Tweetdeck

Tweetdeck is an application recently acquired by Twitter, which has some functionality the Twitter web site lacks, such as creating groups and saving searches. It is available in some browsers (Safari and Chrome, with IE and Firefox support to follow soon), as a Chrome plugin, or as Windows or Mac desktop versions. It is free, but you are required to create a Tweetdeck account (which is separate from your Twitter account).

There are alternatives to Tweetdeck, and you may prefer to investigate one of these. The following instructions relate specifically to Tweetdeck on a desktop or laptop computer, however.

1. Visit the Tweetdeck site http://tweetdeck.com/, and decide how you will access the application (via the browser or from your desktop). If you choose to download the Mac version, you will have to do this via the Apple App Store, and will therefore need a relatively recent version of the OSX operating system, and an App Store account.

2. Open the application and create an account. Then sign in.

3. The default Tweetdeck screen will open, and will look like this (the following images come from the browser version):
To start with, your first column will be the most recent tweets from all of the people you follow, listed in reverse chronological order. The second column lists all of the most recent tweets which mention you, while the third contains private messages (direct messages) sent to you.

5. You can add new columns by doing searches within Tweetdeck – the results of your search will always appear in a new column, which will continue to track those search results until you choose to delete it.

Find out what hashtags will be used on your course, and click the ‘add column’ icon in the top menu bar:

Choose ‘search’ from the options that appear:

In the add column which appears, type in one of the course hashtags, and hit the return/enter key.
Type in a hashtag. For example, #mscel:

Then click "Add Column".

A new column will appear in your Tweetdeck window, with a list of the most recent tweets mentioning this hashtag. You may need to use the back/forward arrows at the top of the screen to see all of your columns.

6. To post messages within Tweetdeck, click the blue ‘compose update’ icon.

A space will appear for you to type your message. Remember to use the nominated hashtag(s) in your message, if appropriate. If you want to send a direct message, type the letter d and you will be offered a space to type the name of the Twitter user you want to send a direct message to (note that an account must be following you before you can send it a direct message).

7. If you hover over a tweet in Tweetdeck, three icons and a ‘more’ link appear:
The left-facing arrow starts a reply using an @ symbol, while the double-arrow icon starts a retweet. The star lets you ‘favourite’ a tweet so you can find it again later (you can add a column for your favourites using the ‘add column’ link described in step 5, above). The ‘more’ link gives you access to sending a direct message (if the user follows you), following/unfollowing, and a few other functions.

8. You can click once on anyone’s name to open their profile.

Tweetdeck has many more features – visit the Tweetdeck help pages to find out more. [http://support.tweetdeck.com/home](http://support.tweetdeck.com/home)