

Blogging for Storytellers

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Blogging for Storytellers



Introduction

Before I started my writer's blog, I had my Sims2 Stories published on one of the largest Sims Community websites. This was nice for as long as it lasted, but one terrible night I was faced with the fact that the site's administrators had decided to remove two chapters of my story, thus effectively killing my whole story.

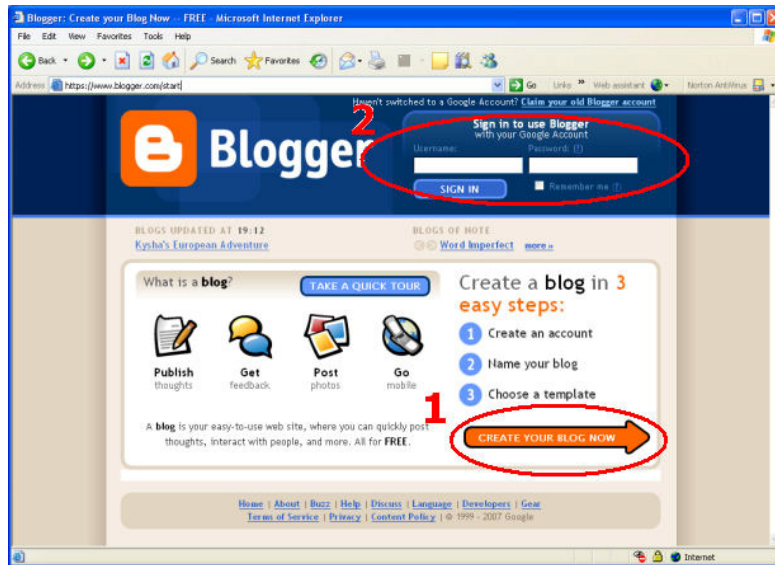
I took me one night to decide that from now on I would never upload any of my stories to their site again. Instead I would publish them on my own blog – where I would be the one in charge. With no one telling me what I could or could not write.

I created my own blog, informed my readers and was happy again.

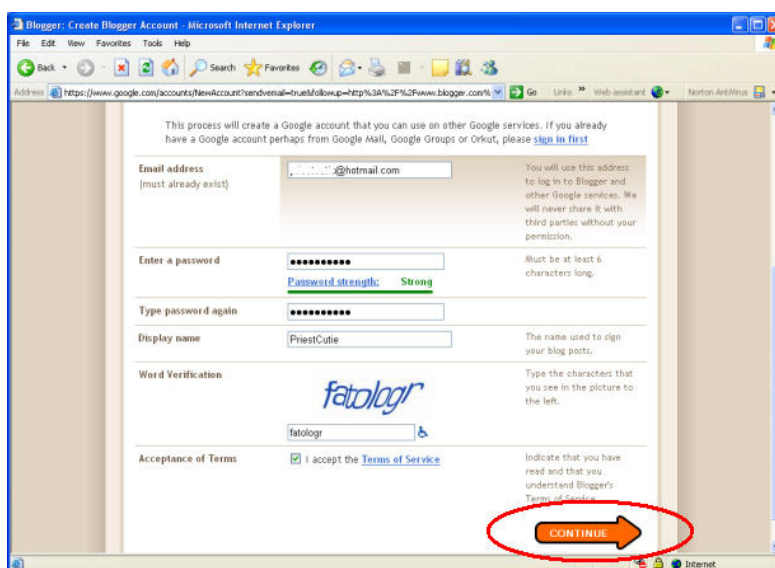
But meanwhile other good writers at that same website had their stories “unpublished” as well. It's for them that I decided to write this tutorial, in order to help them set up their own Story Writing Blog, just like I did.

First Things First

What do you do when you want to create a blog? You go to <https://www.blogger.com/start> and either create a new account (1), or sign in with your google username and password (2), as shown in the picture below.

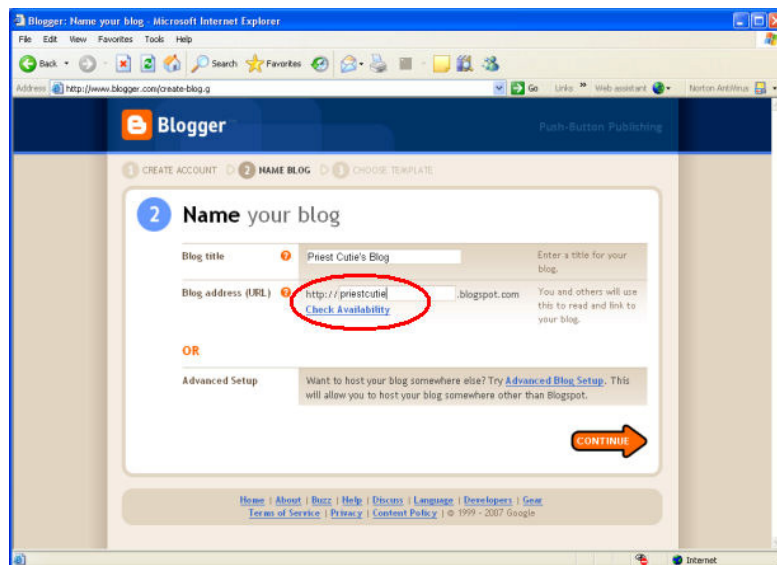


If you need to create an account first, you'll be taken to a very simple sign-up form, which you have to fill out. Just don't forget to indicate that you accept the Terms of Service. 😊
Then click "continue".

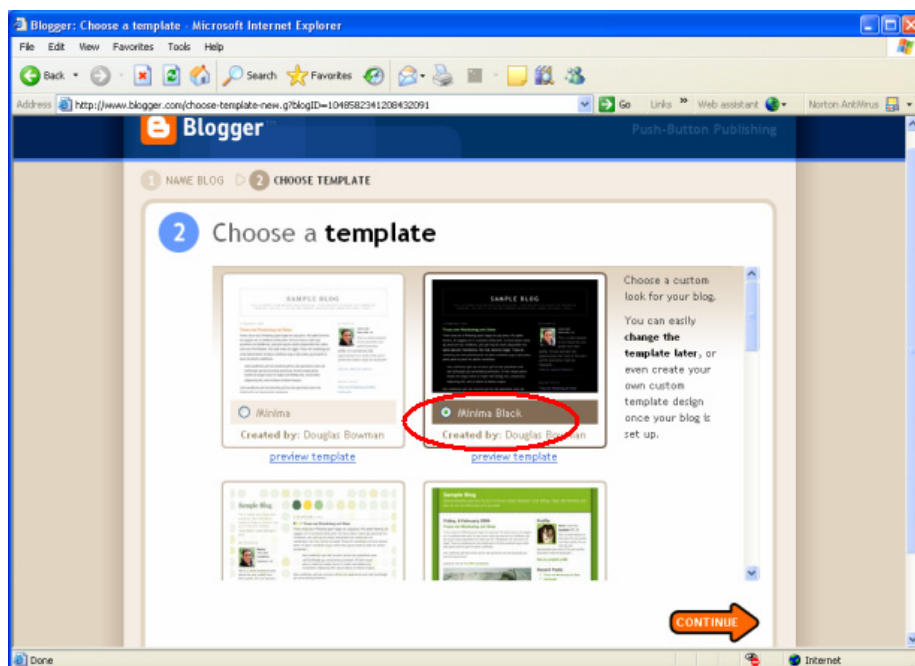


Now you get to choose a name for your blog and your desired blog url. Don't forget to check the availability of your desired url. If your desired url is already taken, you'll have to choose something else.

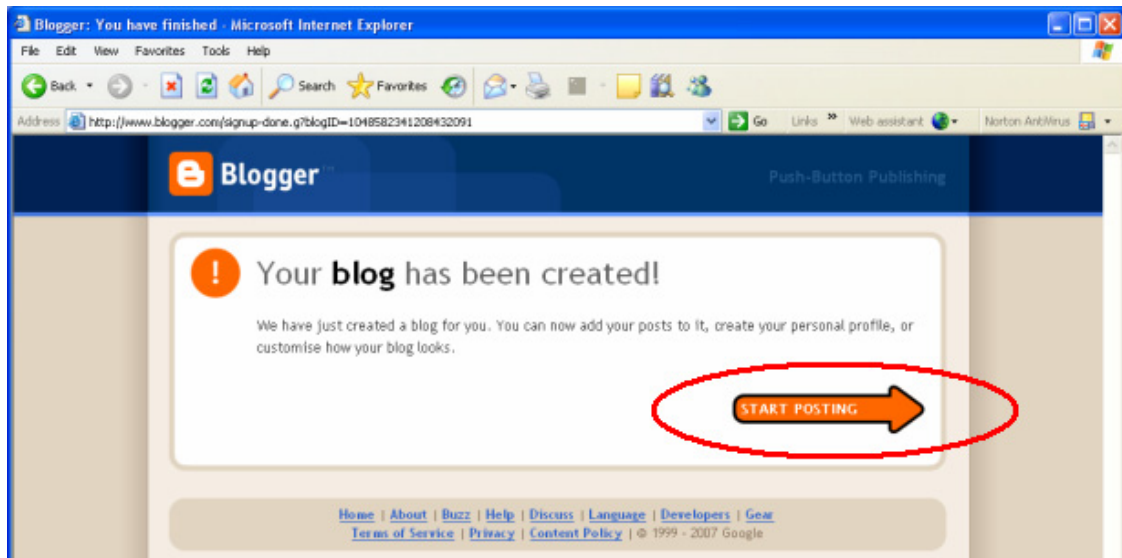
Once you're happy with your Blog title and url, click "continue" again.



Your next step is to choose a template. I chose Minima Black, but it doesn't really matter which template you choose. They all work basically the same way. When you've chosen your template, click "continue".



You'll now be taken to a page that tells you: Your blog has been created!



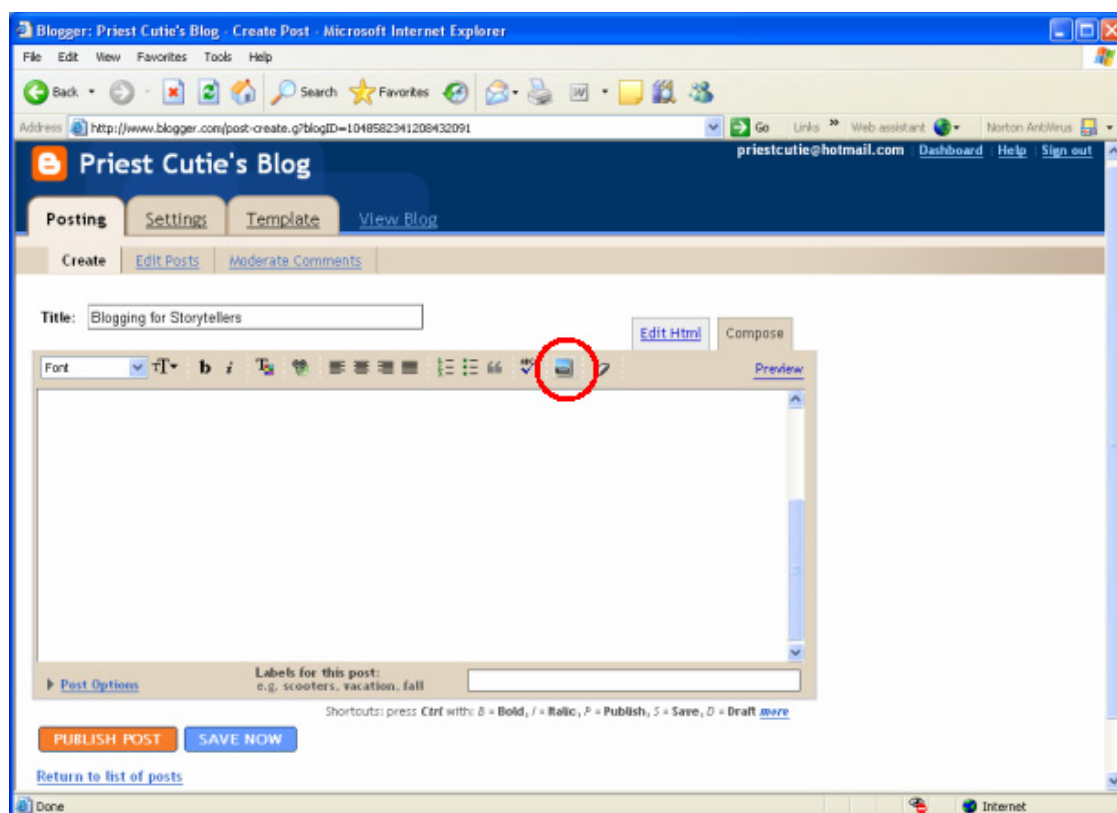
Congratulations on your new blog. Now you're ready for the next step: Start Posting.

Posting Your Stories

Although posting on a Blog is very simple, posting your Sim Stories is just a bit more complicated than that, because you'll want to add your screenshots.

You start by entering the title of your post in the title field, but before you enter any text in the text field, you'll want to upload and insert your pictures.

Just click on the little picture icon as shown on the picture below:

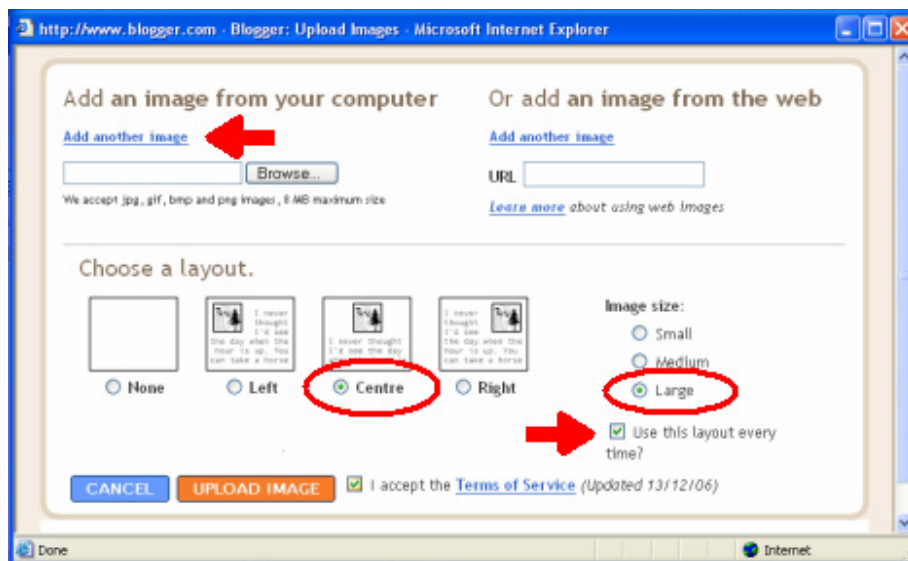


A new screen will now pop up, as shown on the picture below.

Since you'll most likely be uploading a lot of screenshots, you start by clicking "Add another image". This feature allows you to upload up to 5 pictures at a time. This still isn't much, but it's way better than just one picture at a time. And you'll get there eventually – it just takes some time.

You'll also want to choose a layout for your pictures. I chose "Centre" and "Image size: Large", and checked the "Use this layout every time" box. This way you'll only have to choose your layout once. When you first upload your pictures, you'll also have to agree to the Terms of Service.

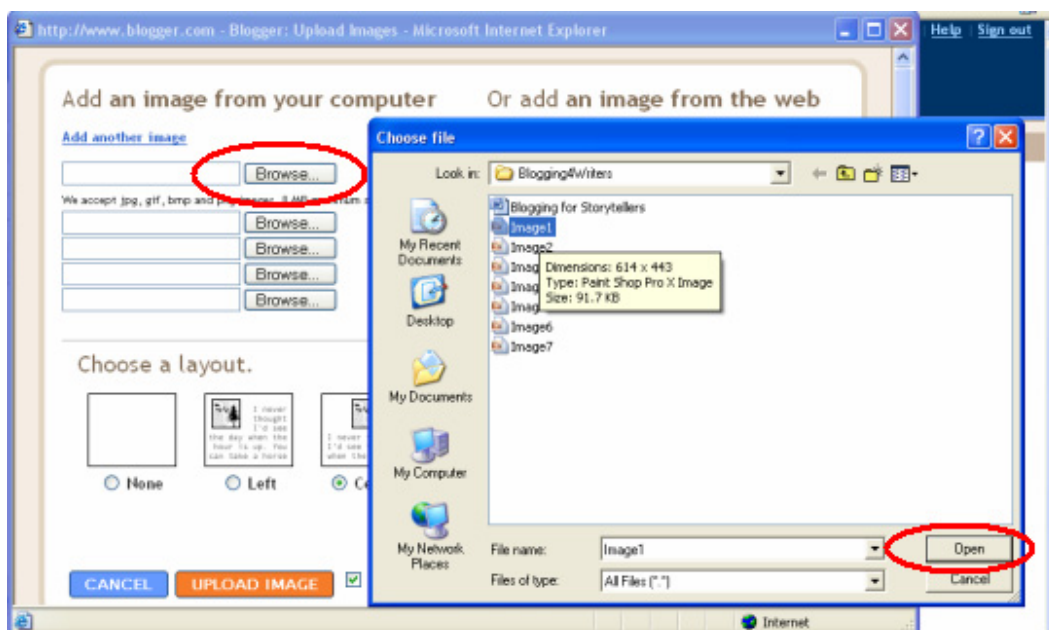
A Picasa account will be created for you, which you can access using your google username and password – the same ones you use for your blog.



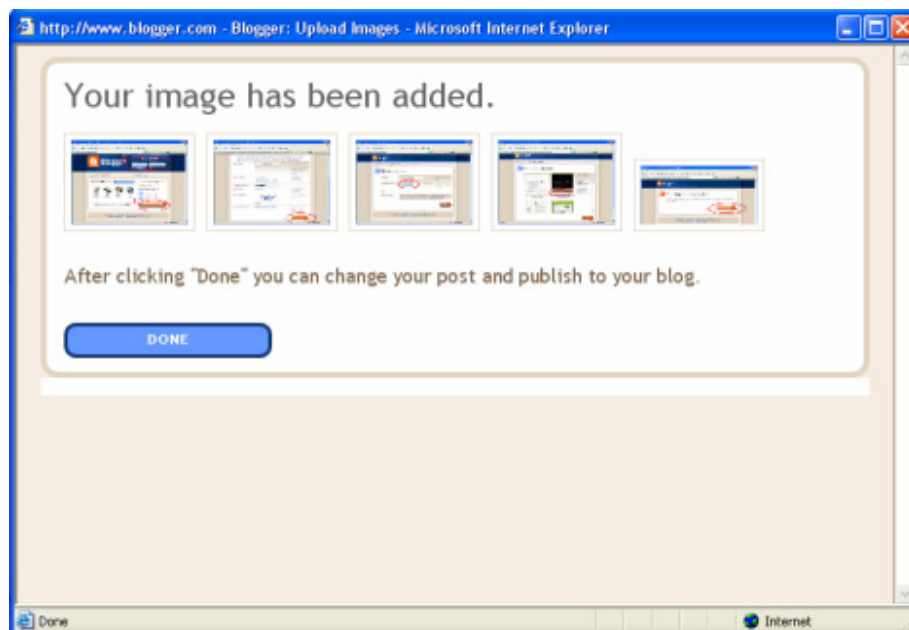
Add images by clicking “Browse”. This will pop up a screen where you can browse files from your computer. Select the images you wish to use, and click “Open” each time you selected an image.

When you’ve selected five pictures, click “Upload”. Your new Picasa account will be created and your pictures will be uploaded to your blog. Make sure you start by uploading the last five pictures of your story!

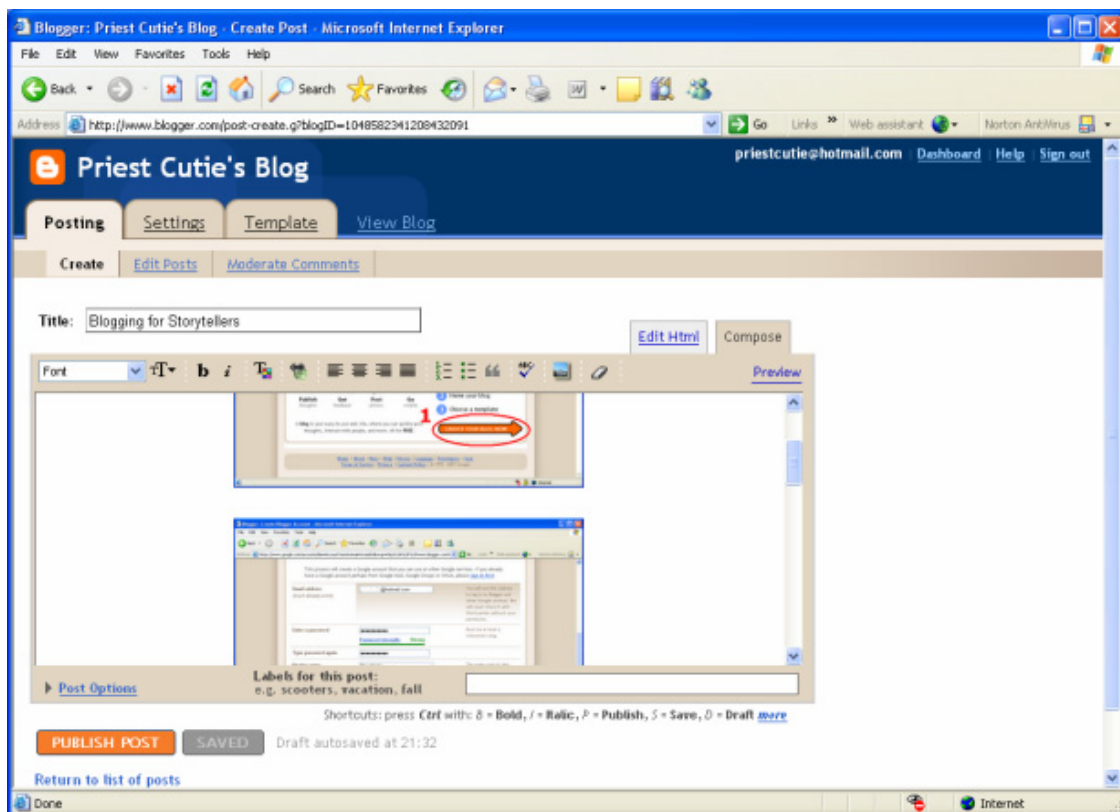
I’ll tell you why in just a minute.



Check that the right pictures were uploaded, then click “Done”.

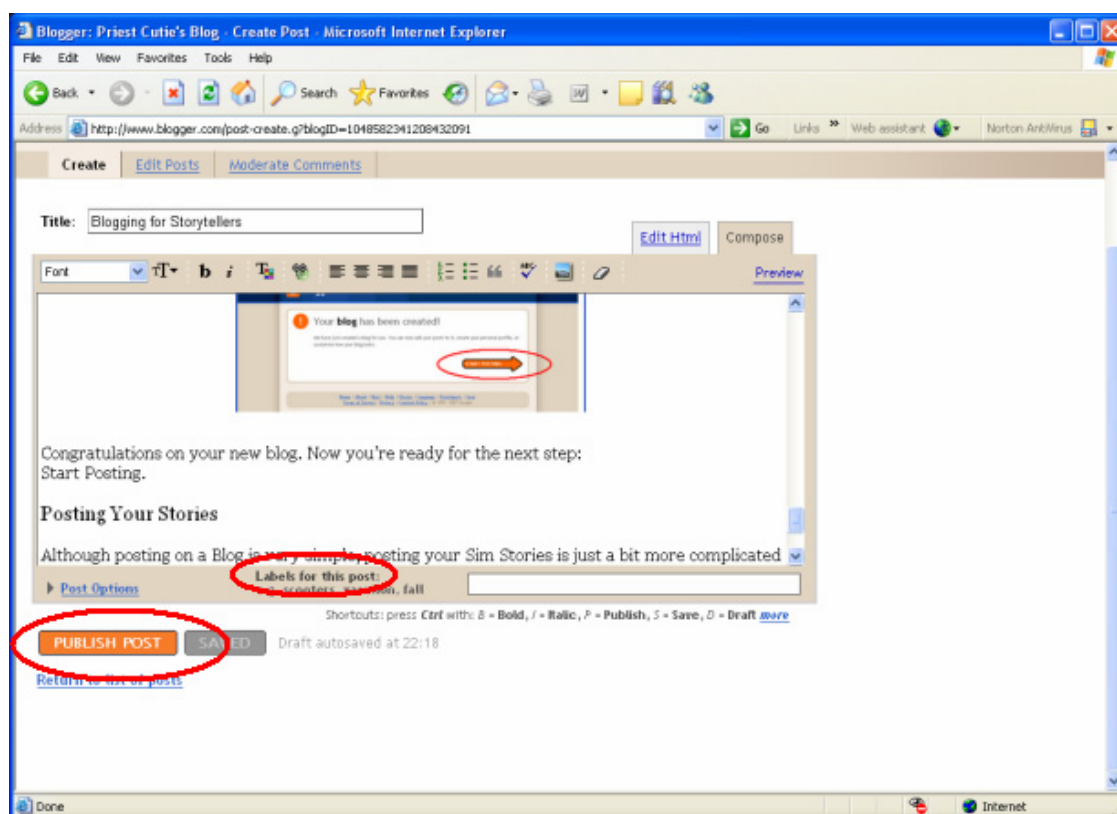


As you will see, your pictures have now been uploaded and you can start inserting your text between your pictures.

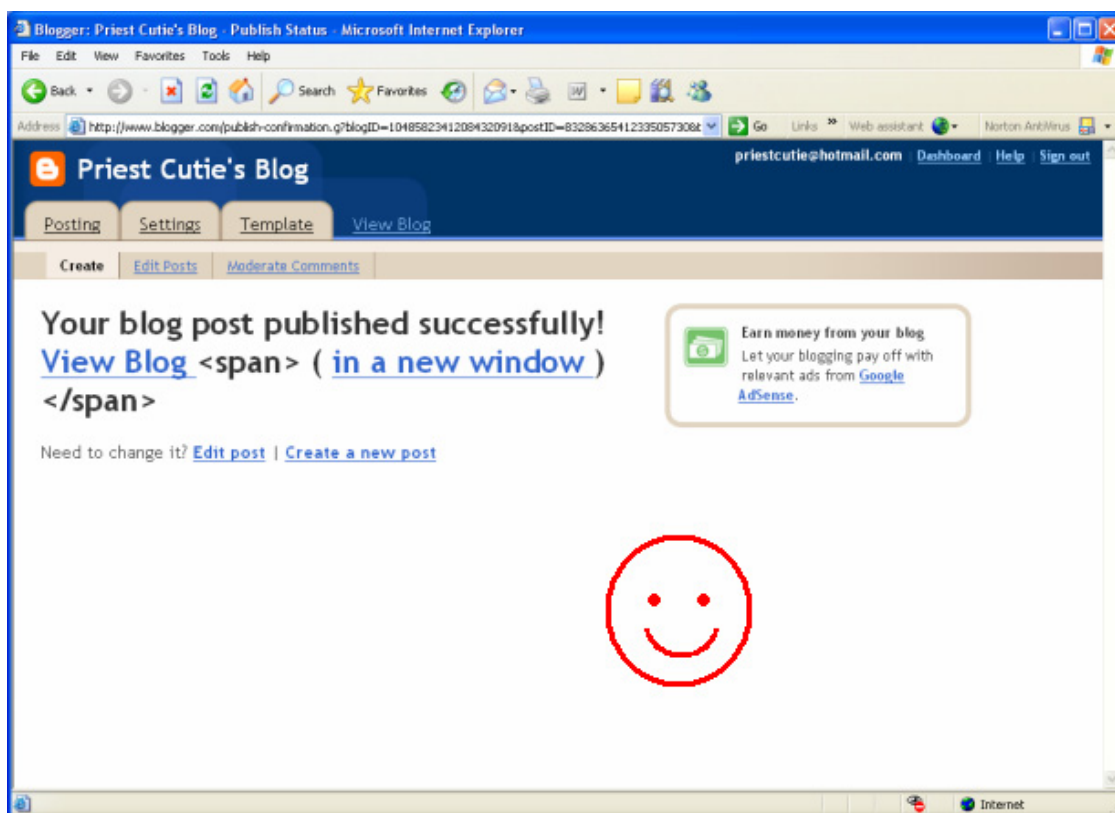


Make sure however, that you've uploaded all screenshots of your current chapter before inserting your text and start by uploading the last pictures of your story/chapter, and end with the first. Otherwise your first screenshots will be the last in your post, and the last will be the first, and you'll have to do a whole lot of dragging-and-dropping to get them to appear in the right order.

If you've accidentally already inserted your text before uploading your pictures you'll find your text at the bottom of your post...



When you've inserted all your text, you can add labels to your story, e.g sims2, story, stories... These labels might improve search results, but are not really necessary. Also, if you didn't add any labels at this point, you can always add them later. Ready? Then click the "Publish Post" button and see what happens.



As you see, you can now view your blog. I usually choose to view my post in a new window. That way, if I want to edit it – and I usually will – I can leave the window with my published post open, and only have to press F5 to view my updated post once I finished editing it.

You blog will now look somewhat like the blog on the picture on page 12.



Not bad, hmm?

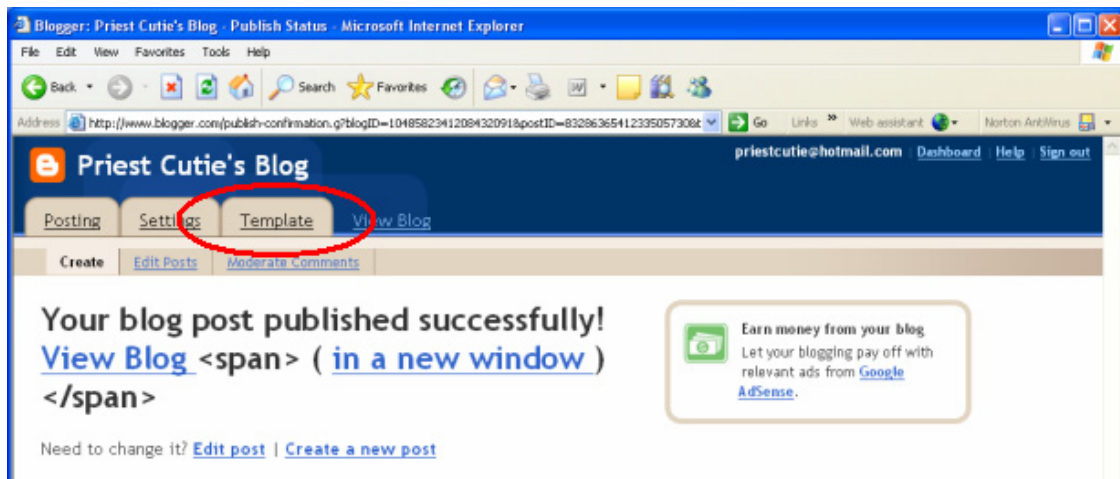
But there's room for improvement.

To start with, the header here just says: "Priest Cutie's Blog", but wouldn't it be nice to have a picture there instead?

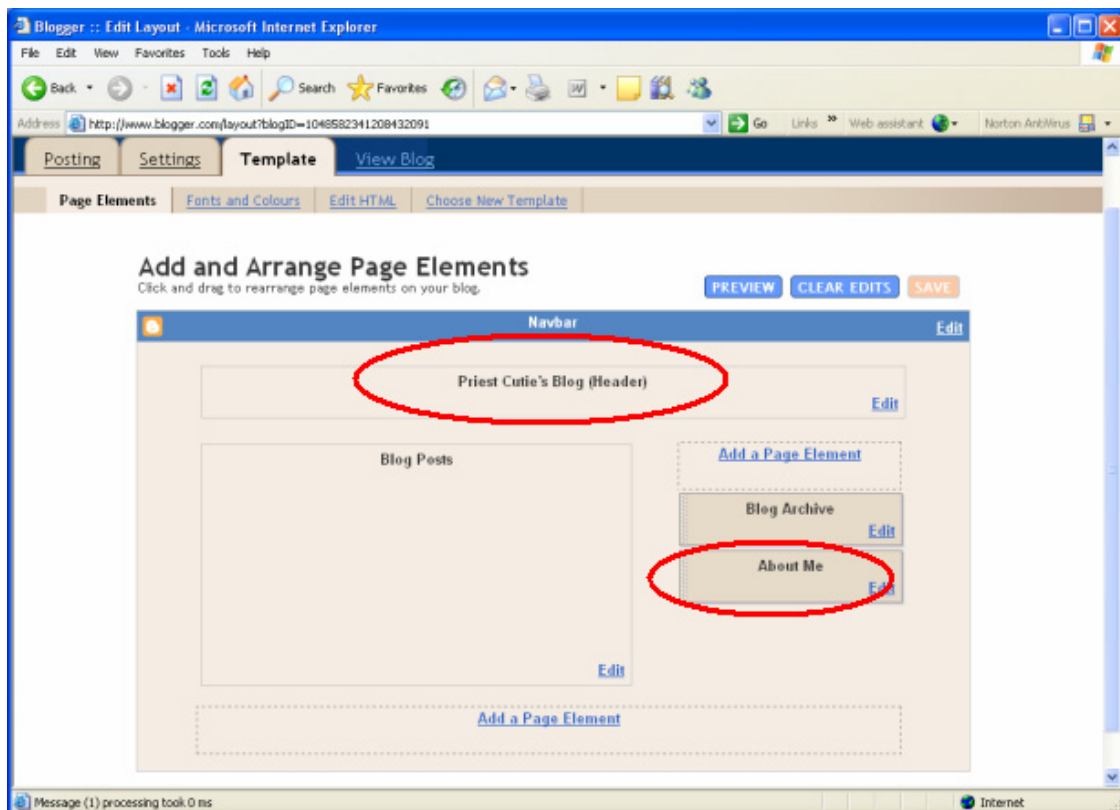
Also, the "About Me" section I still practically empty. You may want to tell a little about yourself there.

Customizing the Header

Go back to the previous window and click on “Template”



You'll be taken to a screen that looks like the one on the picture below.

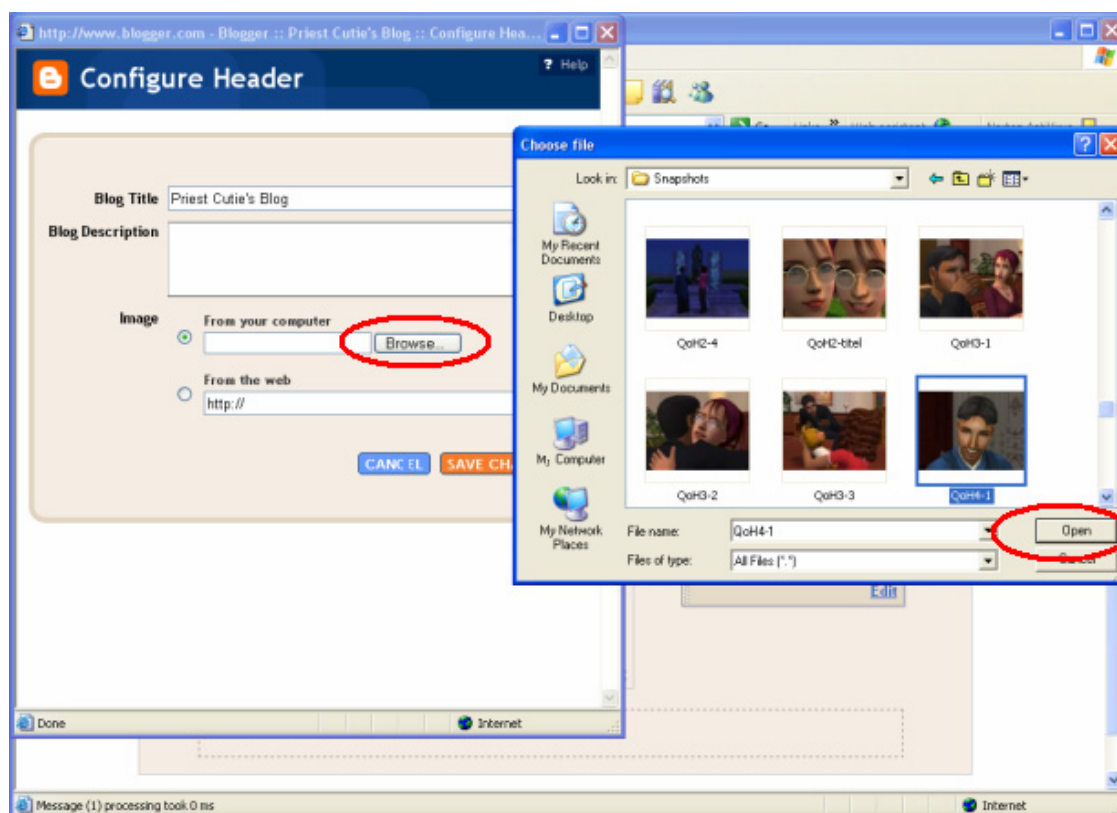


You'll want to edit the Header, and the “About Me” field.

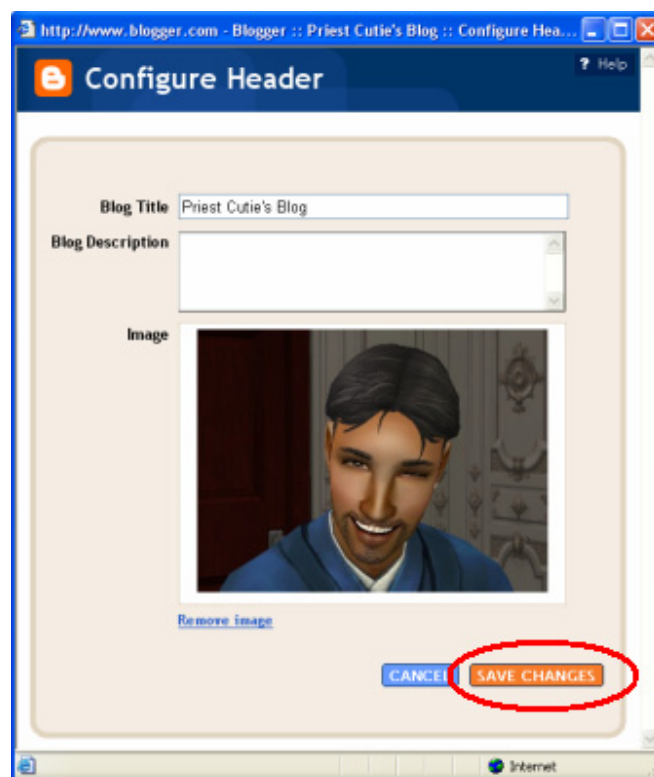
Let's start with the Header. Click "Edit". A new screen will pop up that allows you to configure your header.

Since I was going to upload a picture from my computer, I click the "browse" button, which immediately pops up yet another screen allowing me to choose one of the many, many pictures I've got stored on my hard disk.

After selecting a nice picture, I click the "open" button,

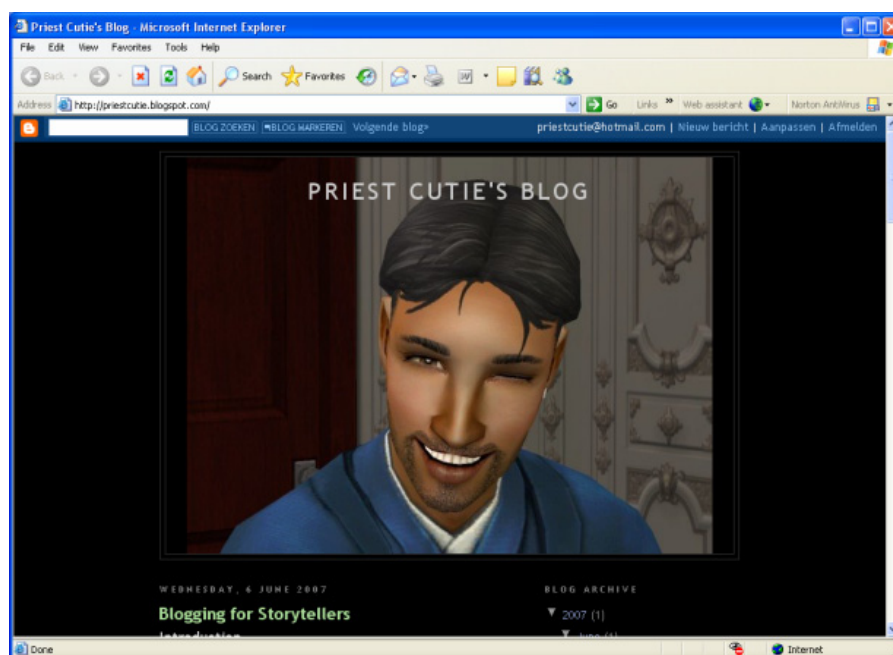


The "Choose file" screen disappears and the "Configure Header" screen is refreshed and looks like what you see on the next picture (page 15).

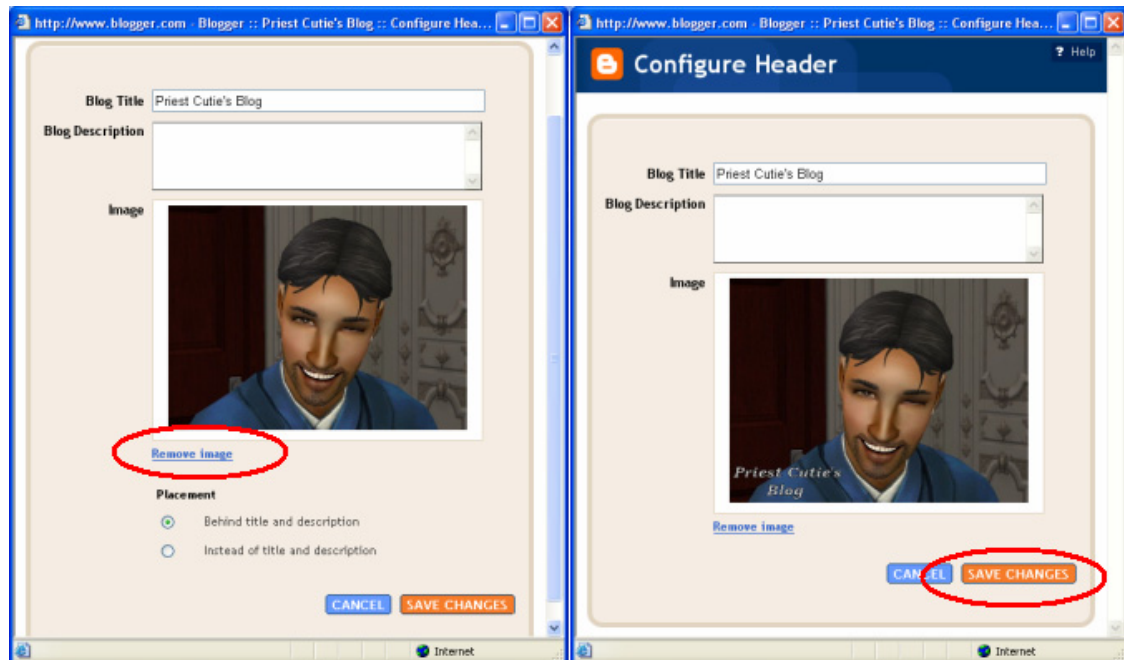


Well, I'm quite happy with the picture I've chosen, so I'll just click the "Save Changes" button.

When I refresh my Blog, however, I'm a bit disappointed by what I see.



You see, I'm picky and don't like the title of my blog ruining Priest Cutie's haircut, so I'll have to do something about that. I do want my visitors to know, however, that this is Priest Cutie's Blog, so I guess I'll have to edit the picture first and add the title of my Blog to it where I want it to be. I can do that in PSP or in good old MS Paint. Photoshop would be fine too, but I haven't got that.

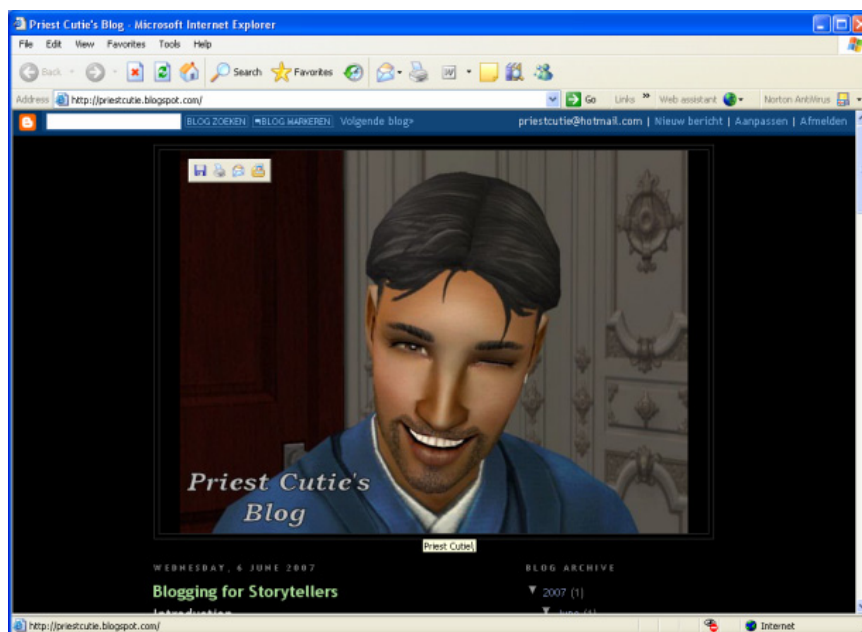


After I edited my picture, I removed the one I had on the blog, and uploaded the new version with the Blog's Title already on it. Now all I have to do, is get rid of the title the blog still want to display over my picture.

I need to go back to the "Configure Header" screen one more time and adjust the placement of my picture.



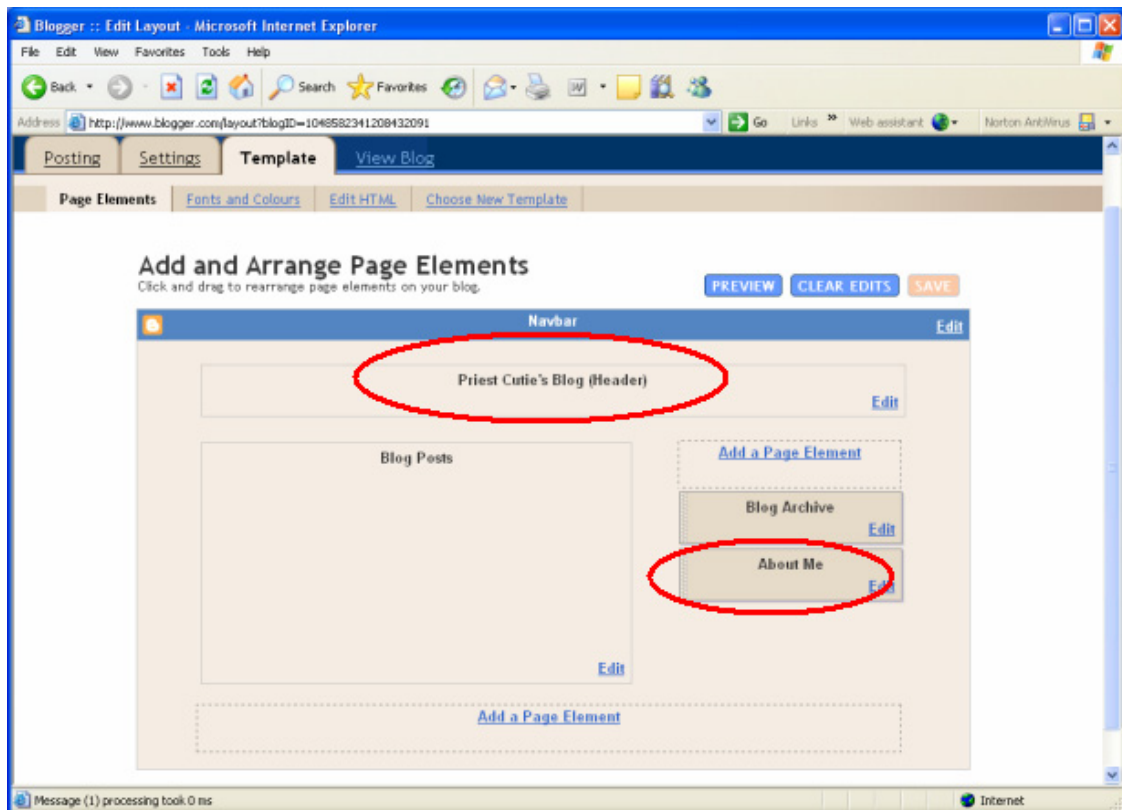
After checking “instead of title and description” and saving once more, my blog now looks like this:



There! Isn't that much better?

Editing the “About Me” Field

Now that you’ve done all this, editing the “About Me” field is a piece of cake.



Going back to the “Edit Layout” screen, click “Edit” in the “About Me” Page Element. Add a nice description of yourself, save the changes you made and enjoy your work!

http://www.blogger.com - Blogger :: Priest Cutie's Blog :: Configure Pro...

Edit Profile

Title
About Me

Share my profile
☒ Your profile will not be shown if it is not shared.

About Me
☒ Show on this blog

Name
PriestCutie

Description
I am a priest of the High Sim Goddess. Yes, you guessed it, I'm a Sim.
For some obscure reason most women

Location
☐ Show on this blog

City/Town

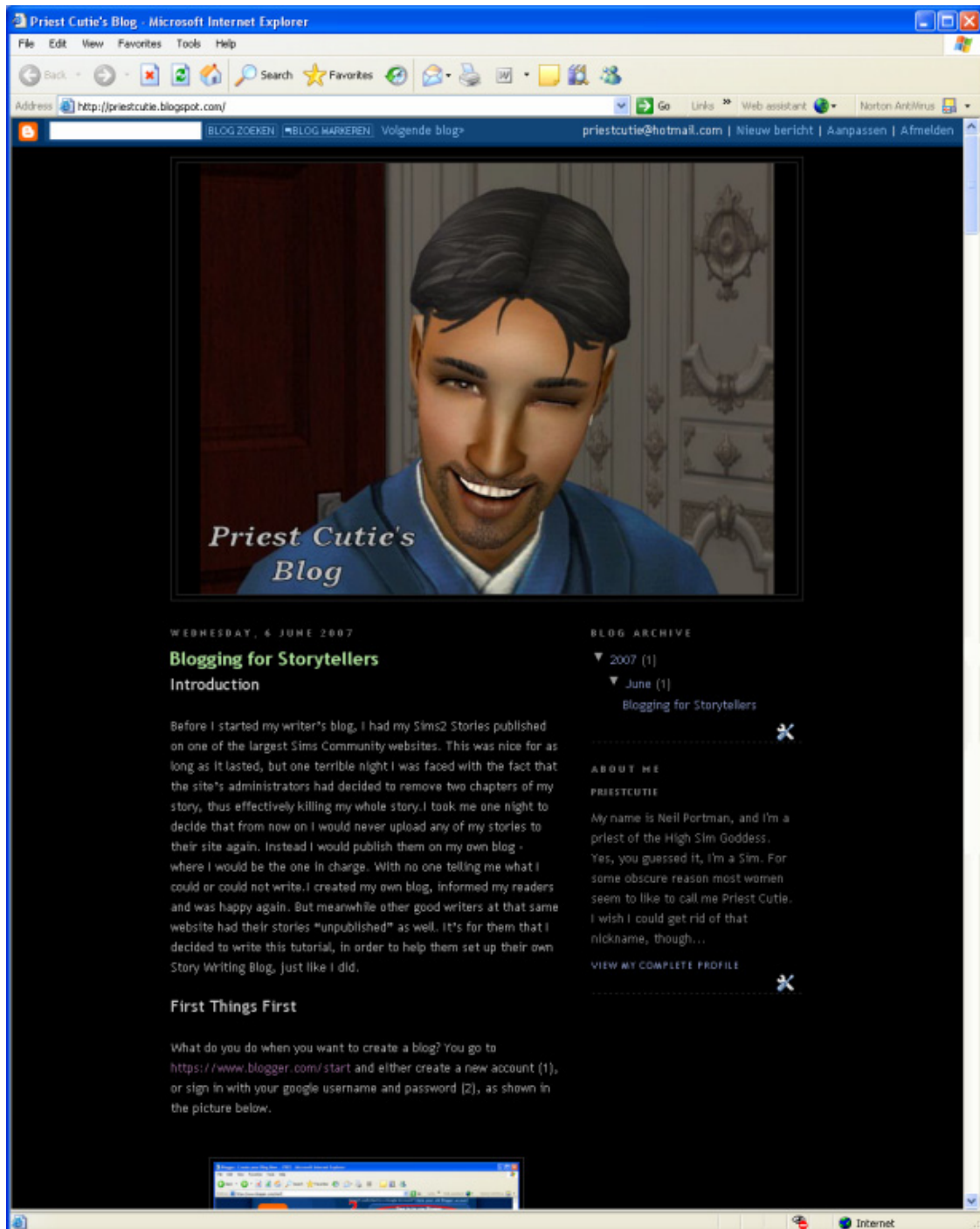
Region/State

Country/Territory
Not Specified

REMOVE PAGE ELEMENT CANCEL **SAVE CHANGES**

Your New Blog

This is what your new blog could look like:



There are many more things you can do with your Blog, but these are the basics every Sim Storyteller should know.

Now go and create your blog and have fun. And don't be afraid to experiment. I discovered all this and more just by experimenting, so there's no reason why you couldn't learn just as much as me just by playing around a little.