Evaluation BlogTalk 2008

31 people took the online-based survey to evaluate the BlogTalk 2008 conference. The following tables sum up their answers.

Which previous BlogTalk conferences did you attend? (Please check all that apply.)

	#	Percent
BlogTalk 1 (2003, Vienna)	1	3.03%
BlogTalk 2.0 (2004, Vienna)	4	12.12%
BlogTalk Downunder (2005, Sydney)	0	0.00%
BlogTalk Reloaded (2006, Vienna)	1	3.03%
None of the above	29	87.88%

At Blogtalk 2008, were you..

	#	Percent
Presenter / Panelist	12	36.36%
Participant	21	63.64%
I did not attend the conference	0	0.00%

How do you rate the following aspects of the BlogTalk 2008?

	1 (Very Good)	2	3	4	5 (Very poor)	Mean
Conference overall	36.67% (11)	40.00% (12)	23.33% (7)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	1.87
Quality of the presentations	16.67% (5)	46.67% (14)	33.33% (10)	3.33% (1)	0.00% (0)	2.23
Catering	33.33% (10)	30.00% (9)	23.33% (7)	13.33% (4)	0.00% (0)	2.17
Conference venue	40.00% (12)	43.33% (13)	13.33% (4)	3.33% (1)	0.00% (0)	1.80
Conference schedule	26.67% (8)	36.67% (11)	26.67% (8)	10.00% (3)	0.00% (0)	2.20
Conference Website / Wiki (blogtalk.net)	31.03% (9)	48.28% (14)	13.79% (4)	6.90% (2)	0.00% (0)	1.97
Technical equipment	30.00% (9)	43.33% (13)	16.67% (5)	6.67% (2)	3.33% (1)	2.10

Regarding the ratio of plenary and socializing time, was there...

	#	Percent
Too little time for socializing	3	10.34%
About the right mixture	24	82.76%
Too little time for plenary presentation and discussion	2	6.90%

There were various channels for information about the conference. Which of the following channels did you use before the conference, which during, and which afterwards? (please check all that apply)

	Before the Conference	During the Conference	After the Conference
BlogTalk Site (http://blogtalk.net)	83.87% (26)	67.74% (21)	51.61% (16)
Videos of the presentations	0.00% (0)	22.58% (7)	35.48% (11)
Postings in Blogs I have known before	45.16% (14)	35.48% (11)	38.71% (12)
Postings in Blogs I discovered during the conference	9.68% (3)	48.39% (15)	45.16% (14)
IRC Channel	0.00% (0)	32.26% (10)	3.23% (1)
Reports in newspapers	3.23% (1)	3.23% (1)	3.23% (1)
Flickr.com pictures	3.23% (1)	41.94% (13)	38.71% (12)
Other channels	19.35% (6)	32.26% (10)	29.03% (9)
None of the above	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)

Do you think your participation at BlogTalk 2008 will lead to new projects and/or partnerships for your business and/or research activities?

	#	Percent
Yes, definitely (1)	8	27.59%
Yes, probably (2)	15	51.72%
No, probably not (3)	5	17.24%
No, definitely not (4)	1	3.45%

What didn't you like about Blogtalk 2008 conference?

- Some presentations were too acedemic
- There were 3 potential problems that meant I could have missed this excellent conference. First, was that I wasn't aware of it until submissions for talks were already closed. The second is that I was initially put off by the cost although it turned out to be fantastic value it was an initial stumbling block. Third, that there were so many other conferences and events serving this space on at about the same time in Ireland.
- Not concentrated enough. Different tracks weren't explicity enough. Maybe two tracks: Usage and Technical?
- all good
- It felt "stressful".
- Nothing I can think of: everything was well organised and enjoyable to attend
- Various channels (IRC, Video, Flickr, Twitter, etc.) could have been better organised up-front.
- network and beamer troubles, bad wifi, too little electric outlets
- The advertising feel of a lot of the talks. Not enough theory and too much advertising.
- some of the panels were a bit vacuous...
- No vegetarian food (that didnt include curry).
- i would have liked a stronger technical and entrepreneur focus (or have a split across days to support that). The sessions were run almost back to back which means delays tend to be inevitable (as most speakers tend to overrun)
- I thought it was all excellent, there was nothing I didnt find interesting and engaging
- I would have liked more presentations about educational uses of blogging and social software - as that is my own area of interest!
- Most of the people were english-speaking. Most of the confereces were a lot about "air", philosophy, but with little real substance
- Can't think of anything. Oh yes, the colour and quality of t-shirts. I'd prefer to pay for a decent quality t-shirt than getting a very cheap one for free.
- paper submission process lack of orange juice
- location was a bit "in middle of a road somewhere"

What did you like about Blogtalk 2008?

- the practical sessions
- Highly relevant. Small. Great mix of people from different backgrounds.
- Location. Mixture of participants. Interactivity.
- based in cork, otherwise i would not have been allowed go
- Great diversity of topics and speakers.
- Informal atmosphere, interesting presentations
- Lovely venue; overall well-organised and great selection of speakers and topics. A useful and productive time.
- It was very good overall. Exceptionally well organised.
- variety of presentations and panels
- Some good presentations and open discussion about what blogs are useful for and why they are changing.
- great folks - intimate setting, great venue
- The whole thing
- inspiring, very Interesting participants
- the location (city and hotel); the organizers;
- Not too big, but very densely packed with detailed and informative sessions.

- The location was great.
- People
- The mix of academic and business-orientated talks brought a mix audience. It was good to see how we perceive each other and what do we have in common.
- people relaxed and friendly atmosphere
- interesting people

What topics should be covered at a next BlogTalk conference?

- Less blog more web
- I would like to see even more on the key issues of Privacy, Identity, Reputation and Trust.
- more on semantic web
- Maybe some user-centric design/case studies.
- Technology and society/culture
- Definitely more time spent on the Social Networking side - maybe integrate it fully (but you'll have to change the name!?).
- Blog trends, ratios living blogs to short lived blogs.
- more on the latest set of tools
- UI design, Usability, AI, Content Merging, Road to profit
- geotagging; microblogging; twitter; "scaling down" to local blogging (eg http://livingindryden.org/); blogging as a mainstream phenomena.
- Perhaps Government 3.0 and some more 'practical' sessions on Semantic web.
- More about educational uses of blogging and social software.
- Difficult to say. Things are evolving very fast from one year to another, what used to be relevant a year ago is not relevant anymore. I'd like to see more studies on what various groups of people do with these social tools instead of presentations of products/services still in their infancy. More studies of actual practices and trends than promises.
- FOAF ;)

Are there people (or groups of people) whom you've missed and which should be addressed at/invited to a future BlogTalk conference?
- more web businesses
- There were quite a few in Ireland who couldn't make it because of clashes. There were also a contingent of international visitors who expressed interest but didn't make it in the end. Its a pity they missed such an excellent event.
- OpenSocial?
- more hypertext crowd
- Presentation from large corp companies, like Google, Yahoo, Microsoft etc.
- More technical, academical
- Lilia Efimova Sebastian Fiedler Suw Charman Lee Bryant Ton Zijlstra danah boyd