

Technology	Description	Status	Future (1-5 years)
Email	Electronic transmission of mail messages asynchronously to one or more individuals with pre-determined addresses	Widely deployed and used between meetings by the Odysseus Group and members. Not as popular with our youth members.	Stable technology. Media attachments (sound, pictures, video) will increase into the future. Feasibility: Highly likely to persist, with individual's parent organization paying use cost. If it has not already reached this state, it will be considered necessary for full participation in multi-association and regional activities and committee work.
Blog	Easy to create and maintain Web-based journaling tool. Multiple members can collaborate to write one.	Several Sea Scouting groups already maintain blogs as communication outlets. The Region has not adopted this technology.	Quality blogs are sustainable; if used as an official communication locus blogs could contribute to sustainability of Sea Scouting. Blogs are here to stay – and will only grow in breadth and depth. As use of RSS and aggregators becomes more commonplace, blogs will be more accessible. Technology features, such as video within blogs, will continue to mature. Feasibility: An affordable technology that can be maintained with relative ease. It's very feasible, but the challenge is finding the right blog leader who can develop an effective writing team. If the blog isn't going to be updated regularly with good content, forget it.
Electronic newsletter	In its purest form a publication in digitized form made available over the Internet	One of the dominant forms of publishing today. Many newsletters exist without print cognates.	Electronic newsletters will continue to grow over the next 1-5 years. Print format is a declining share of collection in many libraries. Feasibility: "Euronaut" is well established. What is needed is additional contributors, as well as new volunteers to take on the editing responsibility. S/he must be effective at volunteer recruitment and workload management.

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Group conference messaging			
<u>Image management tools</u>	Storage, organization, description of digital images. Allows for re-purposing to create posters, photo books, cell phone and desktop wallpaper, etc. Promotes sharing with easy to use tools for posting pictures to blogs, adding to email, website, etc. Can be used with camera phones.	Growing. Tools such as Flickr , Picassa , Shutterfly , Photobucket , and Snapfish . A more complete list is available on Wikipedia under Photo Sharing . This is little evidence that Scout associations are using this technology, though it is very popular as a Web 2.0 social networking application.	Poised to become more integrated into other online tools. A description of the growth of digital image use is available at http://scanblog.blogspot.com/2006/01/i-love-to-take-photograph.html Feasibility: Good for documenting events and building community.
<u>Instant messaging</u>	Real-time communication between two people or among several people, using the Internet. Often refers specifically to text-based interaction, though also includes Internet telephone and video.	Informal and limited use now by some Sea Scouting groups and (primarily) youth members. Some internet providers may block real time messaging	Could be very bright, as free services are widely available. Demand for real-time distance communication is growing. Text-based IM entails little if any expense and much less coordination and maintenance than a mailing list. Voice and video will likely always bear higher costs. Feasibility: This could be an important component of an Online Communities initiative. Having members maintain a logged in presence is unlikely without further development (e.g., a lightweight client that is always on and senses other hosts, such as AIM, Yahoo, or an institutional messaging service).

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<p>Mail distribution list (“listserv”)</p>	<p>Mechanism for distributing e-mail simultaneously to a group of “subscribers.” Depending on the rules for the list, messages can come from within or outside the group.</p>	<p>European Sea Scouting uses a mailing list (“Seascout-Europe-Net”). Traffic to date has been very light.</p>	<p>Stable, perhaps some growth in use. Interfaces, particularly for archival data mining, will improve.</p> <p>Feasibility: A good medium for group work, though lacking capability for real-time interaction. Simplicity and versatility are qualities in its favor. Additional lists can be supported by Sea Scout Internet Service.</p>
<p>Online community software</p> <p>See also</p> <p>Online productivity tools</p>	<p>No agreed upon definition. Also known as social software or groupware.</p> <p>The use of two or more modes of computer mediated communication to engage in community formation and maintenance. Allows participants to collaborate and share knowledge.</p> <p>Includes both synchronous and asynchronous modes of communicating. Typically includes discussion tools (web or email) with thread tracking, file/document management (with or without annotation), and chat services.</p> <p>Some definitions include web presentation software.</p>	<p>Not quite new. Historical precedents include IRC, Bulletin Board systems, MUDs, MOOs and MUSHs.</p> <p>Current iterations add services such as friend of a friend (FOAF) to allow the visualization of social networks and to create trust mechanisms. Examples include Friendster, Google Sites, and Tribe.</p> <p>It is unknown whether any of our national associations are exploring this communication medium. This would be a dynamic method for conducting synchronous and asynchronous committee work at the national or regional levels..</p>	<p>Difficult to discern. Market is rife with competing products both commercial and open-source.</p> <p>Feasibility: Good for groups working on shared documents (such as the Odysseus Group) but requires technical savvy and server space to implement. Widespread use will require change in user behavior to log on to service, or development of software that will alert though e-mail, instant message, or other communication that content has changed and that one should log on. Changing user behavior and habits to use the environment is the biggest challenge.</p>

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Online productivity tools	“Online office” suites offer the ability to use the common software-based office tools online. This allows people to work together worldwide and at any time, thereby leading to international web-based collaboration and virtual teamwork.	The two biggest players in this marketplace are Zoho Writer and Google Docs . There are a number of advantages (asynchronous collaboration, low cost, no file version problems), but there currently are limits on formatting capability.	Strong. This is particularly attractive for work groups that do a lot of collaborative authoring. Feasibility: The cost is right, and would be particularly useful within Scouting associations.
Podcast	A digital recording made available on the Internet for downloading either onto a personal media player or computer. Usually refers to audio recordings. The term is a merger of iPod and broadcasting. Shows can be syndicated and RSS feeds can be used to push episodes to users.	Use is rapidly growing. Several commercial vendors offer podcast subscriptions (iTunes , Rhapsody) and there are search engines and Web directories specifically for the format. Major radio networks offer podcasts of their content.	Strong, particularly with the low cost of entry. Expect to see more formats (video). Feasibility: Excellent for distributing training sessions, program news, promotional materials, etc. There is potential for local services as well.

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RSS	RSS is a family of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines, and podcasts. An RSS document (which is called a “feed” or “web feed” or “channel”) contains either a summary of content from an associated web site or the full text. RSS makes it possible for people to keep up with web sites in an automated manner that can be piped into special programs or filtered displays.	Use is rapidly growing. Most people still don’t understand what this is. Its chief usefulness is that allows end users to decide what information they want to find out about and design a simple interface that makes it easier for them to “consume” the information.	Strong. As time goes on, a less structured approach to finding and organizing information will become more and more important. The structures that others put on information will, as a consequence, have progressively less importance. Feasibility: This will eventually be very important for sharing information across the region and within organizations, but there needs to be a much strong culture of information sharing than is currently the case.
VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol.)	Allows voice communication over the Internet as a replacement for conventional telephone service; limitation is one speaker at a time	Still developing; not widely used by Scouters. There are cost and technology barriers. Quality of service can vary.	Poised for tremendous growth; gaining popularity owing to Skype . Some businesses are installing VoIP systems to replace traditional telephones, at tremendous cost savings. Quality of service is expected to improve dramatically as more first-tier companies adopt. Feasibility: Excellent technology for online training and conferencing. As it becomes more commonplace most individuals will expect to talk to each other through their computers – and video will become a part of the package. Complete implementation within Scouting would require an expensive conversion, although costs would probably be recouped because of the large volume of long distance calling. Working groups who settle on a common technology such as Skype could reduce cost of participation in multi-council and regional activities.

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Social bookmarking	Classic Web 2.0 tool for managing links or bookmarks and making them available for others to use. Bookmarks are annotated with descriptive tags to facilitate search and retrieval.	Many social bookmarking tools are available such as del.icio.us , Furl , Blinklist .	Growing. There are search engines for finding popular bookmarks and subscription feeds for watching other people's bookmark lists. Feasibility: Cheap and easy to use and implement without significant overhead. Useful for collaboration between group members. URLs pertinent to the job can be shared easily
Video sharing	Allows individuals to upload video clips to an Internet website.	Explosive growth. This is very popular with younger users, but has a very small learning curve for new visitors. Examples include GoFish , GoogleVideo , MySpace , YouTube	Associations have been slow to capitalize on this technology. It is widely available with robust infrastructure supporting it. As is the case with most newer technologies, the question is what the long-term support will be.
Webpages			
Webcast	A conference or presentation that takes place in a virtual space using any one of several software packages that combine communication and presentation technologies. They can feature online chat, VoIP, whiteboarding, instant polls, etc.	Tremendous growth; associations and corporations are using Webcasts for virtual meetings and online continuing education. One barrier is the expense of the conferencing software. Webcasts are relatively easy to organize and implement	As budgets tighten and there is less time or funds available for travel, Webcasting will only continue to grow; an excellent technology for Scouting to offer training to individuals and units in under-served countries. May also be useful for virtual working group meetings. Feasibility: Scouting may not wish to acquire the necessary software, but it would be feasible to partner with outside organizations that offer the technology.

Technology	Description	Status	Future (1-5 years)
Wiki	A collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, using a simplified markup language.	The success of Wikipedia has created great interest in wikis for building communities online; excellent possibilities to allow Sea Scouting groups to create and edit documents in a virtual space. Also holds the potential for developing a store of expertise in specialized topics.	Like blogs, will continue to grow and expand as a social collaboration tool, especially as it becomes easier to create and maintain. Feasibility: Like blogs, very affordable and can be maintained by an individual. If Sea Scouting groups want a communication tool that invites member participation, this is one way to accomplish it. European Sea Scouting, the Odysseus Group, or national programs could create their own Sea Scouting ipedia as a low cost technical encyclopedia and guidebook.