



## Helpful sites for graphics, design and presentation

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*This is an abridged collection of online resources that I've collected over the past couple of years. Nearly all are free, and most follow Creative Commons licensing. Some may have restrictions, so please read the terms of use on each site.*

*If you plan to use these resources, you should understand what Creative Commons licensing means. I'd suggest visiting the **Creative Commons** website ([http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Content\\_Directories](http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Content_Directories)) and learning about its mission. The site contains not only information about how to tag information for use but includes a large directory of resources that follow its philosophy of providing open source material. This directory contains links to sources for audio, video, images and texts.*

*Among the sites I find most useful for keeping up on technology and design resources are **Smashing Magazine** ([www.smashingmagazine.com/](http://www.smashingmagazine.com/)), **Delicious Popular** (<http://delicious.com/popular/>), **The Weblist** (<http://theweblist.net/>) and **Lifehacker** (<http://lifehacker.com/>). You can also search for open source software on the SourceForge website (<http://sourceforge.net/>).*

Here's the order of the sites in this handout:

1. **Vector art**
2. **Stock Photos**
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13. **Video Editing**
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17. **PowerPoint-type presentations**

1. **Vector art:** Make sure to read the policy information before using these, as some require credits or links back to the source.
  - a. **Clker.com** ([www.clker.com/](http://www.clker.com/)). Public domain clip art, mostly in vector form. Offers a wide range of subjects (and quality).
  - b. **Open Clip Art Library** (<http://openclipart.org/>). Much the same as Clker.
  - c. **123 Vectors** (<http://123freevectors.com/>). A wide range of artwork, including backgrounds and abstract imagery.
  - d. **All Silhouettes** (<http://all-silhouettes.com/>) As the name implies, this site specializes in silhouette vector art.
  - e. **Tutorial 9** ([www.tutorial9.net/](http://www.tutorial9.net/)) A clearinghouse for links to artwork and tutorials (Illustrator, Photoshop, photography and Web development).
  - f. **Vecteezy** ([www.vecteezy.com/](http://www.vecteezy.com/)). Vector art, patterns and backgrounds licensed under Creative Commons.
  
2. **Stock Photos:** Make sure to read the policy information before using these, as some require credits or links back to the source.
  - a. **Stock.xchng** (<http://www.sxc.hu/>). Has many good images, but be sure to scroll down on each page. The top row of images is marked “premium” and is basically an ad for photos you’ll have to pay for. The others are free. The site was recently acquired by Getty Images.
  - b. **Morgue File** ([www.morguefile.com/](http://www.morguefile.com/)).
  - c. **Photos 8** ([http://photos8.com](http://photos8.com/)) Well-categorized collection of art, photographs and clip art.
  - d. **Unprofound** ([www.unprofound.com/](http://www.unprofound.com/)). Allows you to choose photos based on their general color.
  
3. **Maps**
  - a. **StatPlanet** ([www.sacmeq.org/statplanet/](http://www.sacmeq.org/statplanet/)). Create interactive maps and charts. Free downloads of map-making software and graph-making software. Also has a free download of software with statistical data about countries. The tools are powerful (and will require time to learn), but the charts can also become overly complicated if you aren’t careful.
  - b. **Community Walk** (<http://communitywalk.com/>) Based on Google Maps, with some added features.

4. **Icons:** Icons can be used to create a logo as well as graphically represent a story or idea.
  - a. **Iconza** (<http://iconza.com>) Free, customizable icons.
  - b. **Icon Fever** (<http://iconfever.com/>). A mix of free and commercial icons. Each is licensed differently.
  - a. **FreePSDFiles** (<http://freepsdfiles.net/>). A wide variety of free designs, backgrounds and icons, mostly in a Photoshop file format.
  
5. **Slideshows**
  - a. **PhotoFilmStrip** ([www.photofilmstrip.org/1-1-Home.html](http://www.photofilmstrip.org/1-1-Home.html)). Add photos and sound and create a digital slideshow. Allows output to several formats, including .mpeg2-video and .mpeg4-video. Biggest drawback: Doesn't allow you to match audio track to photos. A free download. For Windows and Linux.
  - b. **Zeodia** (<http://www.zeodia.com>) A free site that allows you to arrange pictures and add a soundtrack, narration and captions. You can also tag the slideshow by location with a map. E-mail pictures to the site for uploading, or use Picasa.
  - c. **VoiceThread** (<http://voicethread.com/>) Calling this a slideshow creator isn't completely accurate. It's really more of a tool for creating online forums about images you upload. People can add comments in many ways: typing, phoning in, uploading audio files or recording on screen with microphone or webcam. I find it an odd tool, but I could see a use for collaborating or generating audience interaction with a project.
  
6. **Timelines**
  - a. **Dipity** ([www.dipity.com/](http://www.dipity.com/)). Create timelines, flipbooks, lists and maps. Easy, effective and free for the basic version. One glitch that I've found: The embed codes don't always work well with WordPress sites.
  
7. **Text visualization**
  - a. **Word Clouds: Wordle** (<http://www.wordle.net>). Insert text and create customizable word clouds.
  - b. **Document Cloud** ([www.documentcloud.org/home](http://www.documentcloud.org/home)). Upload documents to the website, highlight them and annotate them. Then you can embed a slideshow-like form on your site.

## 8. Design and Display

- a. **Issuu** (<http://issuu.com>) Post your documents (and also view full other publications, such as magazines and newspapers).

## 9. Typography

- a. **What Font Is** (<http://www.whatfontis.com>) Copy an image of text and the generator will tell you what the font is.
- b. **Gansta Lorem Ipsum** (<http://www.lorizzle.nl/>). A dummy-type generator.

## 10. Alternatives to Illustrator

- a. **Inkscape** (<http://inkscape.org/download/>) Works on Windows, Mac, Linux, Ubuntu. A free download.
- b. **Artweaver** (<http://artweaver.de/index.php/products-en/artweaver-free/>) A powerful painting program that allows you to work in layers and export to .jpeg, .png and other formats. **Windows only.**

## 11. Image Editing

- c. **Gimp** (<http://www.gimp.org/>) One of the oldest alternatives to Photoshop, it even looks and works a lot like Photoshop. For Windows, Mac, Linux and Ubuntu.
- d. **Paint.net** ([www.getpaint.net/index.html](http://www.getpaint.net/index.html)). A powerful image editor. **Windows only.**
- e. **Photobie** (<http://www.photobie.com>) Downloadable editing system with paint and scrapbooking capabilities.
- f. **Picnik** (<http://www.picnik.com>) Owned by Google. This site allows you to upload photos and edit them or use its tools to copy images of a website. Has tools for shapes, type and special effects.

## 12. Charts and graphs

- a. **Graphs: Chart Gizmo** (<http://chartgizmo.com/>) A free website that allows registered users to create basic charts and graphs.
- b. **Diagrams: Cacao** (<http://cacao.com/>) Allows you to create and share diagrams, which can be linked, embedded or saved as .png files. More options available for upgrade of \$49 a year.
- c. **Many Eyes** (<http://manyeyes.alphaworks.ibm.com/manyeyes/>). Part of IBM, Many Eyes offers tools for creating maps, charts and diagrams, and for analyzing text (word clouds and tag clouds, for example). It offers many examples of how to turn data into visual information. You can input or upload data.

## 13. Video Editing

- a. **JayCut** (<http://jaycut.com>) Allows users to upload video, pictures and music to create videos.
- b. **Photosynth** (<http://photosynth.net/default.aspx>) A tool from Microsoft for creating 3D panoramas.

## 14. Screencasting and screen capture: Screencasting can be a helpful tool for how-to stories. This allows you to record action on the computer as you click on links, draw images, write, etc. Screen capture allows you to copy a still frame from the computer screen.

- a. **Screenr** (<http://screenr.com>) Allows you to create three-minute screencasts and send links via e-mail to Twitter.
- b. **Jing** ([www.techsmith.com/jing/free/](http://www.techsmith.com/jing/free/)). Screen capture tool for still images or screencasting (up to five minutes of recording). I prefer the company's commercial screen capture tool, **SnagIt** (\$50, but you can try it free). **Jing Pro** offers additional features for \$14.95 a year.
- c. **Duck Capture** (<http://www.ducklink.com/screen-capture-tool/>) A free tool that offers some of the same features as SnagIt. It allows you to capture a window, a region or a Web page that extends beyond a single screen. Also allows annotation and drawing on the captures. Downloads available for PC or Mac.

**15. Suites of tools**

- a. **Aviary** (<http://aviary.com/>) Includes an image editor, a screen-capture function, a vector editor, an effects editor, an audio editor, a music creator and a color editor.
- b. **LibreOffice** (<http://www.libreoffice.org/>). An open source office suite.

**16. Comics**

- a. **Pixton** (<http://pixton.com>) Click-and-drag format. Must register to use.

**17. PowerPoint-type presentations**

- a. **Prezi** (<http://prezi.com>) An online tool similar to PowerPoint but with such functions as zoom and the ability to embed YouTube video. You can create presentations on a whiteboard and then link the elements together. It takes some time to learn, but it has a good tutorial section.