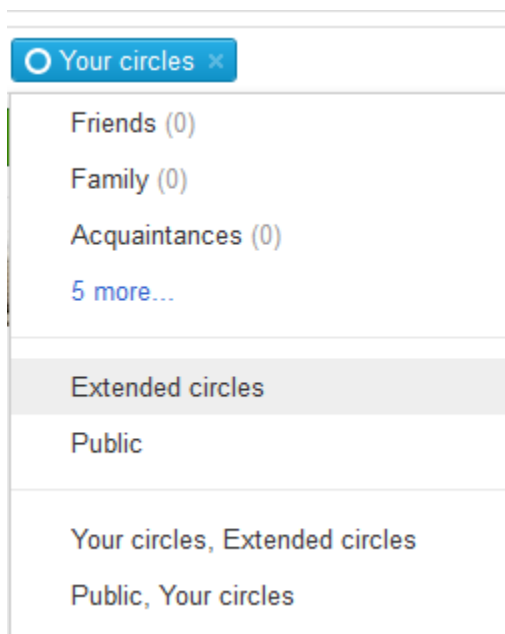
- Create circles for “friends,” “family,” “coworkers,” “professional contacts” – whatever you want
- Specify which circles can see what content – only friends, only coworkers, only friends and family, the whole world, etc.
- Add a contact to multiple circles
- Easy drag and drop interface for circle management
- Change your stream view according to circle

G+ also uses a model of tracking contacts similar to Twitter – you can add people to your circles but they do not have to add you to theirs, and vice versa. Posts from non-reciprocated contacts appear in different parts of your stream.

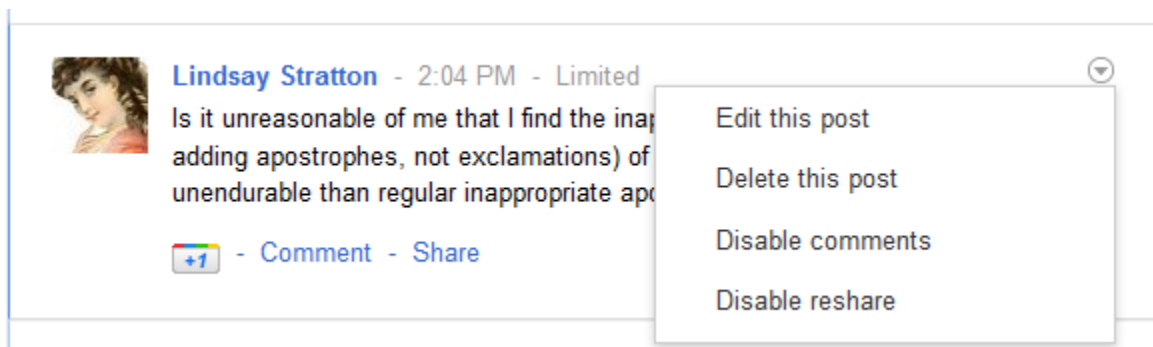
Sharing



For each update, select who can see it...



... and what can be done with it.



Profile

Google+ Find people

Lindsay Stratton

[Edit Profile](#)

Posts **About** Photos Videos +1's [View profile as...](#)

Introduction For my day job, I coordinate automation system, technology, and general job training for the staff of the 42 member libraries of the Pioneer Library System in central NY.

Links

- [Blogger \(Blogspot\) -](#)
- [Blogger \(Blogspot\) -](#)
- [Pioneer Library Syst](#)
- [Google Reader](#)
- [Lindsay Stratton](#)
- [lindsaysez](#)

My current activities are focused on supporting our implementation of the open source Evergreen ILS (see my documentation!), helping libraries with their summer reading online programs, Facebook fun for libraries, and developing super cheap sustainable e-learning.

I received my MSLIS degree from Syracuse University with an emphasis on digital library services - despite (or because of) this, I believe that technologies are only as good as the problems they solve.

When I am not figuring out ways to do things better using technology and helping people get the information they need, I like to embroider, carve up old books and fill them with collages, read escapist novels, play with big words and involved grammar, and sleep.

Bragging rights Trained and helped migrate 42 libraries to an open source ILS! Good times!

Occupation Librarian / Trainer

Employment Pioneer Library System; Canandaigua, NY
Librarian / Trainer, present

Education

- Syracuse University**
Information & Library Science, 2004 - 2006
- Auburn University**
Fine Arts, 1995 - 1997
- Cazenovia College**
Fine Arts, 1992 - 1994

[Send an email](#)

In Lindsay's circles (22)

[View all »](#)

Have Lindsay in circles (39)

[View all »](#)







[Change who is visible here](#)

Your profile:

- Describes who you are (add as much or as little information as you want)
- Lists your posts
- Stores your photos
- Stores your videos
- Lists your +1s
- Can be very detailed (like mine) or very minimal
- You can specify (in the Settings> Profile and Privacy area) where and how your profile is visible

Privacy

Google accounts

-  Account overview
-  Profile and privacy
-  Google+
-  Language
-  Data liberation
-  Connected accounts

🔒 Profile and privacy

Google+ builds privacy settings in context where you share or edit information.

Google Profiles

Search results

Your name and any other fields you make public in your profile are searchable on the web and may appear in Google Search results.

Public profile information

You choose what information in your profile you want to make visible to specific individuals, to circles, or to everyone.

[Edit visibility on profile](#)

See how your profile appears to other users

Sharing

Circles

Circles are groups of people you share content with. The names of your circles and who you add to them are visible only to you, though you can set whether the list of people in all of your circles is visible in your public profile.

[Manage circles](#)

Network Visibility

[Manage network visibility](#)

Google+ allows flexible – and granular – privacy options for each part of your G+ experience, from default settings to per-post settings. All default settings are managed from the Settings>Profile and Privacy area. Privacy options for individual posts are set at the point of sharing content.

Learn more

Mashable – Google+: the Complete Guide, <http://mashable.com/2011/07/16/google-plus-guide/>

The Google+ Project, <http://www.google.com/intl/en/+/learnmore/>