

Social Computing and Its Influence in Education

Irwin KING

Department of Computer Science and Engineering
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
king@cse.cuhk.edu.hk

The Web has changed the landscape of how humans interact socially. With the advent of Web 2.0, Social Computing has emerged as a new and innovative paradigm that changes the way we communicate, interact, and learn. Social Computing involves the investigation of collective intelligence by using computational techniques such as machine learning, data mining, natural language processing, etc. on social behavioral data collected from blogs, wikis, emails, instant messages, clickthrough data, query logs, social bookmarks, tags, etc. In this talk, I will first introduce Social Computing by outlining some of the unique characteristics and aspects that are found on the various social platforms. In particular, I will emphasize how Social Computing is being used in education. Applications in various social platforms will be presented to further demonstrate the usefulness of these new technologies to enhance education. Lastly, I will conclude with some current challenges and potential future promises of Social Computing.