

# 15 FREE Software Tools in 15 Minutes

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2024 TASS Virtual  
Conference

Presented by:  
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# Overview

- Why is it free?
- What are the dangers of these free resources?
- Free Resources
  - Office Productivity
  - Grammar Tools
  - Plagiarism Checkers
  - Survey
  - Video & Presentation
  - Image Editors / Audio Editors
  - File Conversation
  - Utility Programs
  - Communication Tools
  - File Transfer





# Background

- Over 20 years' experience working in post-secondary
- Worked at seven institutions – both community college and university
- Over 12 years' experience in tech-related positions.
- Experience teaching 12 collegiate courses over five disciplines.
  - MTH
  - OAD
  - ORI
  - CIS
  - PSY




# Why is it free?

- These applications are free because they fall under the following:
  - Open-Source
  - Designed by an Educational Institution/Non-Profit entity



# What are the Dangers?

- Many “free” programs often contain malicious code – including spyware & viruses. 
  - The items presented are programs I have used and/or known about. They are likely to be safe.
  - As always, be sure your Anti-Virus program is up to date when installing programs or operating online.
- 😊





# Dead Tech Bingo

Microsoft Teams	CD-roms with textbooks	Skype	Chat boards	Facebook/FB Groups
Google Classroom	Quizlet	Myspace	TicTok	Padlet
Blackboard	MOOCs	FREE SPACE	Prezi	Second Life
Kahoot!	Virtual Reality	WebEx	YouTube	Live journaling/Blogging
Kaltura	Echo 360	Web3 Technologies	Bulletin Boards	Group texts

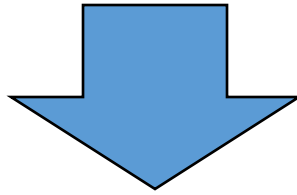
# My Goal

- That you walk out of this presentation with **at least one** tool that you can put to use.





Did I tell you?



# Office Productivity

# Open Office

- Office Productivity Suite

- Word Processor
- Presentation
- Database
- Spreadsheet
- Draw

- This program is compatible with numerous vendor formats including Microsoft, Corel, dBase, Quattro Pro, Adobe, etc.

- Works on PC, MAC, Linux, & Solaris

- <http://www.openoffice.org>





# WordWeb

## Dictionary Program

- Can be used as a stand alone program or inside of any other program to get definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and pronunciation of words.
- Available for PC, Android & iOS
- <http://www.wordwebsoftware.com/>

# Class-Templates

- Templates and Free Teacher Resources, Lesson Plans, Attendance Tracking and Class Administration Tools.
- <https://www.class-templates.com/>

## class-templates.com



resources for teachers, trainers and instructors



Home
The Template Blog
<b>Planning</b>
Lesson Planning
Course Planning
Daily Planners
Weekly Planners
To Do Lists
<b>Attendance</b>
Attendance 2013
Class Registers
Weekly Attendance
Monthly Attendance
Course Attendance

## Templates for Teachers and Parents Helping to deliver quality Classes

At School | At Work | At Home

### Welcome to Class Templates!

You have just found an oasis of FREE administration solutions and free teacher resources for those that deliver learning.

### Not just for school teachers!

No matter if you are a school teacher, home school tutor, personal trainer, dance teacher, driving instructor or IT trainer.



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### LATEST TEMPLATES..



[Multiplication Chart to 100](#)



# Grammar Tools



Check grammar, punctuation, spelling, paraphrasing, and vocabulary, or outline essays and write hypertext narratives.

Word Count

Check Grammar

Check Target Structures

Check Punctuation

Check Essay

Check Writing

Check Vocabulary

Clear



Type, speak or copy-paste your text here. Members can now check 3000 words and non-members can check 500 words. Membership is 100% free. Click the Login button to become a member today

[Example #1](#)

[Example #2](#)



- <https://virtualwritingtutor.com>

# Plagiarism Checkers

# Plagiarism Check Websites

- The sites below provide instructors with tools to check for plagiarized assignments.
  - <http://www.articlechecker.com/>



- <http://www.duplichecker.com/>



# Plagly



Plagly

Sign up

Log In 



## The Most Accurate Plagiarism Checker

Instantly compare your text to over 20 billion sources using our free checker tools

Paste your article or text to check for plagiarized content

CHECK YOUR TEXT

Total Words : 0

- <http://plagly.com>



Survey

# Poll Everywhere



Poll Everywhere

- Audience response system that uses mobile phones, twitter, and the web. Responses are displayed in real-time.
- [www.polleverywhere.com](http://www.polleverywhere.com)

## How Poll Everywhere Works

- 1. Ask a question**  
Create polls with our [simple poll editor](#)
- 2. The audience votes**  
via [mobile phone](#) or [on the web](#)
- 3. Show results**  
[Charts update live](#) in PowerPoint or your browser as people vote
- 4. Generate reports**  
[Analyze the results](#) or [publish to the web](#)

**Question**  
Ask "What is your favorite color" with

**What is your favori**

**Options**

Drag Me Red

Drag Me Blue

Drag Me Green

Add an Option

Save new poll or cancel creating poll

**What is your favorite color?**  
Text your vote to 41411

Green  
CAST 3390

Red  
CAST 3391

**Results for 1 poll**  
What's your favorite color?

Green, Red, Blue, Red, Blue, Blue, C  
7 responses from one person

Green

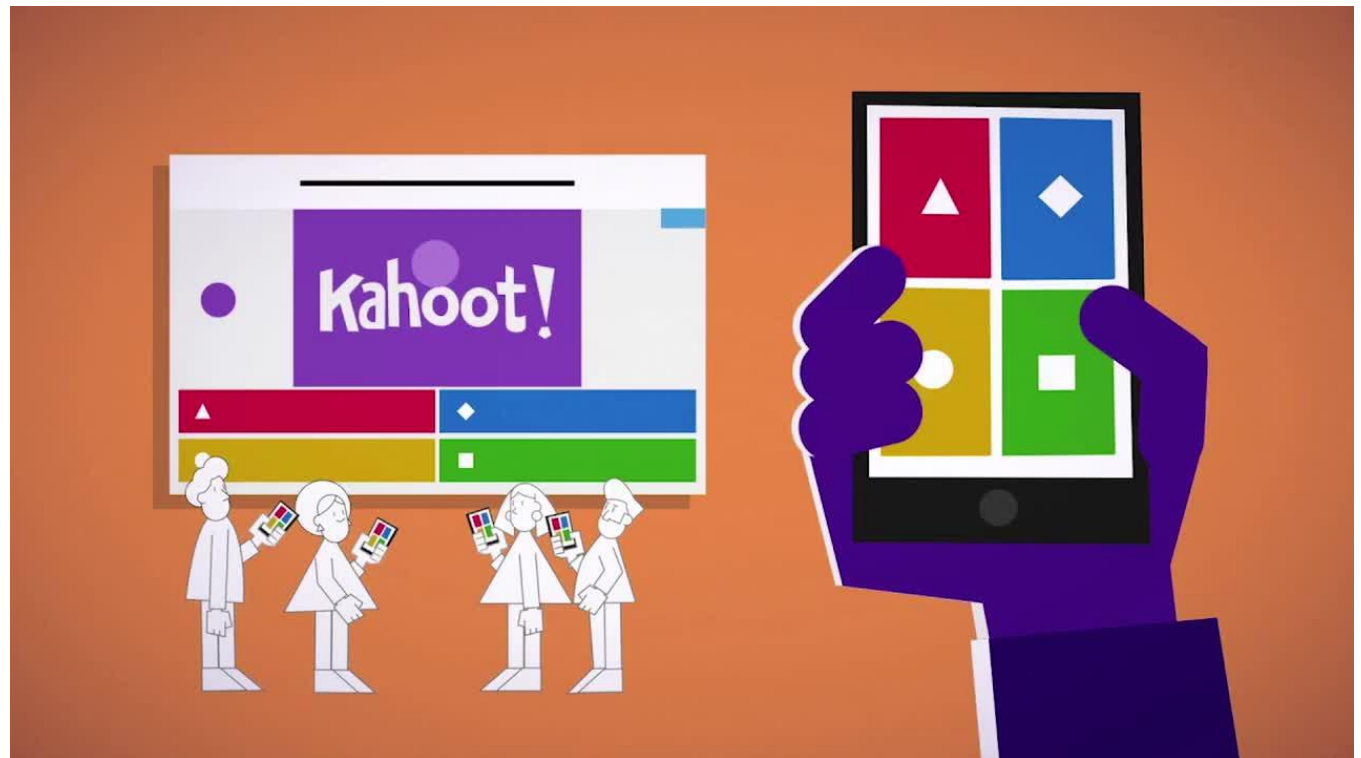
Red

Blue, Blue  
2 responses from one person

Red

# Kahoot!

- Learning, Games, surveys and Mobile interaction made fun
- <https://kahoot.com>



# Video & Presentation

# Animoto

- Drag and drop your photos, videos and music to create and share videos online. New Layouts & Templates. FB Marketing Partner. Make a Video in 5 Minutes. Pro-Quality Videos. Social Media Videos
- <http://animoto.com/>

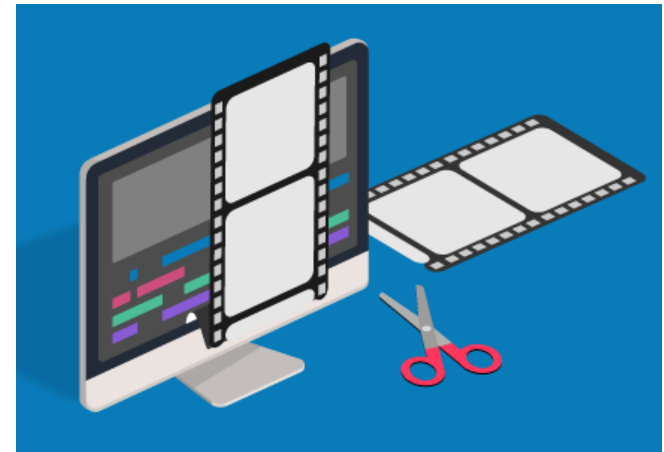


ANIMOTO



# Clip Champ

- Clipchamp is a free service that doesn't require you to upload your video to its website. The files stay on your computer unless you opt for one of the company's integrated options. There is no limit on file size. Services include:
- Flipping or mirroring the video
- Trimming unwanted parts from the video
- Rotating files clockwise or counterclockwise
- Cropping out unwanted sections of the video
- Adjusting color, brightness, and saturation
- <http://clipchamp.com>



# Image Editors

# Pixlr –Online image editor



- Available on computer & mobile devices with online access.
- Also works with Android and iOS | <https://pixlr.com/editor/>

## Cool Text

- Create neat logos and buttons – online.
- Download over 1,200 fonts
- Can be useful for creating handouts or developing online content
- <http://www.cooltext.com>



# Canva



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[Sign up](#)

## DESIGN TYPES

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## TEMPLATES

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## PHOTOS

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## ICONS

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Desi  
Publ

Create an  
beginners



[Sign up with email](#)

Already signed up? [Log in](#)



Presentation



Poster



Banner



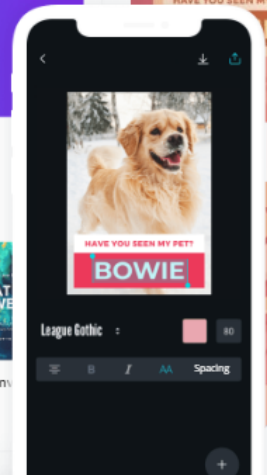
Flyer



Social Media



Inv



- <https://www.canva.com/>



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# Smart Resize



The fastest & smartest online batch image resize & crop tool in the world

Press Ctrl+d to add this online tool to your bookmark

Like 180 Share

fixed size aspect ratio scale max width max height thumbnail



Supported files: jpg, png, gif, bmp  
No max file size limit  
No max image size limit  
Blazing fast image auto resize & crop  
Download resized images in a zip file

Upload Multi Images

Unload Single Image

Your resized image size: width x height

Resized image file name suffix (e.g., -thumb):

Image crop method:

smart crop image( content aware cropping)  from center

Human face detect ( detect human face as keypoint, process will be slower )

Output image format:

jpg  png  webp( works in chrome only )

Output image quality: 92%

Start resize images



The New  
Google Pixel 4



Purchase a Pixel 4 or 4 XL  
before 10/27 to get \$100  
in Google Store credits.  
Terms apply.



- <https://www.smartresize.com/>

Audio Editors

# Audacity

- Audacity® is an open source program for recording, editing & exporting sounds
- Available for PC, Mac, Linux/Unix
- <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>





# Bear Audio

- <https://www.bearaudiotool.com/>
- Allows you to edit, record and convert audio

The screenshot displays the Bear Audio website interface. At the top, the 'bearaudio' logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Voice Recorder', 'M4A to MP3', 'Audio Converter', 'Video Converter', and 'More Tools' are in the center. On the right, there are links for 'Login' and 'Language'. Below the navigation bar, a row of category buttons includes 'AdChoices', 'audio editing', 'audio mixing', 'audio recording software', 'convert files', and 'mp3 audio cutter'. The main content area features the title 'Online MP3 Cutter & Ringtone Maker' with a music note icon and a small video thumbnail. Below the title is a toolbar with buttons for 'Open from URL...', 'Record...', 'Sound Library...', '? Help...', and 'JS Audio Converter'. A secondary toolbar contains 'Open', '+ Add to', 'Undo', 'Redo', 'Copy', 'Paste', 'Cut', 'Crop', 'Delete', 'Restore', 'Select all', navigation arrows, 'Zoom in Selection', and 'Show all'. The central part of the interface shows a waveform editor with two channels: 'Left Channel' and 'Right Channel'. Both channels have a selection box from 00:00 to 01:18:28. Below the waveform, there are volume and effect controls, including a volume slider at 0 db, 'High-pitched', 'Mute', 'Fade in', and 'Fade out' options, along with play, stop, and record buttons. At the bottom, there is a 'SPONSORED SEARCHES' section with six search boxes containing terms like 'music mixer', 'audio recording software', 'audio cutter', 'cut mp3 music', 'mp3 audio converter', and 'mp3 editor'.





















# File Conversation

# SmallPDF

- [www.smallpdf.com](http://www.smallpdf.com)

## We make PDF easy

All-in-one easy-to-use online PDF tools

 <b>Compress PDF</b> Reduce the size of your PDF without losing quality	 <b>PDF Converter</b> Convert Word, PowerPoint and Excel files to and from PDF	 <b>PPT to PDF</b> Convert PowerPoint presentations to PDF documents	 <b>PDF to PPT</b> Convert PDFs to editable PowerPoint presentations	 <b>JPG to PDF</b> Transform JPG, PNG, BMP, GIF, and TIFF images to PDF
 <b>PDF to JPG</b> Extract images from your PDF or save each page as a separate image	 <b>Excel to PDF</b> Convert Excel spreadsheets to PDF documents	 <b>PDF to Excel</b> Convert PDFs to editable Excel spreadsheets	 <b>Delete PDF Pages</b> Remove one or multiple pages from your PDF	 <b>Edit PDF</b> Add text, shapes, images and freehand annotations to your PDF
 <b>Word to PDF</b> Convert Word documents to PDF files	 <b>PDF to Word</b> Convert PDFs to editable Word documents	 <b>Merge PDF</b> Combine multiple PDFs into one unified document	 <b>Split PDF</b> Extract pages from your PDF or save each page as a separate PDF	 <b>Rotate PDF</b> Rotate one or all pages in your PDF
 <b>eSign PDF</b> Create your signature, sign your PDF and request people to sign	 <b>Unlock PDF</b> Remove password, encryption, and permission from your PDF	 <b>Protect PDF</b> Add a password and encrypt your PDF file		

ZamZar



- Convert files from your desktop or from a URL online without installing any software.
- Converts many types of formats for images, documents, music and videos.
- <http://www.zamzar.com>

# Utility Programs

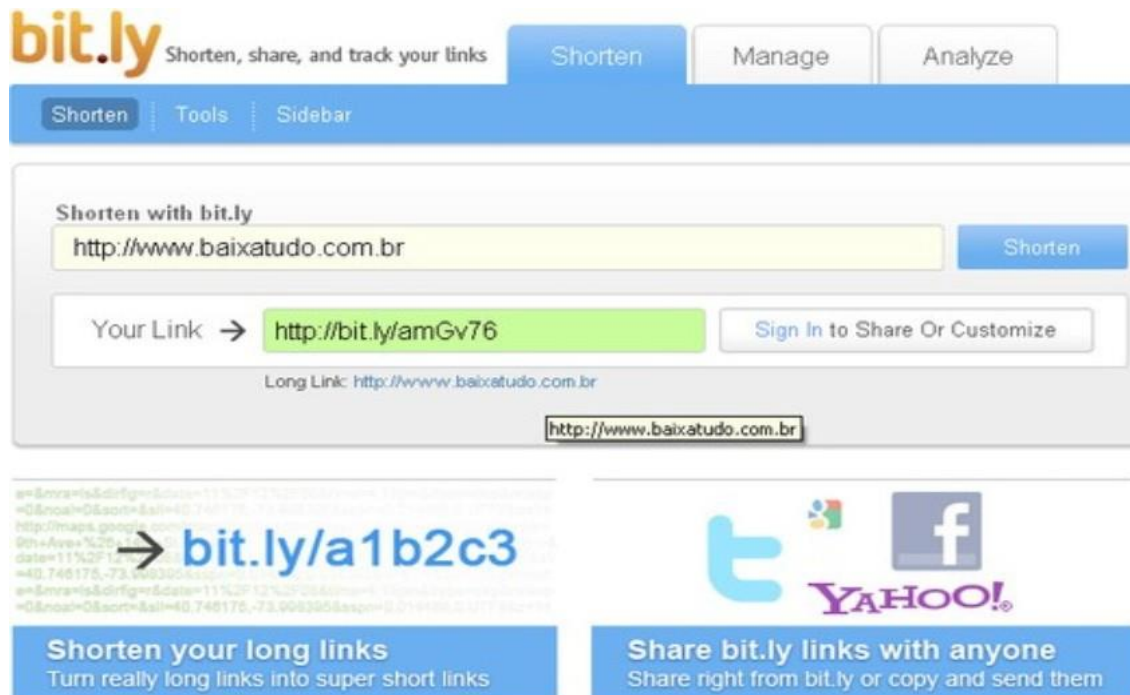
# Wayback Machine – Internet Archive

- <http://web.archive.org>
- The Wayback Machine is a digital archive of the World Wide Web and other information on the Internet. It was launched in 2001 by the Internet Archive
- Use it to find older website designs, files, date, etc.

**WayBack Machine**

# Bit.ly

- Allows users to shorten long URL addresses, share URLs with others and track the number of views of a particular link
- <http://www.bit.ly>



The screenshot shows the bit.ly website interface. At the top left is the bit.ly logo with the tagline "Shorten, share, and track your links". Below the logo are navigation tabs: "Shorten" (active), "Manage", and "Analyze". A secondary navigation bar contains "Shorten", "Tools", and "Sidebar". The main content area is titled "Shorten with bit.ly" and features a text input field containing the long URL "http://www.baixatudo.com.br" and a "Shorten" button. Below this, the resulting short link "http://bit.ly/amGv76" is displayed in a green box, with a "Sign In to Share Or Customize" button next to it. The original long link is shown below in a smaller font. At the bottom, there are two promotional banners: one for "Shorten your long links" and another for "Share bit.ly links with anyone".

bit.ly Shorten, share, and track your links

Shorten Manage Analyze

Shorten Tools Sidebar

Shorten with bit.ly

http://www.baixatudo.com.br Shorten

Your Link → http://bit.ly/amGv76 Sign In to Share Or Customize

Long Link: http://www.baixatudo.com.br

http://www.baixatudo.com.br

→ bit.ly/a1b2c3

Shorten your long links  
Turn really long links into super short links

Share bit.ly links with anyone  
Share right from bit.ly or copy and send them





# Norton Safe Web

- Allows users to verify if a website is safe or not.
- Analyze sites for
  - Computer Threats
  - Identity Threats
  - Annoyance factors
- <http://safeweb.norton.com/>



# Communication Tools



# QR Generator

- Allows you to generate a QR-code for a URL, text, phone number, SMS, etc.
- <http://www.qrstuff.com/>



**QR** Stuff.com  
Get your QR codes out there!

# File Transfer

# We Transfer

- <http://www.wetransfer.com>
- Send up to 2GB
- No registration
- It's free



# File Mail

- <https://www.filemail.com/>
- 5 GB max size
- Files available for 7 days
- Unlimited Downloads
- Available on PC, Mac, iOS and Android



Honorable Mention

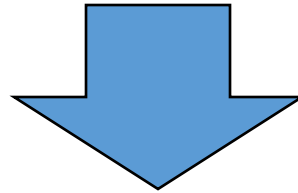
# CNET

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- [www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com)
  - Click on DOWNLOAD
    - FREE APPS



# Summary

- There are numerous software resources available to educators that are...







## For More Information

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- (251) 405-7064
- [www.robertmcwilliams.com](http://www.robertmcwilliams.com)
- [www.techtiptuesday.net](http://www.techtiptuesday.net)

