

Instructions for ConnectTheDots! Pilot

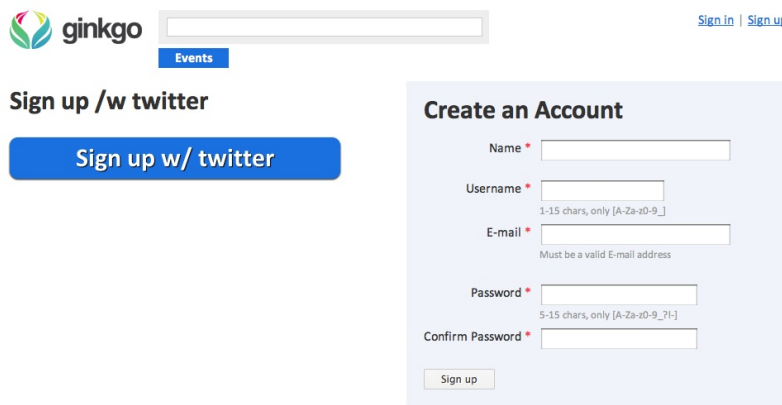
Authors: Kamakshi Rajagopal, Jan van Bruggen, Peter B. Sloep

Step 1: Fill in the signing-up [questionnaire](#)

Step 2: Create your account in Ginkgo. (For more info on Ginkgo, please check Reinhardt, Maicher, Drachsler & Sloep, 2011)

Sign up in Ginkgo <http://ginkgo.cs.upb.de/signup>

Use Sign Up or Twitter credentials.



ginkgo [Sign in](#) | [Sign up](#)

Events

Sign up /w twitter

Sign up w/ twitter

Create an Account

Name *

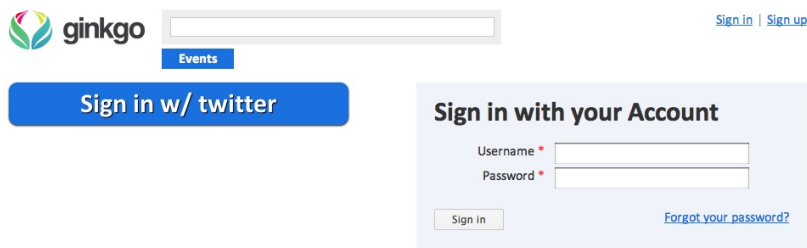
Username *
1-15 chars, only [A-Za-z0-9]

E-mail *
Must be a valid E-mail address

Password *
5-15 chars, only [A-Za-z0-9_7!-]

Confirm Password *

Sign in



ginkgo [Sign in](#) | [Sign up](#)

Events

Sign in w/ twitter

Sign in with your Account

Username *

Password *

[Forgot your password?](#)

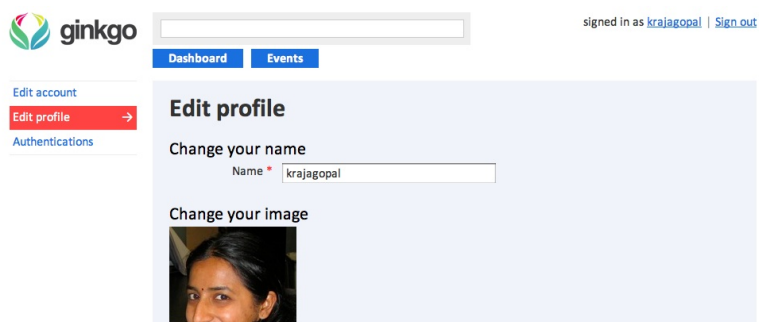
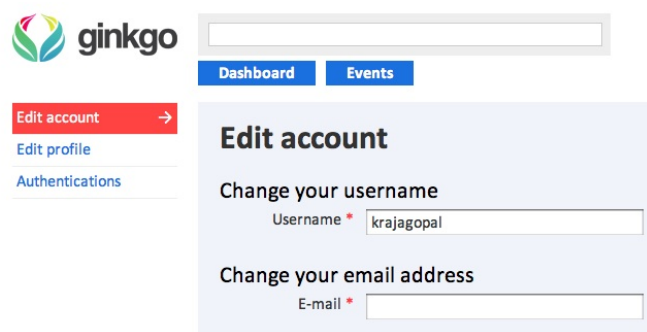
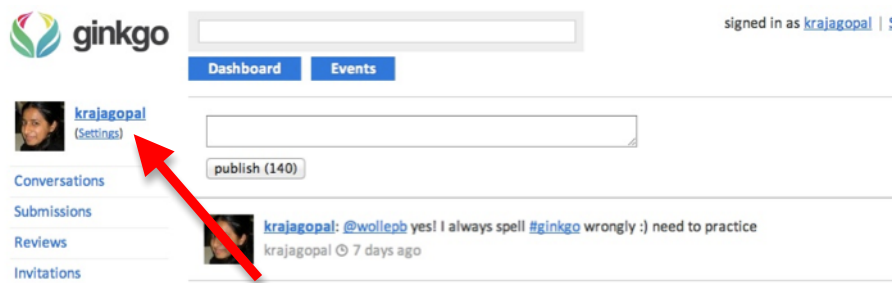
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Edit and complete your Profile through Settings



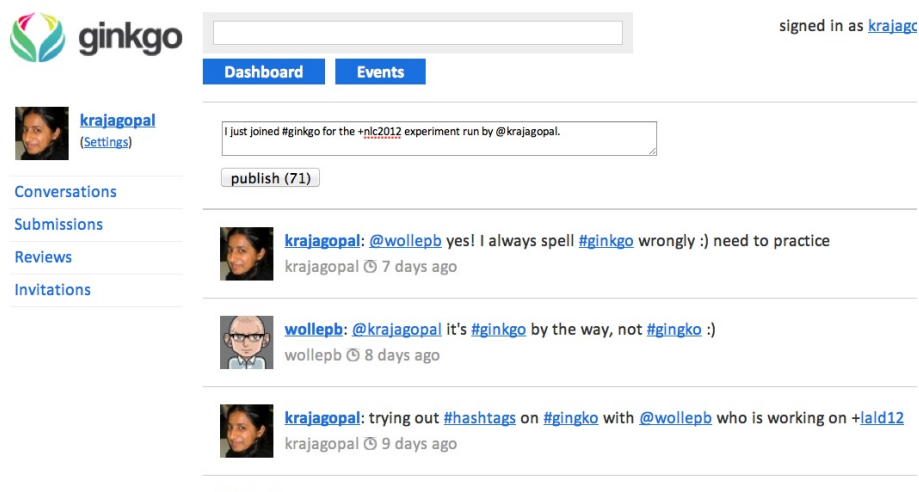
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Go to the dashboard, and create your first micropost on ginkgo:

“I just joined #ginkgo for the +nlc2012 experiment run by @krajagopal.”



The screenshot shows the Ginkgo dashboard interface. At the top left is the Ginkgo logo. To its right is a search bar and the text "signed in as [krajag](#)". Below the logo is a navigation menu with "Dashboard" and "Events" buttons. On the left side, there is a user profile for "krajagopal" with a "Settings" link and a list of menu items: "Conversations", "Submissions", "Reviews", and "Invitations". The main content area shows a text input field containing the message "I just joined #ginkgo for the +nlc2012 experiment run by @krajagopal." and a "publish (71)" button. Below this, there is a list of three microposts:

- krajagopal:** @wollepb yes! I always spell #ginkgo wrongly :) need to practice
krajagopal 7 days ago
- wollepb:** @krajagopal it's #ginkgo by the way, not #gingko :)
wollepb 8 days ago
- krajagopal:** trying out #hashtags on #ginkgo with @wollepb who is working on +ald12
krajagopal 9 days ago

After doing this, **you're signed up to participate in the pilot.**

Step3: About half a day after you sign up, you will receive an e-mail with your personalized links to the Connect The Dots! Tool.

You will also receive a little instruction manual on how to use the Connect The Dots! tool.

Step4: You're all set!

Do the following activities every day during the next two weeks, till the end of the NLC2012 conference. Spend no more than about **10 minutes a day** on these activities.

- 1) Jot down notes of what you want to remember through the microposts on Ginkgo. A suggestion is to note down something whenever you feel you had a nice conversation or attended an interesting session or read something of interest.
Use hashtags to indicate the keywords of the post (e.g. #identity, #learning, #education)

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Use the plus-sign to indicate an event (e.g. +nlc2012)
 Use the @-symbol when you want to refer to a person (e.g. @krajagopal)

- 2) Use the tags in Connect The Dots! to make baskets, i.e. collections of tags. Sit down for a few minutes a day to do this activity.

The screenshot shows the 'Connect The Dots!' website. At the top is a navigation bar with 'About', 'Dashboard', and 'Contact' links. The main content area is titled 'Which tags are related?'. Below the title, there is a paragraph of instructions: 'Drag and drop the tags that belong together according to you in the box on the right. This creates a basket. Don't forget to save the baskets that you want to keep for later!' and another paragraph: 'Once you have saved all the baskets you can think of, go to your **Baskets** page to explain why these tags belong together.' Below this, it says 'These tags will be updated every day at 16.00CET.' There are two rows of tag boxes: the first row contains 'hashtag', 'search', and 'ginkgo'; the second row contains 'hashtags', 'ginkgo', and 'hello'. To the right, a 'Create Baskets' modal is open, showing a dashed box for dragging tags, with 'hashtag' already inside and a '1' next to it. Below the box are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons, and a section titled 'Saved During This Session'.

- 3) Select Baskets to articulate the connections you see. Sit down maybe once or twice in the week, to engage in this activity.

The screenshot shows the 'Connect The Dots!' website with the 'My Baskets' section. The navigation bar includes 'About' and 'Dashboard' links. The section title is 'My Baskets'. Below the title, it says 'This is an overview of the baskets you have saved. Scroll down to see them all.' There is a table listing saved baskets:

hashtag_hald12
hashtag_wollepb
search_hello_hashtags_hashtag
hello_ginkgo_hashtags
hashtag_ginkgo_hashtags
wollepb_search

Below the table, there is a paragraph: 'Choose one of the baskets above to elaborate on the relationship between the tags. In the textbox, you can explain in more detail why the tags belong together. Don't forget to **copy the tags** you have chosen into the first textbox.' There is a 'Chosen Basket*' label and a text input field. Below that is an 'Elaboration:' label and a larger text area. At the bottom left of the text area is a 'Submit' button.

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Afraid you might forget? You will receive a reminder e-mail a couple of times during the two weeks with links to your personalized pages.

Step5: At the end of the NLC2012 conference, you will receive a final questionnaire, rounding up.

Thanks for helping out! We're very happy to hear about your experience in using Connect The Dots!.

Links

1. Signing-up [questionnaire](#)
2. Ginkgo <http://ginkgo.cs.upb.de/signup>
3. ConnectTheDots!: find the links to your pages in your e-mail after signing up

References

Rajagopal, K., Joosten-ten Brinke, D., Van Bruggen, J., & Sloep, P. B. (2012). Understanding personal learning networks: Their structure, content and the networking skills to optimally use them. *First Monday*, 17(1), 1-12. Retrieved from <http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3559/3131>

Reinhardt, W., Maicher, J., Drachsler, H., & Sloep, P. B. (2011). Awareness Support in Scientific Event Management with ginkgo. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Knowledge Management and Knowledge Technologies (i-Know'11)* (pp. 40:1–40:8). New York, NY, USA: ACM. doi:10.1145/2024288.2024336.)

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