Title: Aggregating Classroom Internet Content Using Yahoo Pipes

Abstract:

The Internet is a rich source of content. Often, however, students are not able to
distinguish good content from poor content. Consequently, asking them to explore the
Internet for content can have mixed results. Enter Yahoo Pipes. With Yahoo Pipes
instructors can create their own RSS aggregator/syndicator, choosing and filtering their
own content sources. This presentation will present a model for creating and using
pipes, which can then be syndicated for consumption by student RSS readers.

Proposal:

Using RSS feeds to augment course content is an approach that can significantly
enhance both online and classroom courses. Students can subscribe to course-related
feeds to acquire a variety of supplementary information for their study. Often, however,
it is difficult for students to locate appropriate and authoritative content in a timely
manner. Further, it becomes logistically difficult for both students and instructors to
manage a large number of RSS feeds.

With Yahoo Pipes, instructors can create their own RSS aggregator using sophisticated,
but easy to use, filtering, sorting, and flow control. Since no special technical or
programming expertise is required to construct a course feed using Yahoo Pipes, it is not
difficult for most instructors to aggregate meaningful RSS feeds into a single composite
feed for student consumption. This session will briefly describe Yahoo Pipes and its
capabilities and then show how such instructor-created feeds can be used in both
online and face-to-face courses.