

Google+ social network opens to the world

September 20 2011



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"For the past 12 weeks we've been in [field trial](#), and during that time we've listened and learned a great deal," Google senior vice president of engineering Vic Gundotra said in a blog post.

"We're nowhere near done, but with the improvements we've made so far we're ready to move from field trial to beta... Anyone can visit google.com/+, join the project and connect with the people they care about."

The announcement came as part of a list of the 10 latest improvements Google is making to the social network it launched in an invitation-only test format on June 28.

Enhancements to Google+ included letting members take part in video-chat "Hangouts" using camera-enabled smartphones or [tablet computers](#), or broadcast video presentations to groups of watchers using "Hangouts On Air."

Google said it has also woven its Internet search expertise into the social network by adding a query box.

"[Google](#)+ is still in its infancy, of course, but we're more excited than ever to bring the nuance and richness of real-life sharing to software," Gundotra said.

"Over the next day we'll be rolling out all of these features globally," he said.

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Citation: Google+ social network opens to the world (2011, September 20) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-09-google-social-network-world.html>

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