### **Mar.08**









# Welcome to Wave 3

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### Introduction

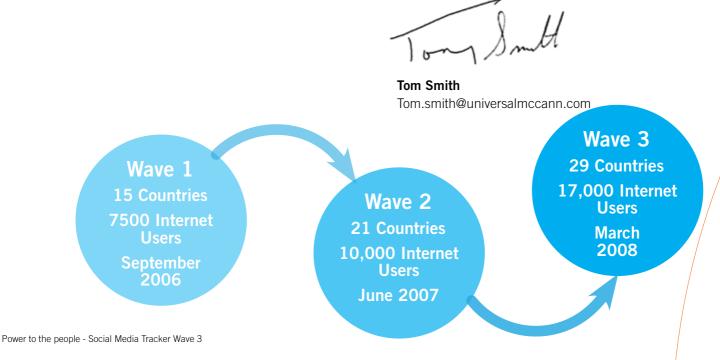
Welcome to Universal McCanns global research into the impact of social media. This project is an ongoing commitment by Universal McCann to measure consumer usage, attitudes and interests in adopting social media platforms and is the largest exploration of its kind. It aims to provide the facts behind the hype.

The first study was published in September 2006 (Wave 1) and the second study in June 2007 (Wave 2). This report (Wave 3) brings together the latest results from Wave 3 as well as tracking the evolving trends since Wave 1. Wave 3 surveyed 17,000 internet users in 29 countries and was completed in March 2008.

Since Wave 1 in September 2006 the research has created genuine insights on the patterns of usage, such as China having more bloggers than the US, emerging markets leading take up and Japan shunning photo sharing.

This latest report demonstrates the continued growth of social media, the impacts of this are huge.

- The vast majority of users are producing content and there is an ongoing shift towards participation.
- Media consumption is internationalising along language lines thanks to global social platforms.
- Consumers are moving to on-demand media such as video clips and podcasts.
- The role for advertisers and brands has never had so much potential – branded applications, content and services all offer huge potential in social media.
- Emerging internet markets are leading the way in usage, closing the gap with developed countries.



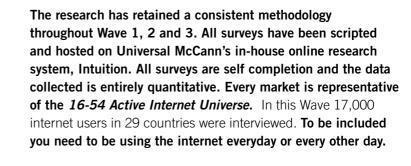
### Wave 3 Highlights

- Social media is a global phenomenon happening in all markets regardless of wider economic, social and cultural development. If you are online you are using social media
- Asian markets are leading in terms of participation, creating more content than any other region
- All social media platforms have grown significantly over the three Waves
  - Video Clips are the quickest growing platform, up from 31% penetration in Wave 1 to 83% in Wave 3
- 57% have joined a Social Network, making it the number one platform for creating and sharing content
  - 55% of users have uploaded photos
  - 22% of users have uploaded videos
- The widget economy is real
  - 23% of social network users have installed an application
  - 18% of bloggers have installed applications in their blog templates
- Blogs are a mainstream media world-wide and as a collective rival any traditional media
  - 73% have read a blog
- The blogsphere is becoming increasingly participatory, now 184m bloggers world-wide
  - The number one thing to blog about is personal life and family
- China has the largest blogging community in the world with 42m bloggers, more than the US and Western Europe combined
- Social media impacts your brands reputation
  - 34% post opinions about products and brands on their blog
  - 36% think more positively about companies that have blogs



## Methodology: How we did it

NILL NO



THE ACTIVE
INTERNET
UNIVERSE | Luse the internet

**SKYROCK** 

Linked in.

facebook

mixi

everyday / every other day

Power to the people - Social Media Tracker Wave 3

#### Why the Active Internet Universe?

- As they are the key leaders of social media and drivers of adoption, they are the most important consumer to understand.
- They are the most important consumer to understand the adoption of social media who are key to growing the internet.
- They make up the vast majority of social media adopters.
   If you're not using the internet regularly, you're not blogging.
- Over time, all users increase the regularity of usage.
   Eventually everybody will be an active user, as they have been with television.

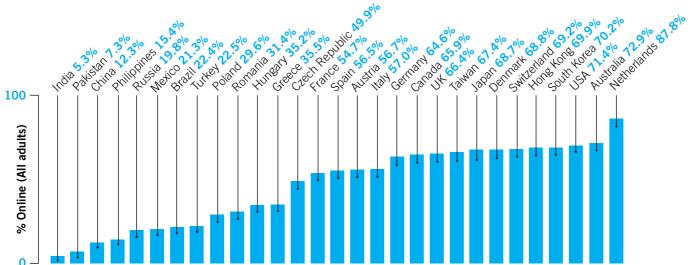
In the past Waves there has been occasional mis-understanding about what the results represent, due to the fact that smaller less economically developed countries lead the way.

The reason lies in the focus of the study, which is to understand usage of social media among internet users. Emerging Internet markets tend to have a demographical profile that fits the early adopter as opposed to the mature internet markets such as Japan and the US. This can be a factor in lower levels of adoption in penetration terms.

It must also be considered that emerging markets have lower levels of internet penetration, so the impact of social media among the country as a whole will be more measured.

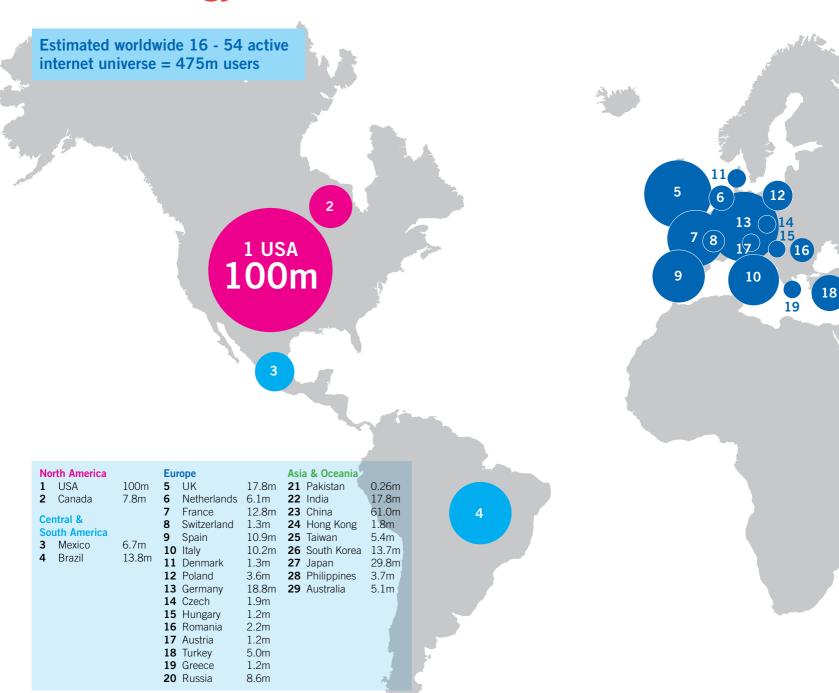
#### **Internet Penetration by market**

Internet Penetration, all adults. Figures sourced from Internetworldstats.com

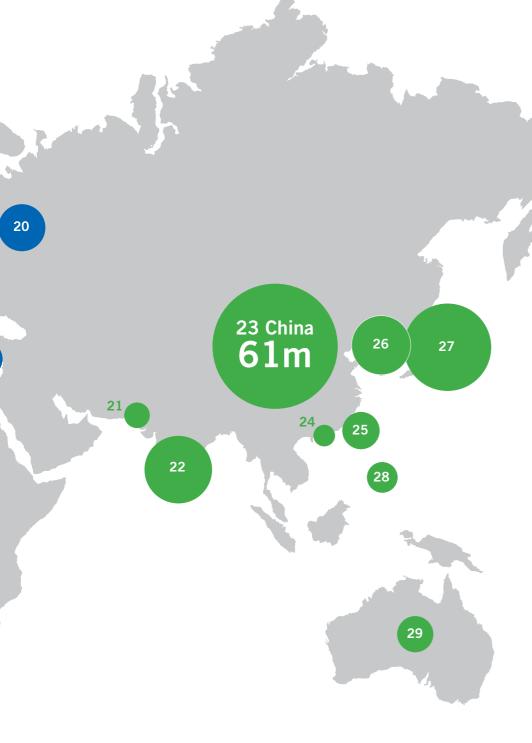




### **Methodology:** Universe sizes – putting it into context



Power to the people - Social Media Tracker Wave 3



### Putting the results into context

To help provide a more complete picture, the analysis in this report puts the results into context in two ways;

- 1. Market by market universe estimates
- 2. Penetration of usage among all 16-54s.

Both these figures are estimates based on the above universe sizes. When estimating global usage figures of different social media technologies we make the fair assumption that the vast majority of users will be active users and between the ages of 16-54.

#### How did we get to these universe figures?

Local market data from TGI, Simmons or equivalent provided penetration figures for 16-54s by market and levels of active usage. These were correlated with Internet World Stats, CIA World Factbook and Comscore.

The general rule is the more developed a market is, the higher in home and at work internet connections are, which leads to higher levels of active usage.

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### What is social media?

Social media represents
a big improvement over
Web 2.0 as a term to
describe the changes that have
impacted the internet. The idea
that we switched from Web 1.0 to
2.0

was always a touch crude.



Social media is an important shift, as it summarises the importance of interaction, the consumer and the community. The term emphasises the idea that as a collective it can have as much impact as any traditional media platform.

In truth, to claim social media as "new" is slightly misleading. From the beginning, the internet was founded on message boards, chat rooms and peer to peer communication. What has changed is the mass involvement that modern social platforms inspire.

Contributing to the internet has never been as accessible and less technical. Innovations in web development, computing technology and the proliferation of broadband have come together in drive monumental consumer take up. This is why the phenomenon of social media is important now – it has the potential to impact on all our media consumption therefore shifting the emphasis from professional content producers to the consumer.

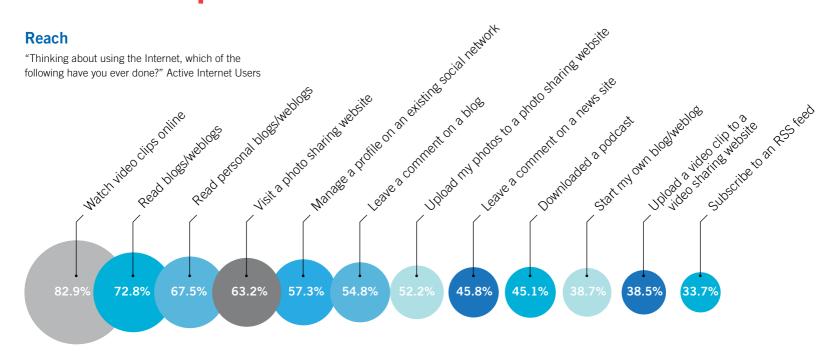
### The definition

"Online applications, platforms and media which aim to facilitate interaction, collaboration and the sharing of content"



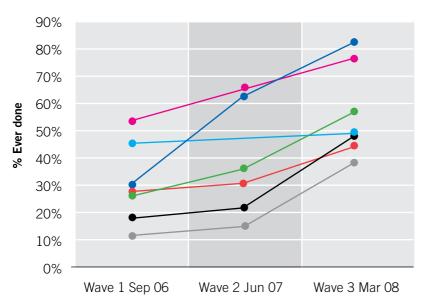


### Global snapshot: Wave 3



#### Reach over time

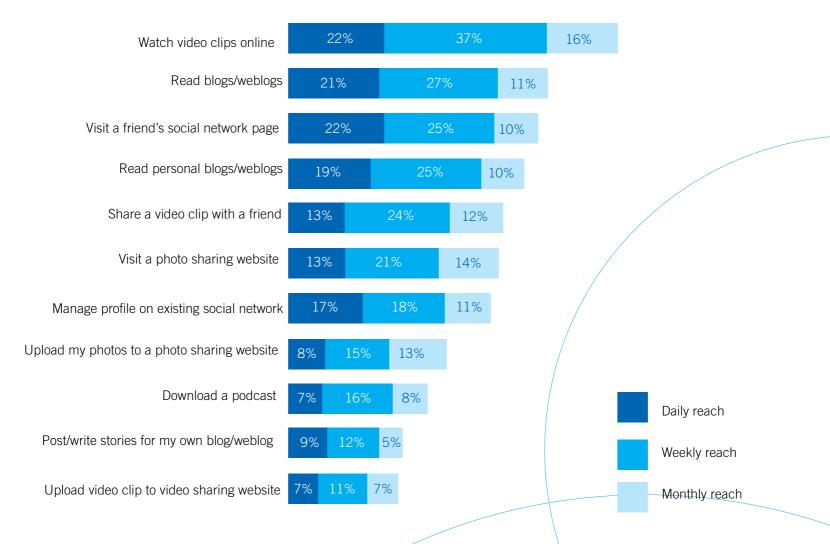
"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" Active Internet Users



- Read blogs/weblogs
- Start my own blog/weblog
- Leave a comment on a news site
- Watch video clips online
- Download a podcast (pre-recorded radio/ audio show)
- Create a profile on a social network
- Subscribe to an RSS feed

#### **Frequency**

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" Active internet users





## Global snapshot: Wave 3

Watch video clips online 394m

Read blogs/weblogs 346m

Read personal blogs/weblogs 321m

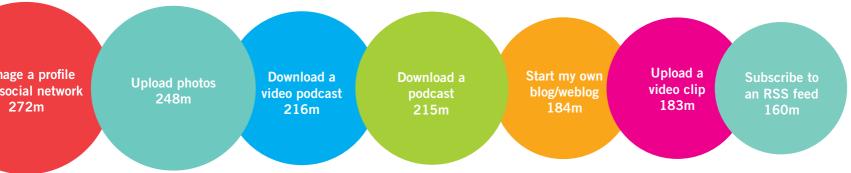
Visit a friends social network page 307m

Share a video clip 303m

Mar on a







16-54 active Internet users global universe estimates







### Reading blogs: usage trends

#### Blogging shows no signs of slowing its growing prominence in popular culture and society.

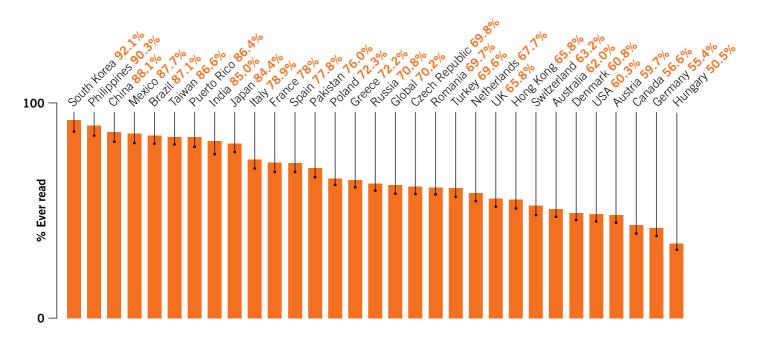
Politicians, celebrities, brands and family members all seem to have one. Traditional media outlets use them to supplement their normal output. At the same time legions of micropublishers have utilised blogs to start mini media empires, from Perez Hilton to Treehugger in every niche imaginable. The result is a massive wealth of new sources of information that we continue to digest.

- . Growth continues at a global level
  - 77% Read blogs up 11% on Wave 2
- Saturation in growth in some markets
  - South Korea, China, Italy and Russia all reached their limits of growth
- . Blogging as a collective rivals traditional media
  - 70% weekly reach

- · Very high frequency medium
  - 50% daily reach in Brazil and Japan
- . Blogs are primarily a community media
  - Personal blogs and friend and family blogs are number one destination for reading
- They're not for geeks
  - Music, TV, film and News are the next highest destinations

#### Blog readership Wave 3

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" Active Internet Users



#### Blog readership Waves 1-3

Wave 1 Sep 06

Wave 2 Jun 07

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" - "Read blogs / weblogs" Active Internet Universe



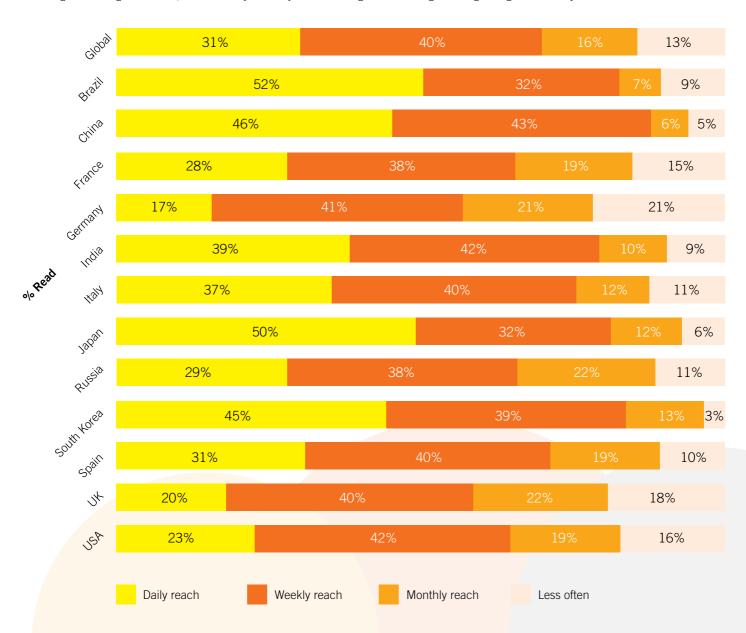
Wave 3 Mar 08



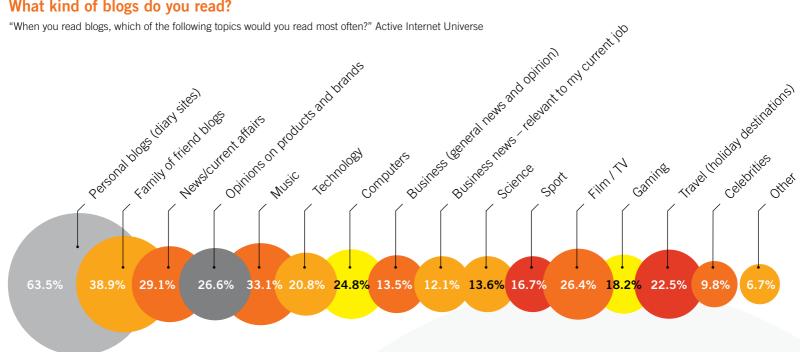
### Reading blogs: usage trends

#### Frequency of readership – key markets

"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" - "Read blogs / weblogs" Blog Readers Only

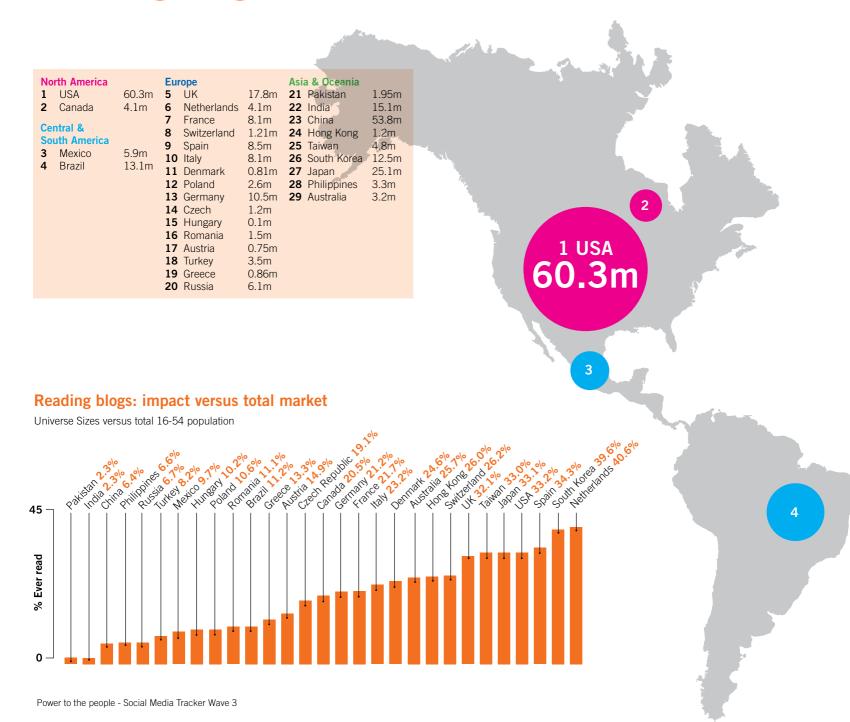


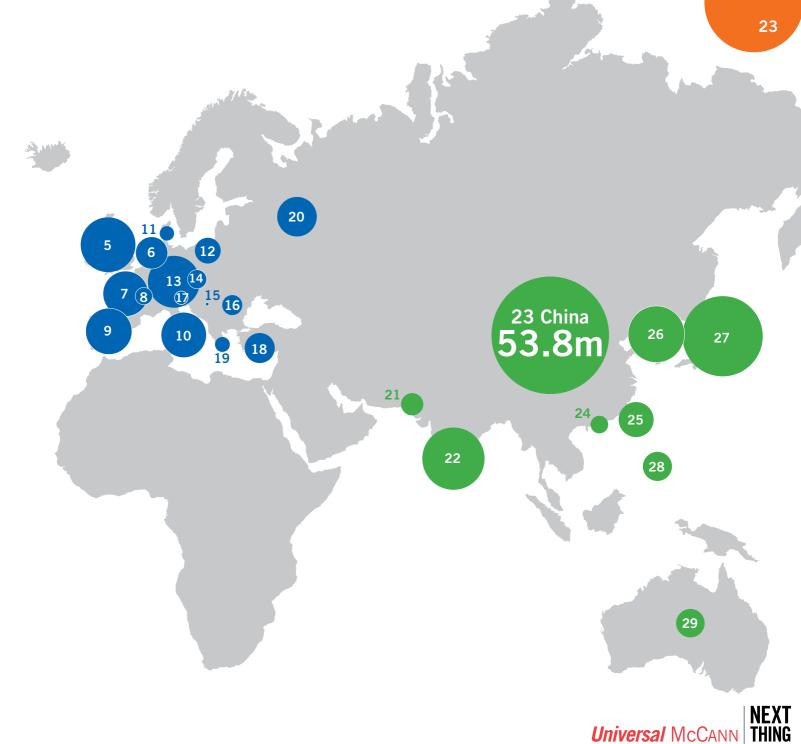
#### What kind of blogs do you read?





### Reading blogs: putting it in context





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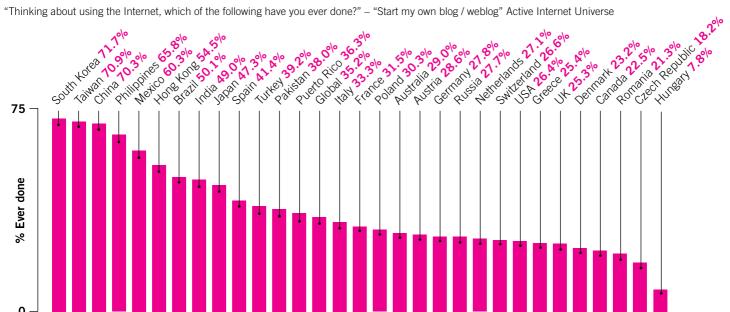
### Writing blogs: usage trends

Blogging is becoming increasingly participatory with every Wave. The concept of Citizen Journalists is becoming the reality.

- Continued shifts into participation
  - 45% have started a blog, up 14%
  - 184m started a blog
- Asia leads the way
  - South Korea, Taiwan, China top the league table with 70%+ penetration
- . China the biggest blogging market in the world
  - Estimated 42.5m bloggers
- Eastern Europe lowest levels of participation
  - Hungary, Czech and Romania are bottom 3

- Germany finally found its blogging voice
  - 28% have started a blog, up from 8%
- · Blogging is a community medium
  - 64% write about personal life
- · Content is multimedia
  - 61% post photos, 29% post videos, 24% upload music
- · Blogs impact on brands
  - 34% write about their opinions on products and brands.

#### Starting a blog: Wave 3



Power to the people - Social Media Tracker Wave 3

"Below are a
list of statements –
please can you answer
reflecting your opinion."
– Responses "Definitely
Agree / Somewhat
Agree" Active Internet
Universe

66% Blogging is a good way to express yourself

**36%** I think more positively about companies that have blogs

33% I have a favourite blog that I read regularly

**32%** I trust bloggers opinions on products and services

31% Blogging is an important way to socialise with friends

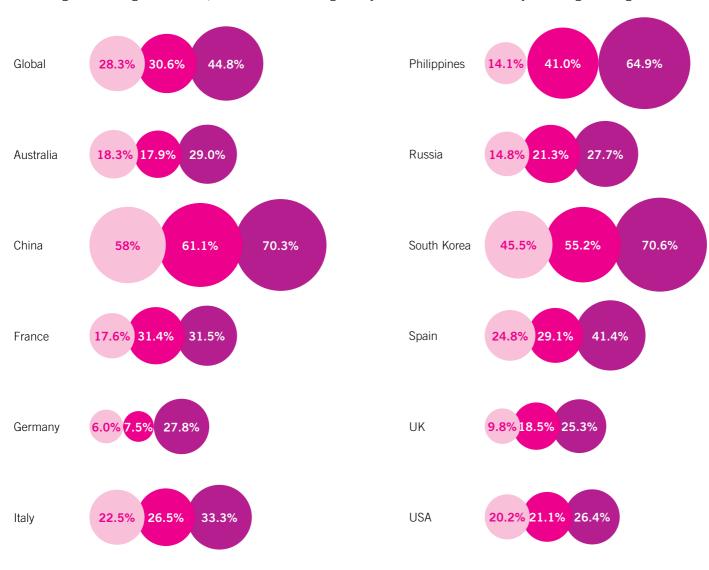
'm blogging this.



### Writing blogs: usage trends

#### Blog writing Waves 1-3

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" – "Start my own blog / weblog" Active Internet Universe

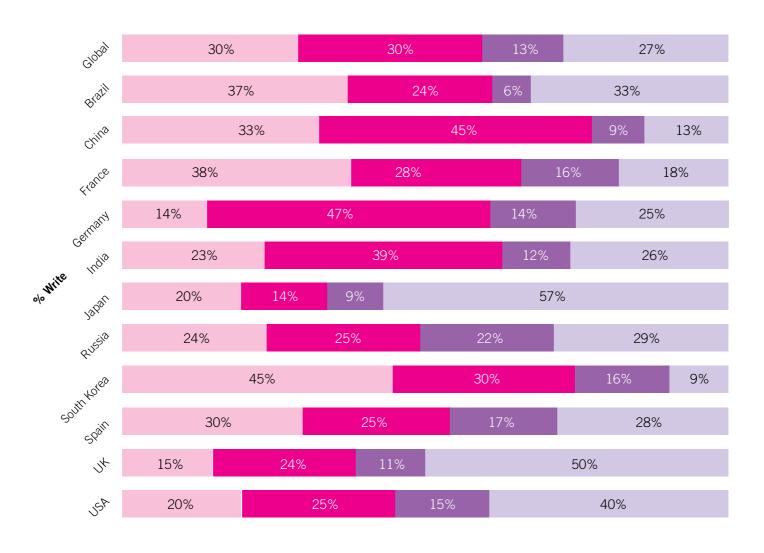






#### Frequency of writing

"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" - "Read blogs / weblogs" Blog Writers Only





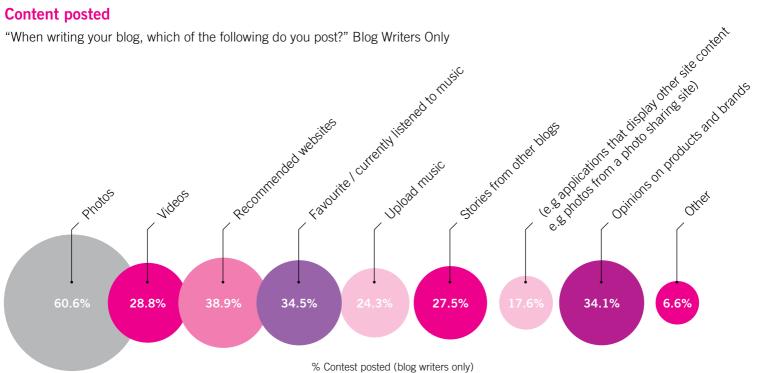
### Writing blogs: usage trends

### Topics blogged about

Ausiness news relevant to my current job "When writing your blog, what topics do you normal write about?" Blog Writers Only Ausiness de Reneral neues and opinion Odinions on products and brands , Trave Indiday destinations , Pasonal hoss diany sites Farily of the rid blogs New Schreet affairs Computers Carring 13.5% 12.1% 16.7% 26.4% 18 63.5% 38.9% 26.6% 33.1% 20.8% 22.5% 9.8% 29.1% % Topics written about (blog writers only)

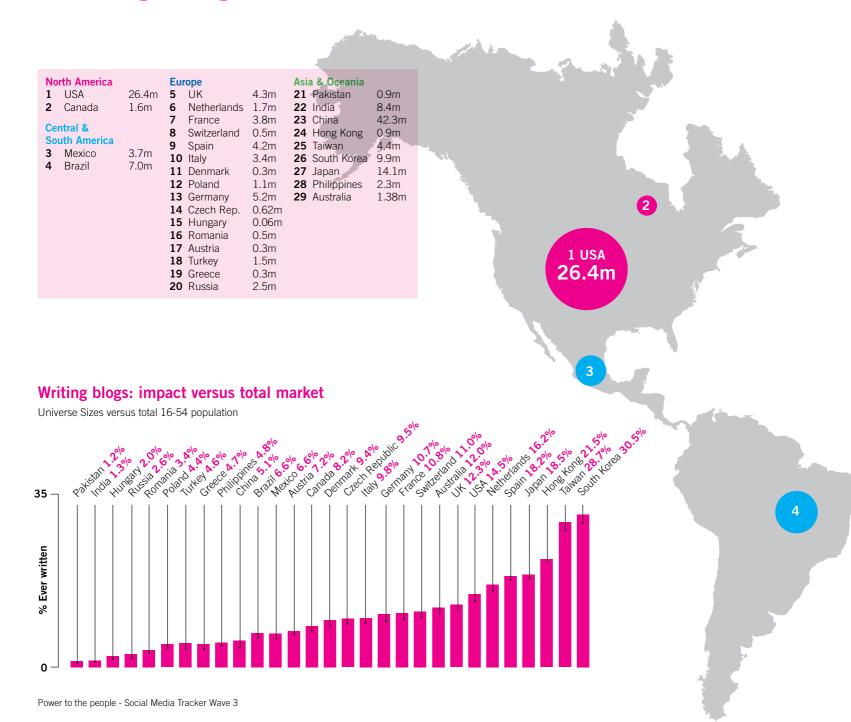


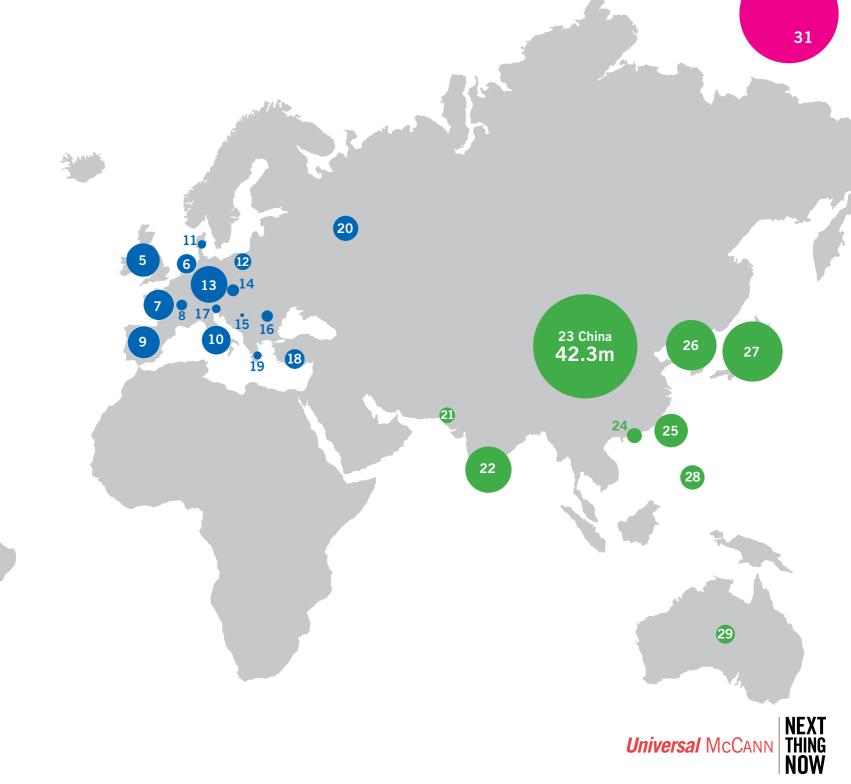
#### **Content posted**





### Writing blogs: putting it into context





### **Blogging:** the impact

As a collective, the blogosphere rivals any mass media in terms of reach, time spent and wider cultural, social and political impact. There are also major shifts into participation, pioneered by the Asian markets and now happening everywhere, even Germany. Blogging today must be embraced whether you are a marketeer, advertising professional or content producer.

All companies and brands should consider employing them to create open and honest dialogue. Any blog that spins the truth will be found out. In a world of social media honesty is the only policy.



\*Ptreehi inner

- In the open and transparent age of social media blogs are an essential tool for reputation
  management and consumers have come to expect them. All companies and brands should
  consider employing them to create open and honest dialogue. Any blog that is spins the
  truth will be found out. In a world of social media honesty is the only policy.
- The collective might of the blogosphere means that today it is an obvious platform for advertising. Only a few blogs have the size to attract advertisers alone so affiliate programs and advertising networks are the way forward to reach a mass audience.
- Bloggers value advertisements, not only for the money they can bring, but the credibility they lend to their site. The role for advertising is going to be more important in the future as it becomes essential to provide free access to sites, web services and content. Everything is becoming ad supported.
- Increasingly blogs are incorporating widgets. Branded widgets are a huge opportunity and will be adopted if they provide a clear benefit for the blogger.
- The blogosphere is now so large it is an accurate barometer of consumer opinion. All brands should be using it as a means to measure consumer opinion, track response to marketing initiatives and as a forum for research.

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it becomes essential
to provide free
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Things to watch in the world of blogging:

Micro Blogging: Blogging in 140 characters or less. Sounds inane, but surprisingly addictive. Check out Twitter.com and Jaiku.com Perfect for the mobile age.

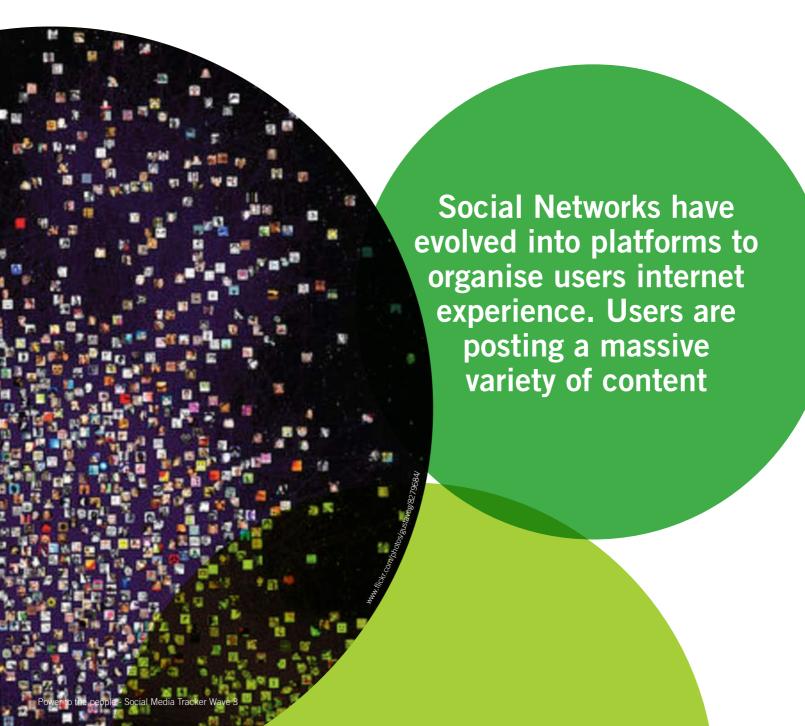
**Political Influence:** All the candidates in the US presidential race are blogging. Barack Obama is even on Twitter. Political blogs are having more impact, check out the Daily Kos and the Drudge report.

**Fake Blogs:** The real pretend thoughts of the rich and famous. Check out Steve Jobs (www.fakesteve.blogspot.com) or a whole network from Hillary Clinton to Gordon Ramsay at Newsgroper (www.newsgroper.com).

Blogging Fame: Bloggers are finding fame and crossing over into professional media. Perez Hilton (celebrity news), Robert Scoble (ex Microsoft blogger) and Michael Harrington of TechCrunch are all examples.



## Social networking: usage trends



Social networking is evolving fast. Increasingly features such as blogging, photo sharing and video sharing are the norm. They are becoming platforms, opening themselves up to external developers to distribute their programs. They are aiming to be the one stop shop for all your internet needs. Consequently we are spending more time with them and doing more on them.

### Wave 3 confirms this:

- · Global penetration has increased significantly
  - Growth appeared to be slowing. Not so; Wave 3 is up to 58% an increase of 21%.
- · Collectively massive platform
  - Estimated 272m users world-wide
- Connecting people globally: emerging markets with high emigration lead the way
  - Philippines 83%, Hungary 80%, Poland 77%, Mexico 76%
- . UK hit by the Facebook factor
  - Usage up 32%

- US saturated as growth stalls at 41%
- · Brazil has the most active users
  - 56% manage their profile every day
- Social Networks have evolved into platforms to organise users internet experience. Users are posting a massive variety of content
  - 55% uploaded photos
  - 21% installed applications
  - 23% uploaded video
- Social Networks becoming social utilities for managing peer to peer relationships
  - 74% use them to message friends



### Social networking: usage trends

#### Belong to a Social Network Wave3

Power to the people - Social Media Tracker Wave 3

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" - "Create a profile on a new social network" Active Internet Universe Sheighty Pheigh. ESSOUTH TURES OF LE Chira 64.0° Shar Custalistists 85 % Ever done msn<sup>N</sup> Video make your statement ( phot 土豆岡 Tudou.com 等个人都是生活的导演 **Bloglines** 

metacafe

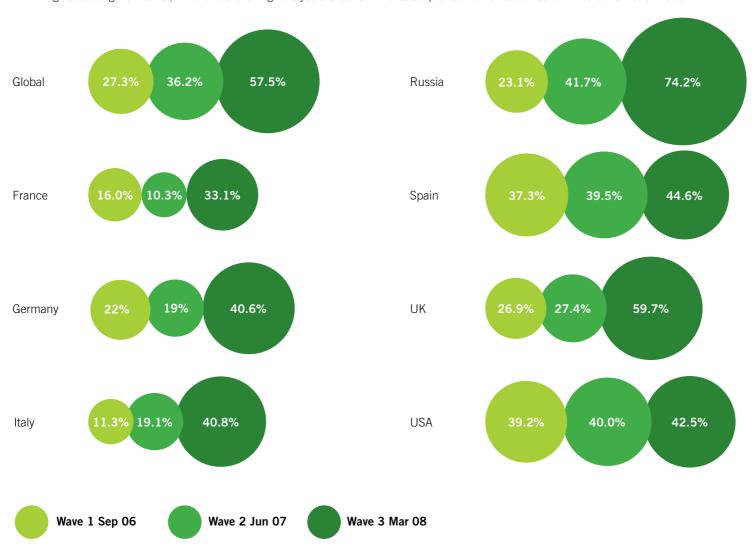
newsgato

VIDEO

PANDORA.TV

### Belong to a Social Network Waves 1-3

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" - "Create a profile on a new social network" Active Internet Universe

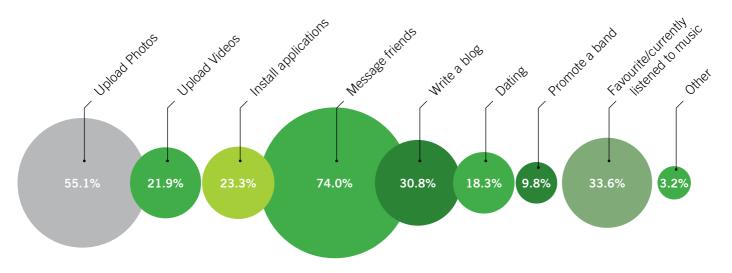




### Social networking: usage trends

#### Content posted on social network

"What do you do with your social networking profile?" Active Internet Universe



% Added to Social Network Page (Social Network Users)

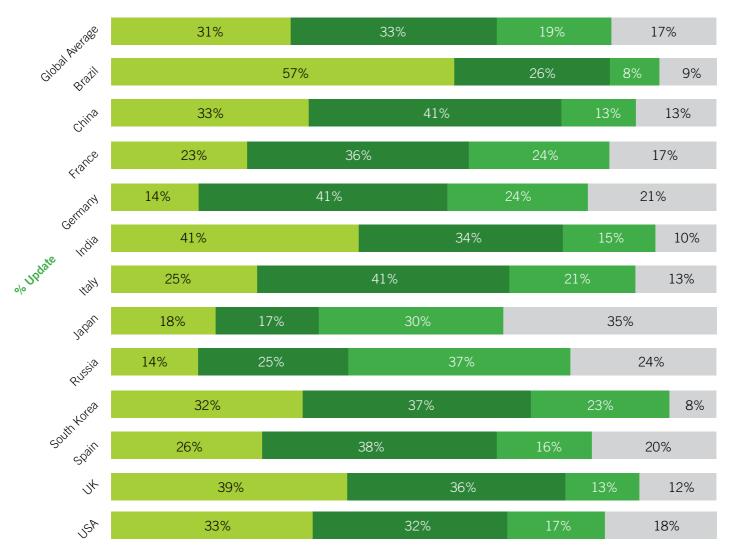
Social Networks have evolved into platforms to organise users internet experience. Users are posting a massive variety of content.

Power to the people - Social Media Tracker Wave 3

#### Frequency of updating Social Network page

"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" –

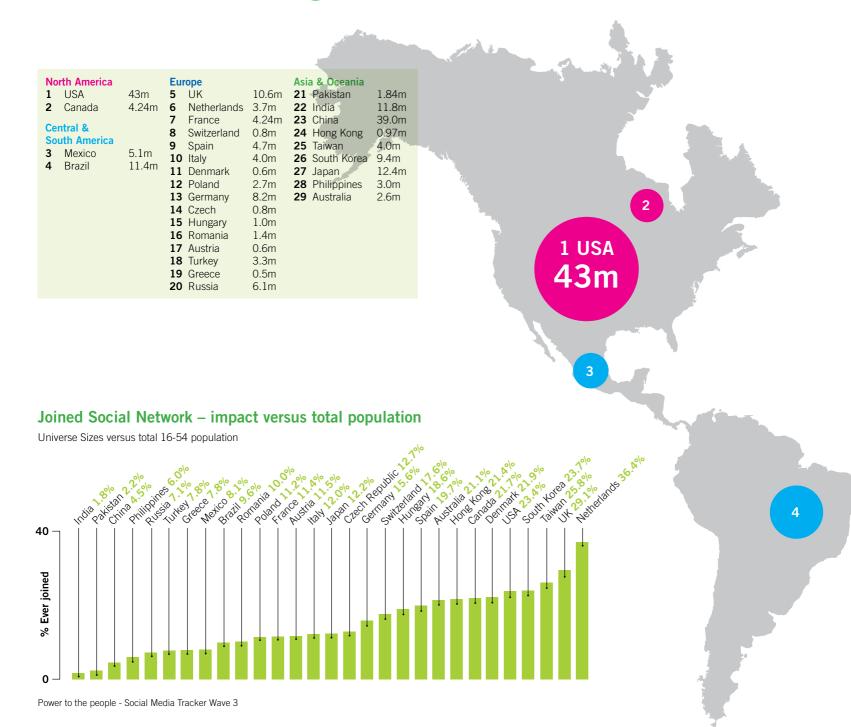
<sup>&</sup>quot;Manage your social network page" - Social Network users only

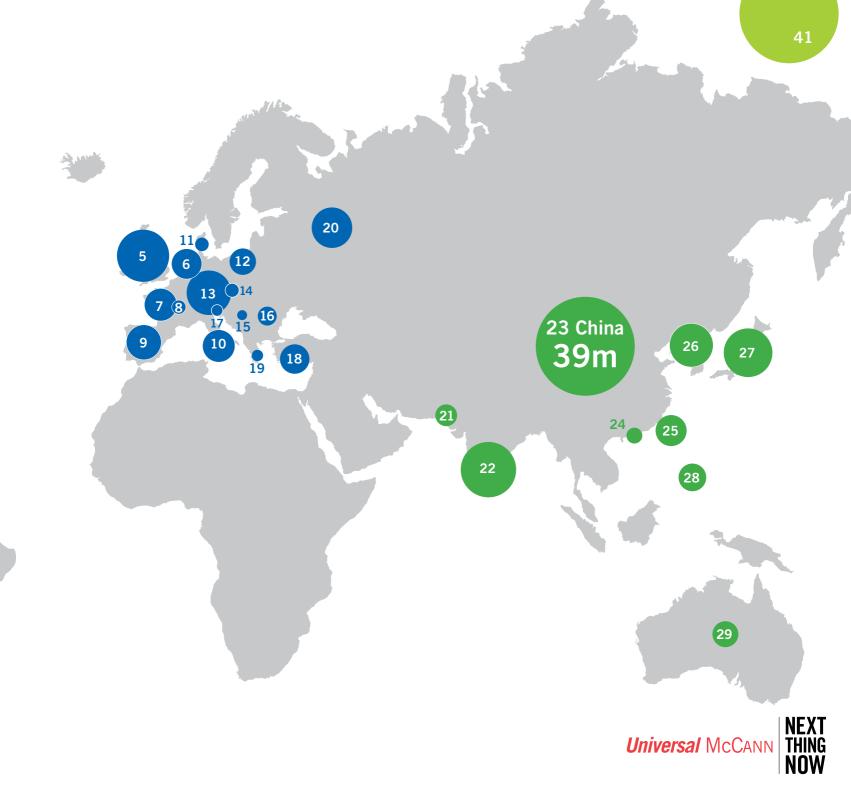


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Less often

### Social networking: context





### Brand penetration: usage trends

There is a lot of talk about which is the biggest social network in the world.

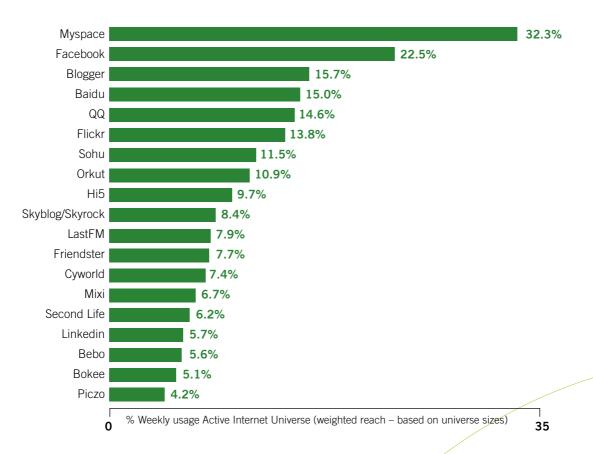
This research provides clear proof that Myspace is still number one among a broad collection of international networks with a 32% weekly reach. Its position has been maintained by its focus on music and commercial content, rather than connecting friends. Facebook is not far behind on 22.5% weekly reach and the number one in many markets and surely will grow as it becomes internationalised.

However the pattern is very mixed globally and its far from a two horse race. In Asia a variety of local sites like QQ, Cyworld and Mixi dominate in their home markets, while Orkut is number one in Brazil.



### Weekly usage of key international social networking media sites

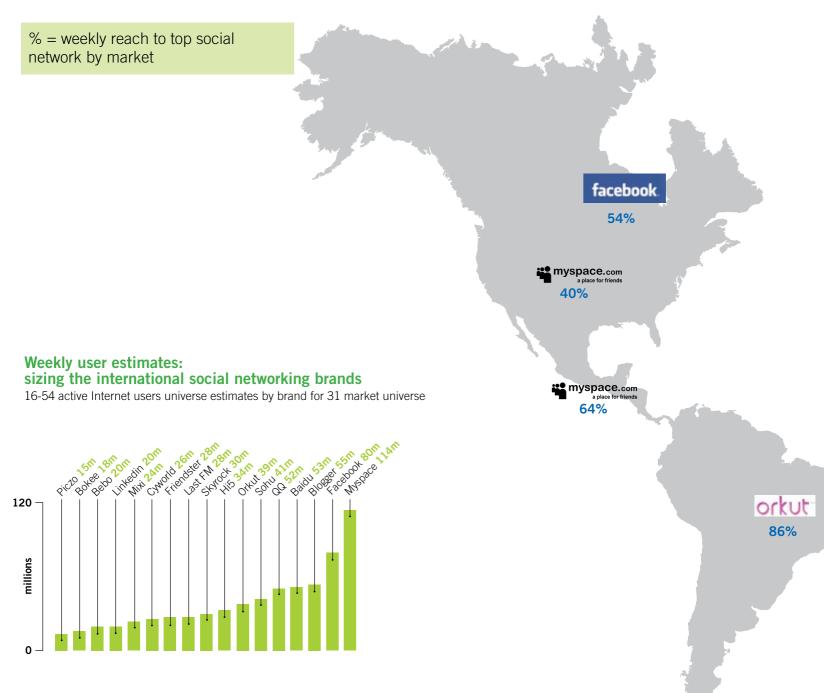
Universe Sizes versus total 16-54 population



This fragmentation suggests that a truly global platform is **impossible**.



### Brand penetration: usage trends





### Social networking

# Social networks have evolved significantly in the past year as they move to become open platforms that support all your internet needs.

- This has seen growth accelerate in Wave 3 from a period of relative stagnation between Waves 1 and 2. Social networks are today the main platform for sharing content and have increasingly become the means to manage social relationships. Consequently social networks are grabbing ever more of our internet time and so brands and content producers must be active inside them.
- Large Social Networks have near unlimited inventory. For advertisers to cut-through they need to be relevant and ideally work inside the network, by bringing users to branded pages,
- applications or connecting them with content.

- micro-sites but most of all make it engaging.
- Widgets are clearly going to be very important to brands. They should deliver a true benefit to users, avoid overt branding and be relevant to the user if they are to be successful. Equally as important is securing successful distribution by working with the platforms, using it as a message in advertising and making it available on as many social networks as possible.
- Be International; social networks have global presence. but are heavily localised in adoption and any content and widgets should be tailored to the particular network, reflecting local and cultural differences.







**Niche Social Networks:** In the face of the all encompassing mega social networks a raft of more niche and sometimes exclusive networks are emerging. Check out dogster. com, for you guessed it, dog owners or dopplr.com for frequent business travellers.

**DIY Social Networks:** White label social network systems that you can customise are driving the emergence of a wealth of ultra niche networks. See ning.com or onesite.com for examples.

**Reputation Management:** Slowly users are realising the implications of having every drunken photo online for the world to see. Personal brand management is going to be a big deal in the next few years. Tools to report and manage your reputation are coming online; Wink.com or peekyou.com for personal search and reputa.com and reputationdefender.com for more sophisticated management systems.

**Social Network Aggregators:** An emerging area in 2008 as the need to pull all your social network profiles into one place becomes a pressing one. Try ex.plode.us and profilefly.com.



### **Sharing Content – uploading photos:** usage trends

Photo sharing is the number one way to share content thanks to the proliferation of digital cameras and the continuing ease of sharing that comes with technology innovation. The platforms to share have also expanded with photo sharing becoming central to social networks.

### The leading markets are Asian and Latin American

Philippines leads the way with 86%.

#### Japan shuns photos

Bottom of the table – just 21% uploaded.

- Large numbers of consumers contributing on a very frequent basis 16% upload everyday
- Brazil and Asia more frequent than the UK or US
   34% upload everyday

#### **Sharing photos Wave 3**

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" –

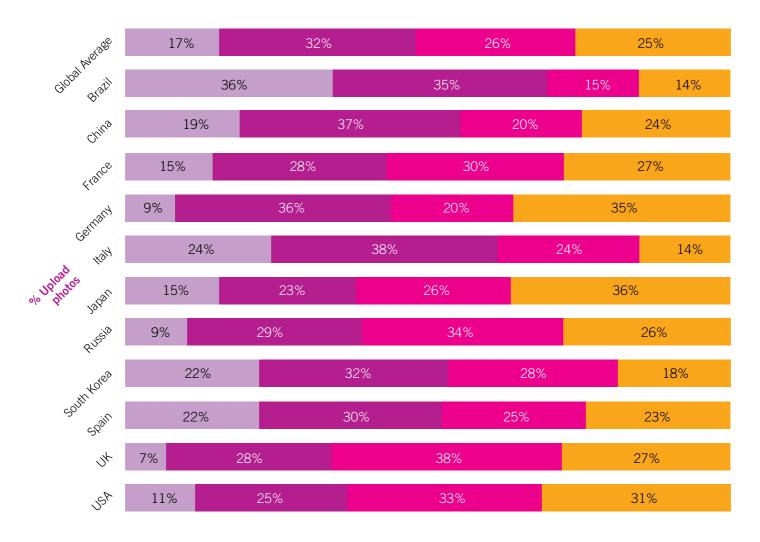
<sup>&</sup>quot;Upload my photos to a photo sharing website" Active Internet Universe



### **Frequency of Sharing Photos**

"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" –

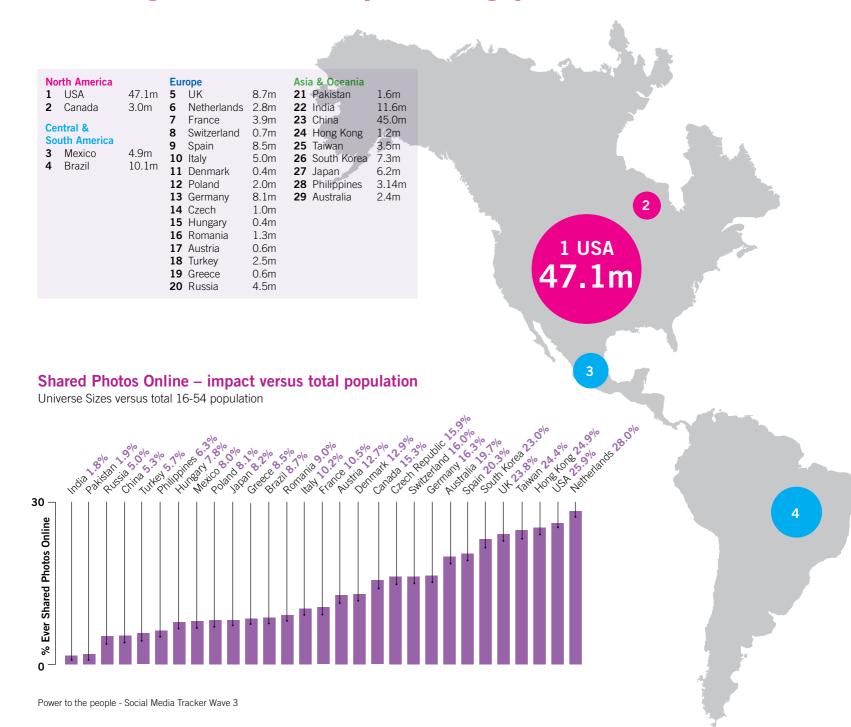
"Upload my photos to a photo sharing website" - Photo sharers only

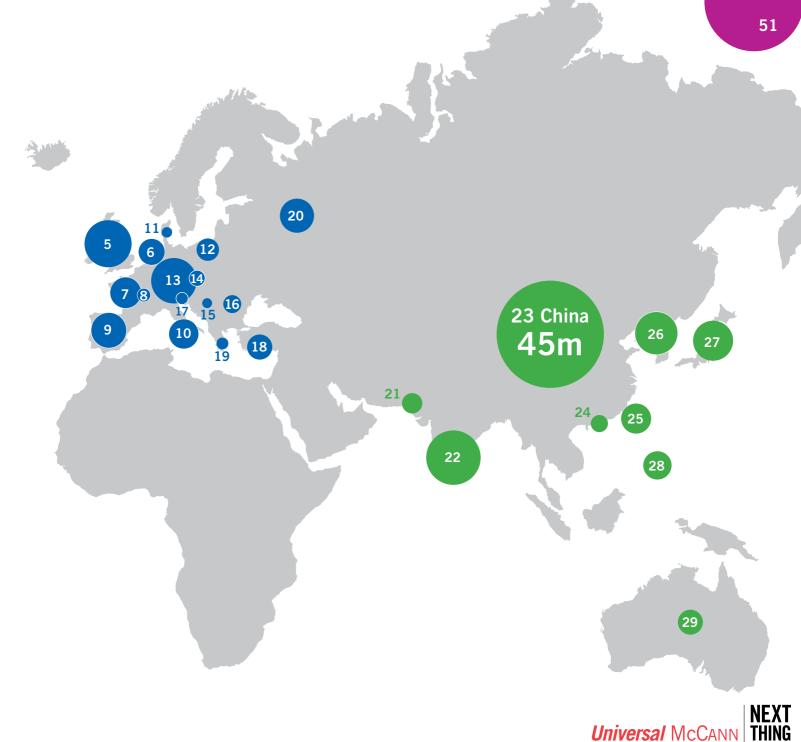




Less often

### **Sharing Content – uploading photos:** context





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### Sharing Content – uploading videos: usage trends

Considering the complexities of sourcing and uploading video the numbers of people doing it is staggering. In many markets the number of people uploading is not far from the numbers sharing photos. Even more impressive is how often they do it.

#### Similar pattern to photosharing

Brazil lead the way on 68% Asia lead; all Asian markets bar Japan in the top half

#### Huge variation in involvement

Hungary 16% > Brazil 68%

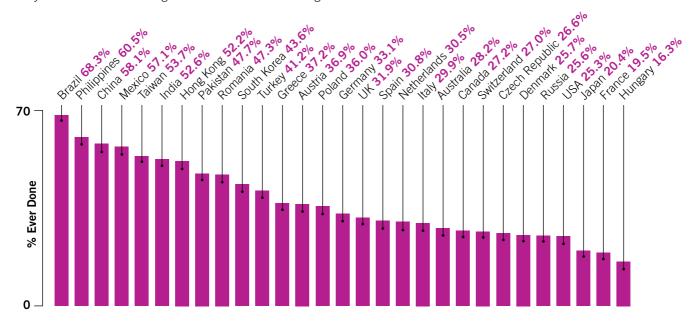
#### • High frequency of involvement

20% uploading every day

#### **Uploading Videos Wave 3**

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" –

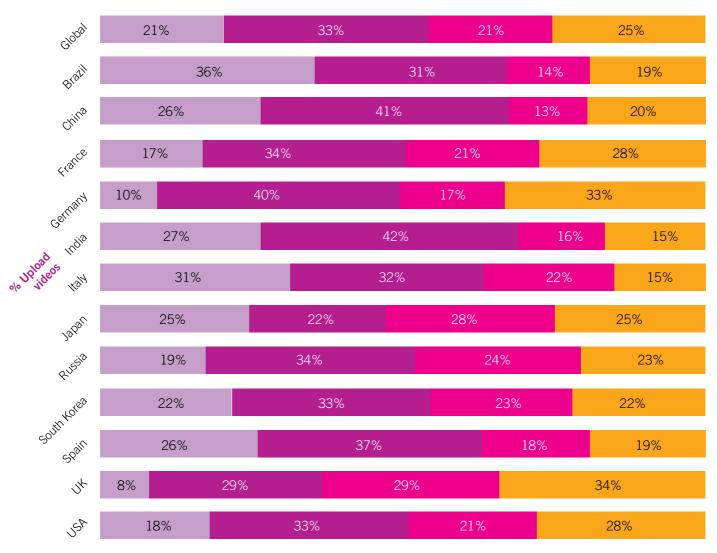
<sup>&</sup>quot;Upload my videos to a video sharing website" Active Internet Usage



### Frequency of uploading videos

"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" –

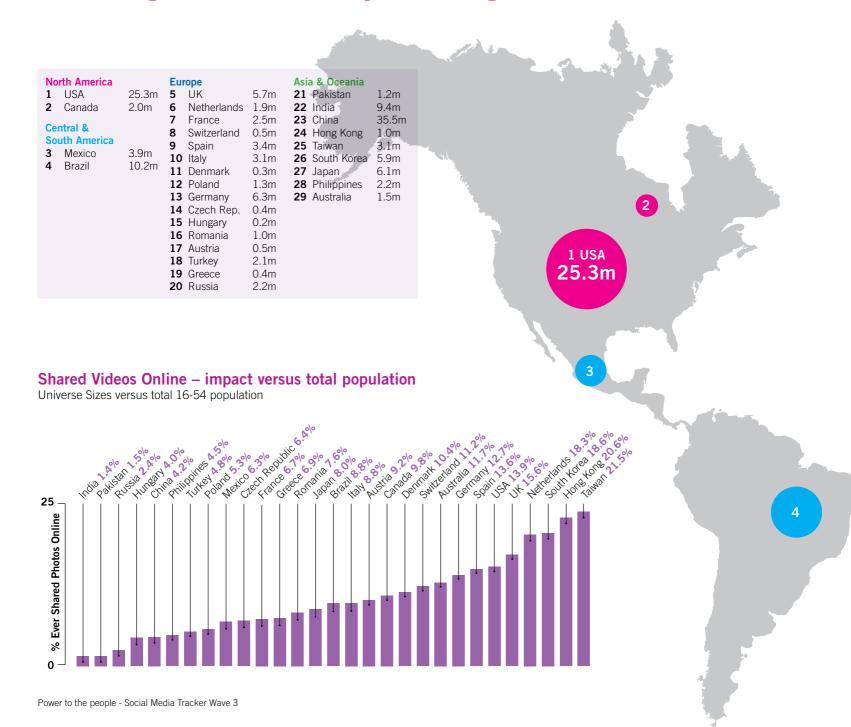
<sup>&</sup>quot;Upload my videos to a video sharing website" - Video sharers only

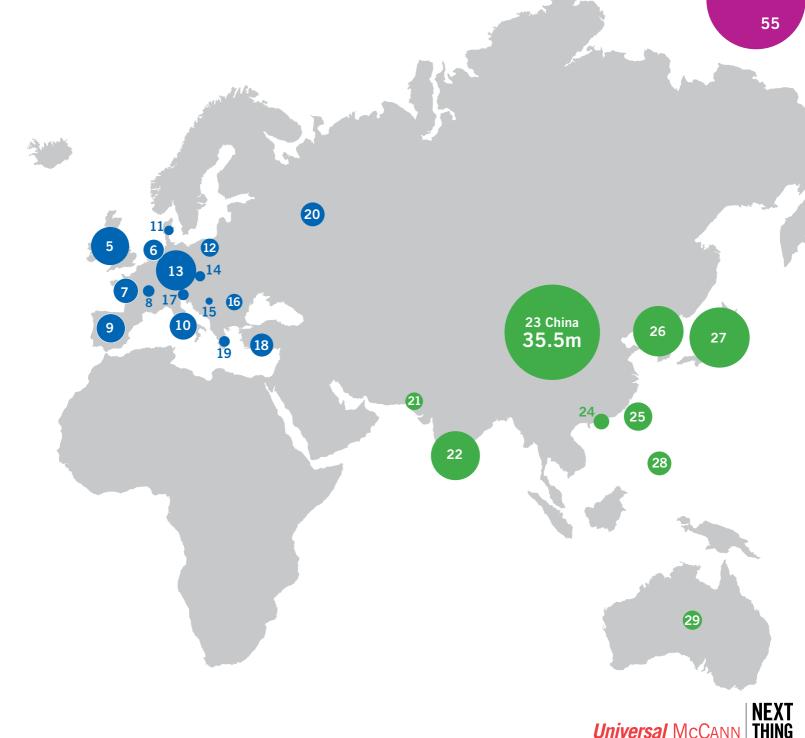




Less often

### **Sharing Content – uploading videos:** context





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# Consuming Content – video clips: usage trends



Video clips continue to grow massively and penetration is huge in all markets. This is thanks to the continual rise of video sharing sites and users embedding video clips on social networks, blogs and web pages.

#### Growth is universal across all countries

31% to 82% global reach seen in all markets

Lowest difference between markets of any social media platform Range 63% - 99%

### Very high frequency medium

71% weekly reach

**Reach among total population comparable with broadcast media** In Netherlands almost 50% of all 16-54s are watching video

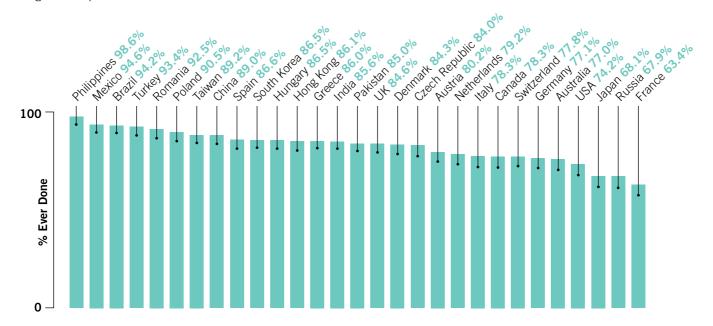
#### Volume of users worldwide is vast

Estimated 394m users

#### Watching Video Clips Wave 3

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" –

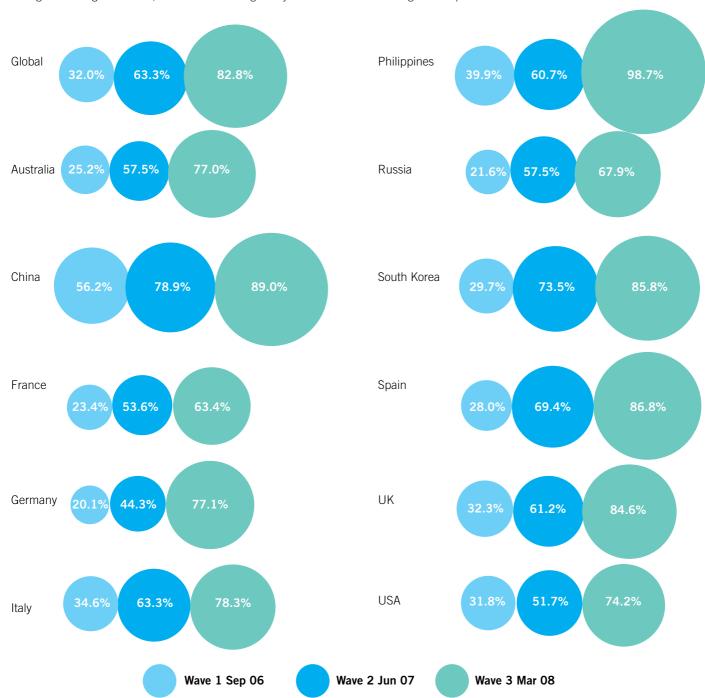
<sup>&</sup>quot;Watching Video Clips" Active Internet Universe





### Watching video clips Waves 1-3

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" - "Watching Video Clips" Active Internet Universe

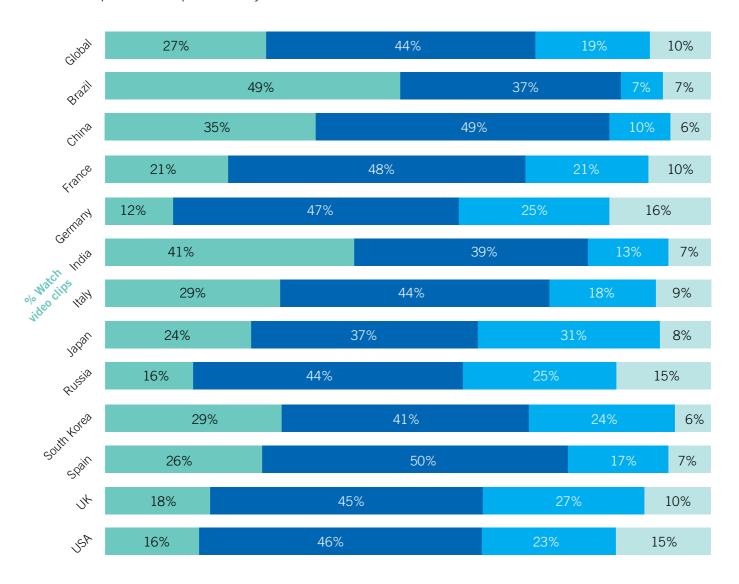


### Consuming Content – video clips: usage trends

#### Frequency of watching video clips

"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" -

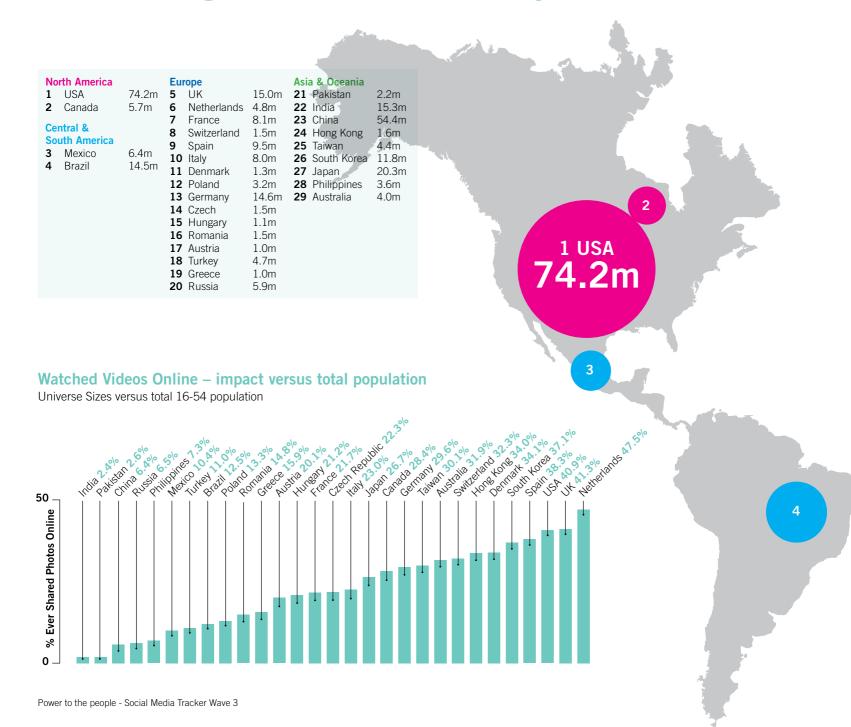
<sup>&</sup>quot;Watch video clips" - Video clip viewers only

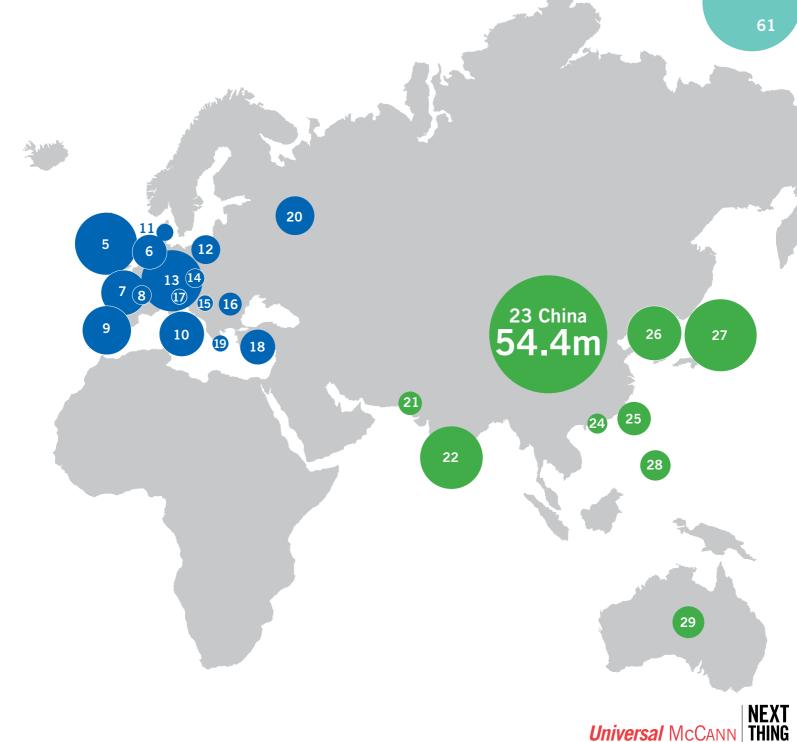




Less often

## **Consuming Content – video clips:** context





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### **Consuming Content – podcasts:** usage trends

Podcasting was initially slow to take off, but recently has shown real and significant growth. This is thanks to the increase in portable video players and the ease of access that services like iTunes have pioneered.

**Growth massive between Waves 2 and 3** From 21% to 49% world-wide.

China is the worlds biggest podcast market 74% use, with an estimated 45m users

**Actively involved – regular downloads** 18% listen and download everyday

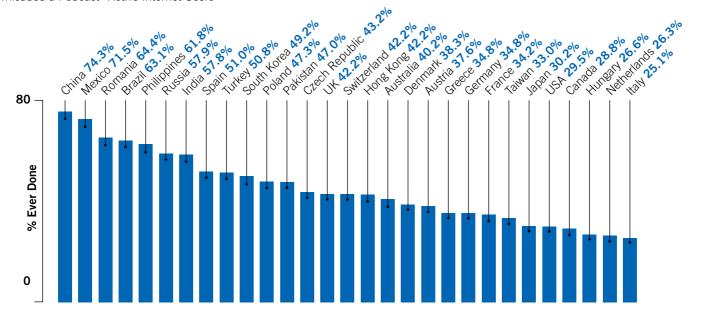


Power to the people - Social Media Tracker Wave 3

#### Downloaded a podcast

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" -

<sup>&</sup>quot;Downloaded a Podcast" Active Internet Users





### **Downloading Podcasts Waves 1-3**

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" - "Downloaded a Podcast" Active Internet Users

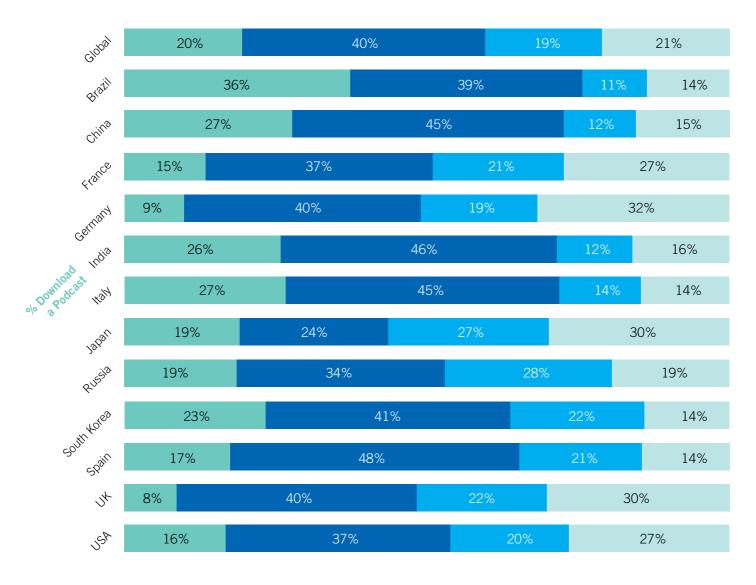


### **Consuming Content – podcasts:** usage trends

### Frequency of Downloading a Podcast

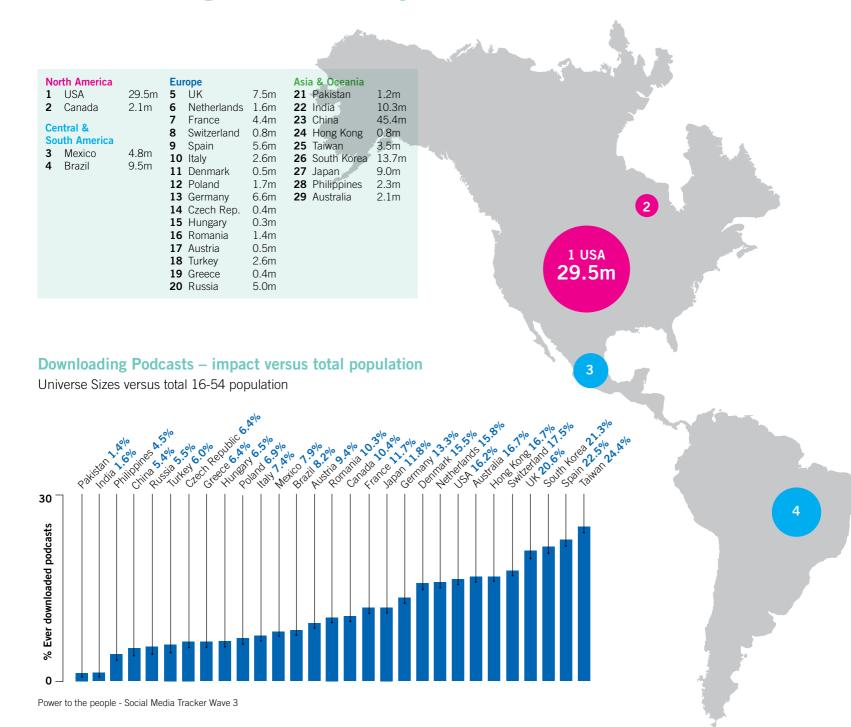
"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" -

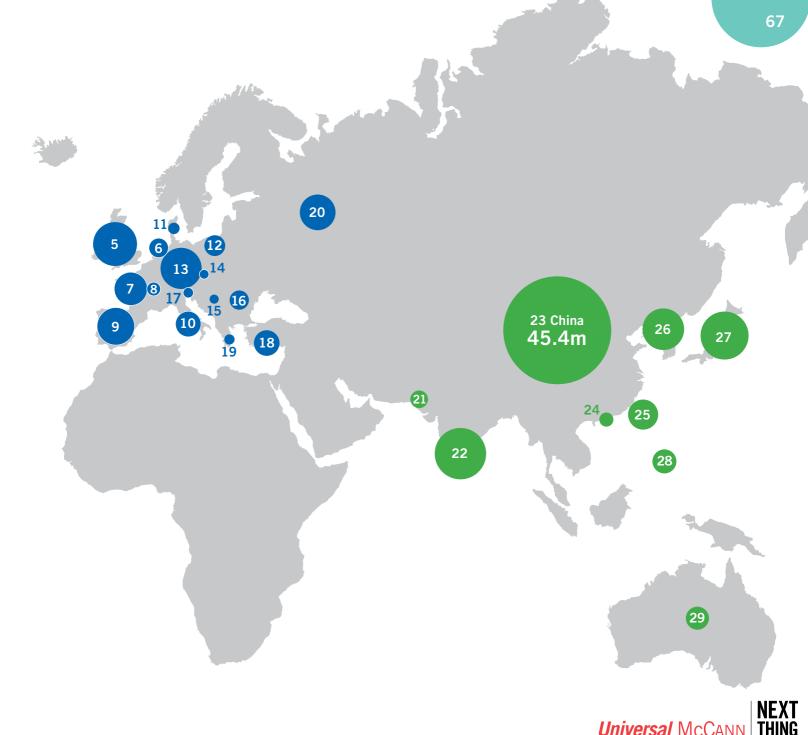
<sup>&</sup>quot;Download a Podcast" - Podcast users only





### **Consuming Content – podcasts:** context





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### Consuming content: RSS

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a key technology in social media. It connects users to content and moves content into a variety of platforms. However in Waves 1 and 2 it had stubbornly refused to gain popularity despite its crucial role in changing the way we access information and use social media platforms, The issues were lack of consumer awareness and low knowledge about what it does. Wave 3 seems to have heralded a tipping point in adoption.

#### Huge growth from Wave 2 to Wave 3

15% to 38% worldwide

#### **BRIC** markets lead

Russia, Brazil and China lead the way, all 50% plus adoption

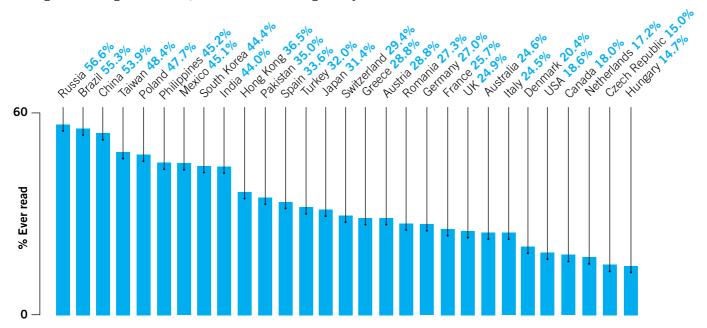
#### Huge variations in adoption

Hungary 15% > Russia 57%

Still lags relative to other social computing technologies

#### Subscribed to an RSS feed

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" - "Subscribe to an RSS feed" Active Internet Users

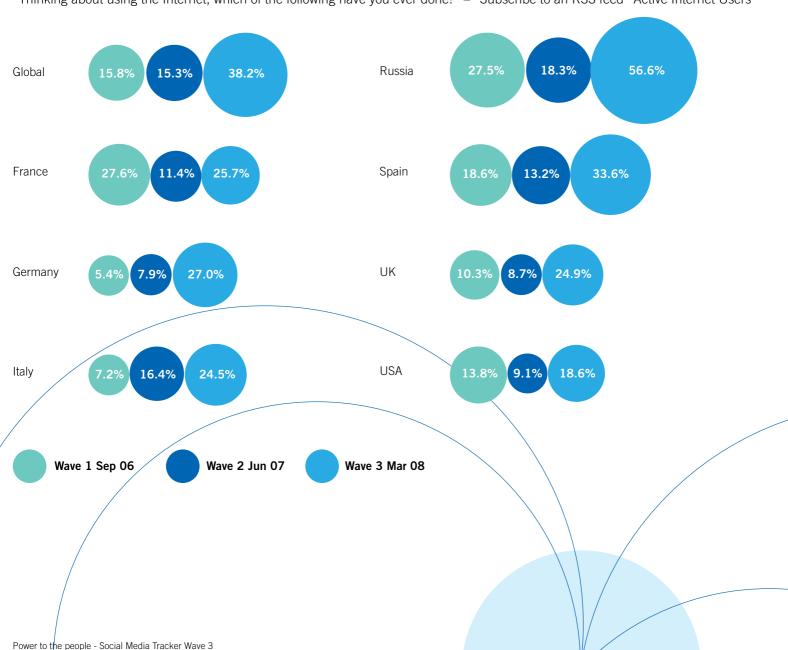




## **Consuming content: RSS**

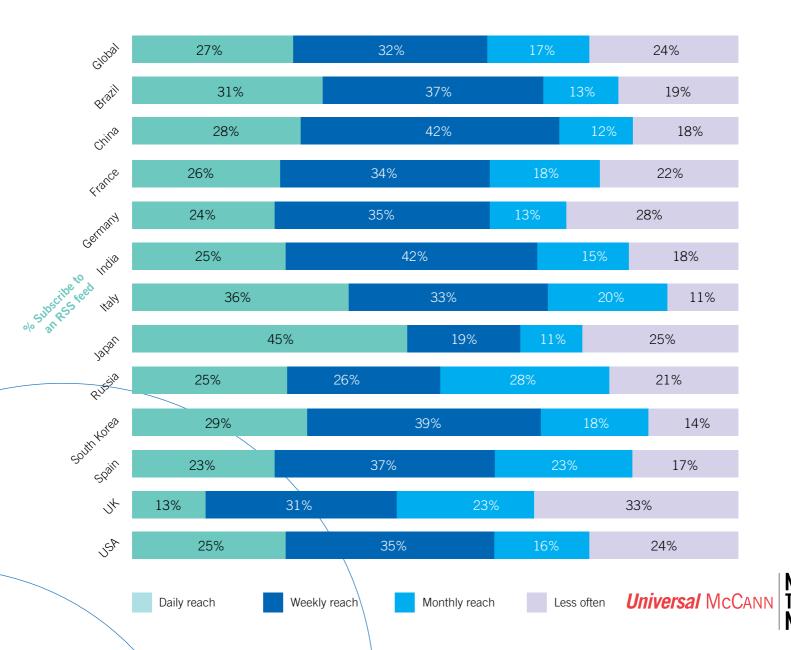
#### Subscribing to an RSS feed - Waves 1-3

"Thinking about using the Internet, which of the following have you ever done?" - "Subscribe to an RSS feed" Active Internet Users

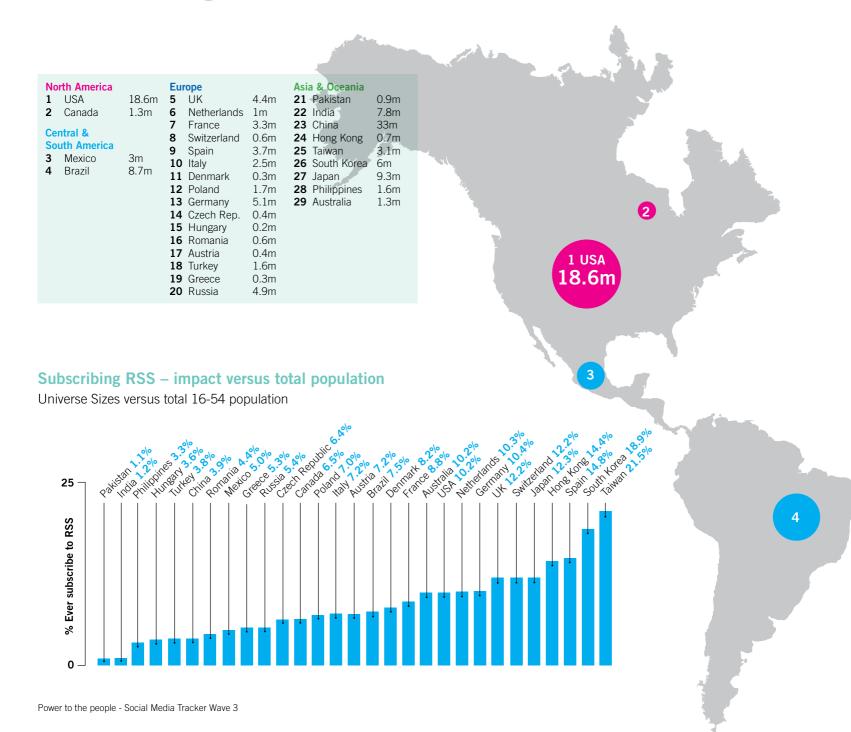


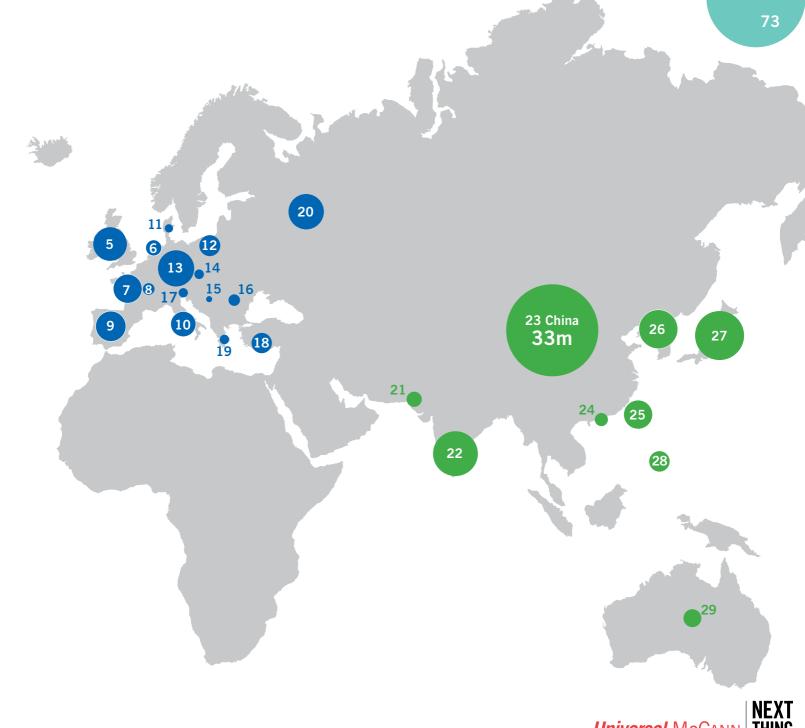
#### Frequency of accessing RSS Feed

"Thinking about using the Internet, how often do you do any of the following?" - "Subscribing to an RSS Feed" - RSS users only



### **Consuming content:** RSS





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The trend in Wave 3 is the continued shift to uploading and sharing rich multi-media content and as with blogging, there is a big movement towards participation. We can also see real changes in how people consumer content; they are now watching on demand in greater numbers than ever. This represents a real shift in media consumption from passive to personal control. As the internet becomes more central to living room media consumption, it will impact the way we consume television. In the short term it is commanding more of our time, fuelling duel media consumption in home (laptop with the TV on) and changing our relationship with media to one of being in control.

## Consuming content: the impact

- The environment is now perfect for creating and distributing branded content. Consumers expect to see and are happy to share it if the content is good. Brands are part of the modern fabric of society and have as much legitimacy as consumers to create and share content.
- In the future web distributed content could potentially become another revenue stream for existing content producers and brands as video sites begin to cut the advertising revenue with uploaders.
- Consumers are creating content in unprecedented numbers, brands who have far more resource should be to.
- User generated content is now firmly part of the media spectrum. This is an opportunity for media companies to supplement their professional content with user content.
   It is also an opportunity for advertising to inspire consumers to create with branded elements.
- The role for advertising will move away from the interruptive model towards less interruptive formats such as pre rolls, sponsorship and branded content which help consumers access new content.



### It's not all about You Tube:

**Dailymotion:** A European youtube rival (dailymotion.com)

MSN Video: Microsoft rival. (video.msn.com)

**Metacafe:** Pay the contributor based on pageviews (metacafe.com)

**Metatube:** Searches every video site in one hit (metavideo.com)

Myspace TV: Social Network giant diversifies (vids.myspace.com)

Chinese versions: Tudou.com, 56.com, pomoho.com Japanese versions: Watchme.tv, peevee.tv, cliplife.jp

South Koreans number 1: Pandora.tv



### Final word

The key technologies that underpin the social media revolution continue their assent. Social media is established everywhere there is an internet connection and it has to be considered for all advertisers, marketers and content producers as a core part of their communications. Social media has impacted every aspect of the internet and transformed the role it plays in our lives.

The social orientated internet is a massive opportunity for brands, advertisers and marketers if embraced properly. It enables a much more positive relationship with consumers where true benefits are created.

### **Create**

- The future of marketing is about acting how you want to be perceived rather than talking about it. Social media gives you this possibility by creating experience.
- Create branded content to be distributed across the global social media platforms. Consumers are doing it; well resourced brands have no excuse.
- Develop widgets, applications, services and platforms that create a genuine consumer benefit and drives engagement. Provide consumers with tools to manage their personal brands online.
- Be inventive in connecting with consumers. Integrate it with offline communications and use social media as link or as a story to communicate.

The social orientated internet is a massive opportunity for brands, advertisers and marketers if embraced properly.

### **Participate**

- Move away from siloed brand sites: In a world of interlinked platforms and content, the stand alone brand site is not as engaging.
- Think global; consumers are. Media consumption and social interaction are moving international, constrained by language not borders. Global brand identities, multi market campaigns and international structures are all essential.
- Embrace social platforms as part of your communications mix; blogging platforms, social networks, video and photo sharing sites are where consumers spend most time and where the greatest opportunities for engagement exist.

### Connect

- Use social media to create a dialogue with consumers.
- Track opinions in the blogosphere.
- Exist inside Social Networks: Create profiles, develop networks to distribute content and employ advertising and sponsorship to drive engagement with consumers.
- Allow consumers to interact with your brand: User generated advertising, branded blogs and ongoing feedback are expected.

Use social media to create a dialogue with consumers.

Think global; consumers are.



### **Moving Forward**

Wave 3 of this social media tracker is part of an ongoing global research programme that focuses on the impacts of digital media and technology.

In parallel to the tracker in-depth studies are carried out to look at particular digital media topics.

The last in-depth study "Anytime, Anyplace" looked at mobile phones and portable technology, in particular demands for content services and the role of advertising. The next major in-depth due to be released in mid 2008 will investigate word of mouth in the online age. It will focus on how the wealth of consumer and peer to peer opinion we are now exposed to impacts on how we form opinions on brands, products and services.

Wave 4 of the social media tracker is scheduled for late 2008 and should include a number of new social media innovations and a larger geographical coverage.

Any questions or comments please contact tom.smith@universalmccann.com

...an ongoing global research programme that focuses on the impacts of digital media and technology.





