Blogging at work has gained interest in the knowledge management community, but little is known about the nature of an internal corporate blogosphere. How much of blogging at work is related to work and how much is social? Does work blogging take place during work hours or outside? We compared temporal patterns in Hewlett-Packard’s internal blogging community to employee email use and to college student Facebook use. The graphs below suggest that blog posting is similar to email, following a normative 9-5 workday, while blog reading is more similar to Facebook use.

Data Sources
Blog posts: Log files from 12 months of HP internal blog use with 1,000+ identifiable blog authors
Blog reads: Log files from 12-months of HP internal blog use with 10,000+ hits
Email: 5.9 million emails between HP employees over a 21-month period
Facebook: 162 million messages exchanged by 4.2 million college users of Facebook

Employee email and blog use decreases during lunch and dinner hours, but not for college students using Facebook. Workers may have more regular meal hours than college students, and may choose to disconnect from the Internet (and work) during these times.

Email, blog writing, and blog reading decrease at the end of the workday although blog reading increase slightly after dinnertime. In contrast, Facebook use does not drop during dinnertime hours and increases into the late evening.

Email use increases between 8 and 10 am, while blog reading lags 1-2 hours behind. Email response may signal a “responsiveness profile”

Facebook use spans midday Friday to midday Sunday. Email and blogs are rarely used on Saturday and Sunday. Like Facebook, Sunday afternoon blog reading increases slightly. Displacement theory suggests that Internet use during weekends decreases while people are socializing, and increases again when social activity is over.

Blog readership is significantly higher on Mondays. Blog reading may serve as a useful transition from the weekend back into a new workweek.