15 FREE Software Tools in 15 Minutes

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

FREE O FREE O FREE O FREE O FREE O FREE O FREE O FREE O FREE O FREE
FREE

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

myfreebingocards.com

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

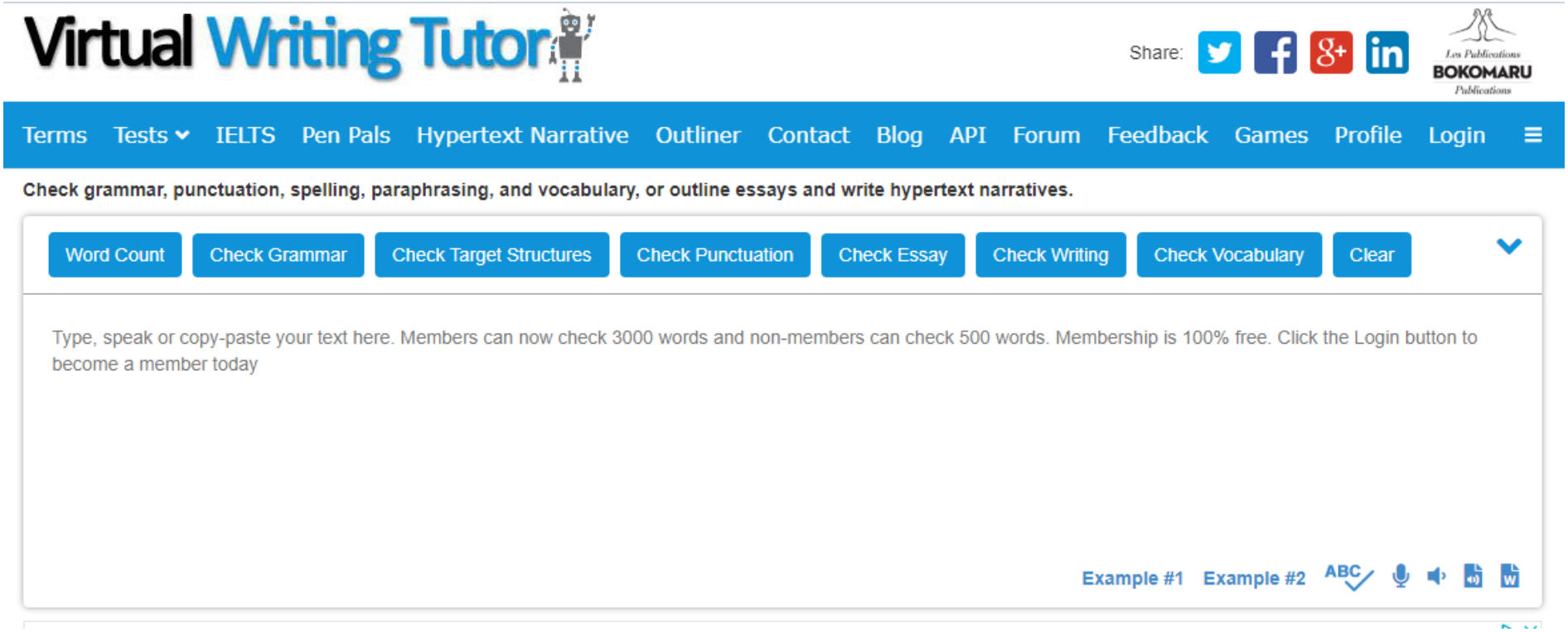
Dictionary Program

- 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/

Grammar Tools



- https://virtualwritingtutor.com

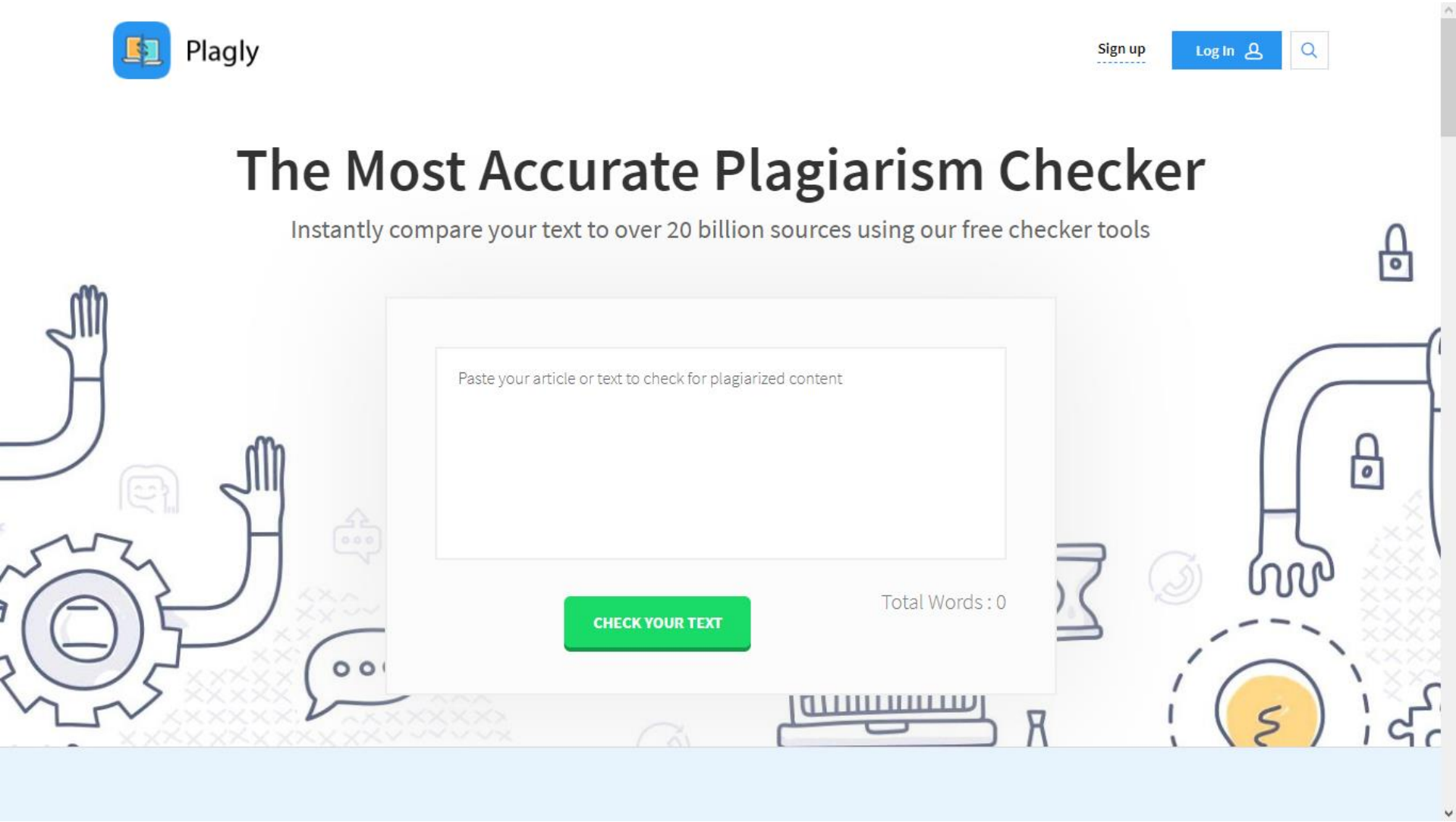
Plagiarism Checkers

Plagiarism Check Websites

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

  - http://www.duplichecker.com/

Plagly

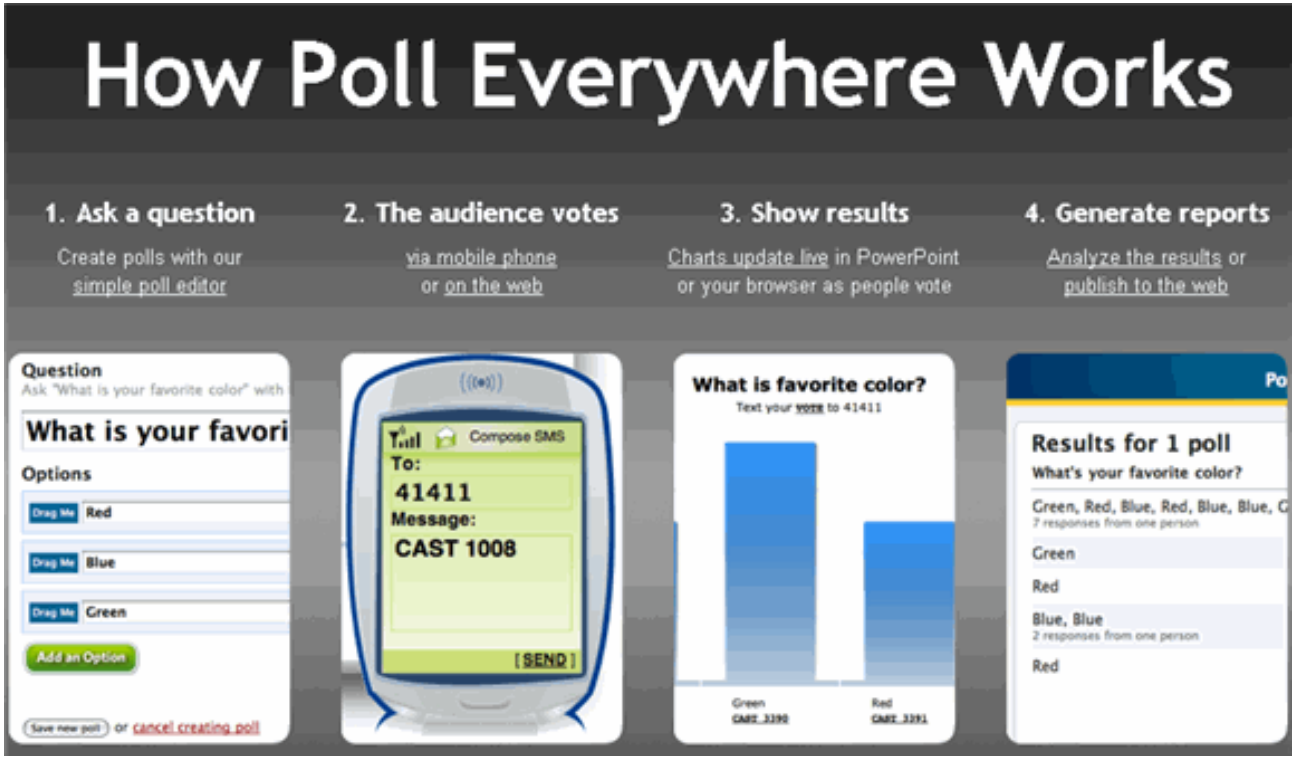


- http://plagly.com

Survey

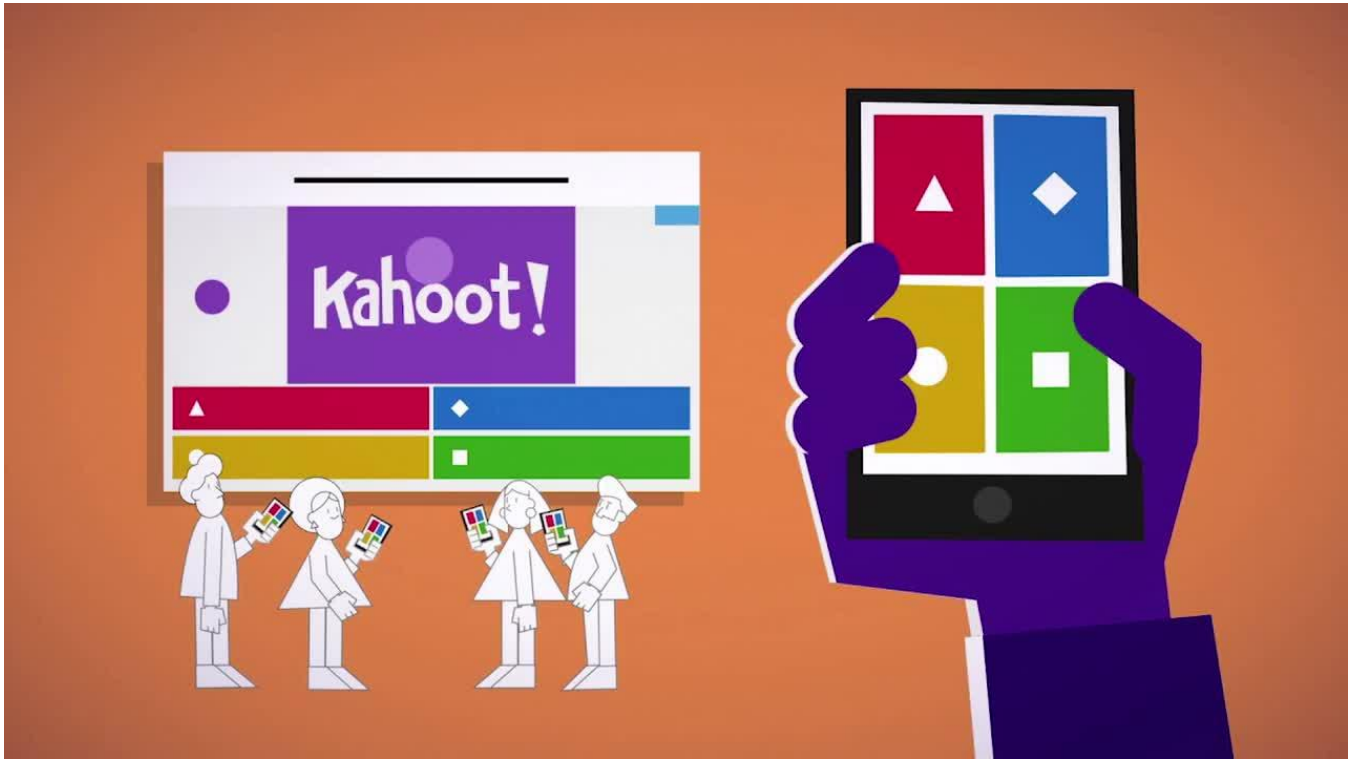
Poll Everywhere

- Audience response system that uses mobile phones, twitter, and the web. Responses are displayed in real-time.
- www.polleverywhere.com



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/

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

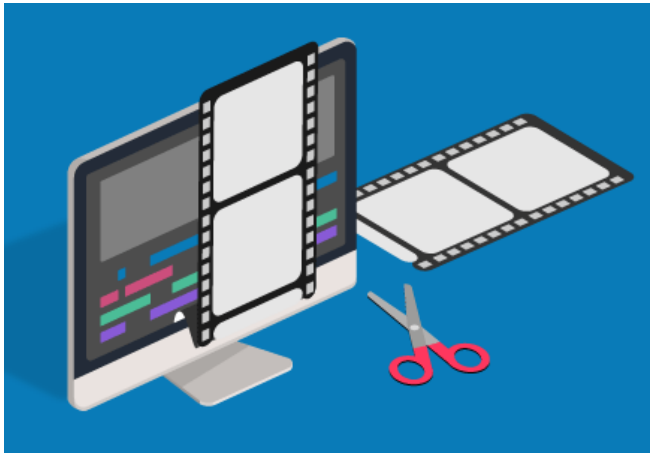


Image Editors

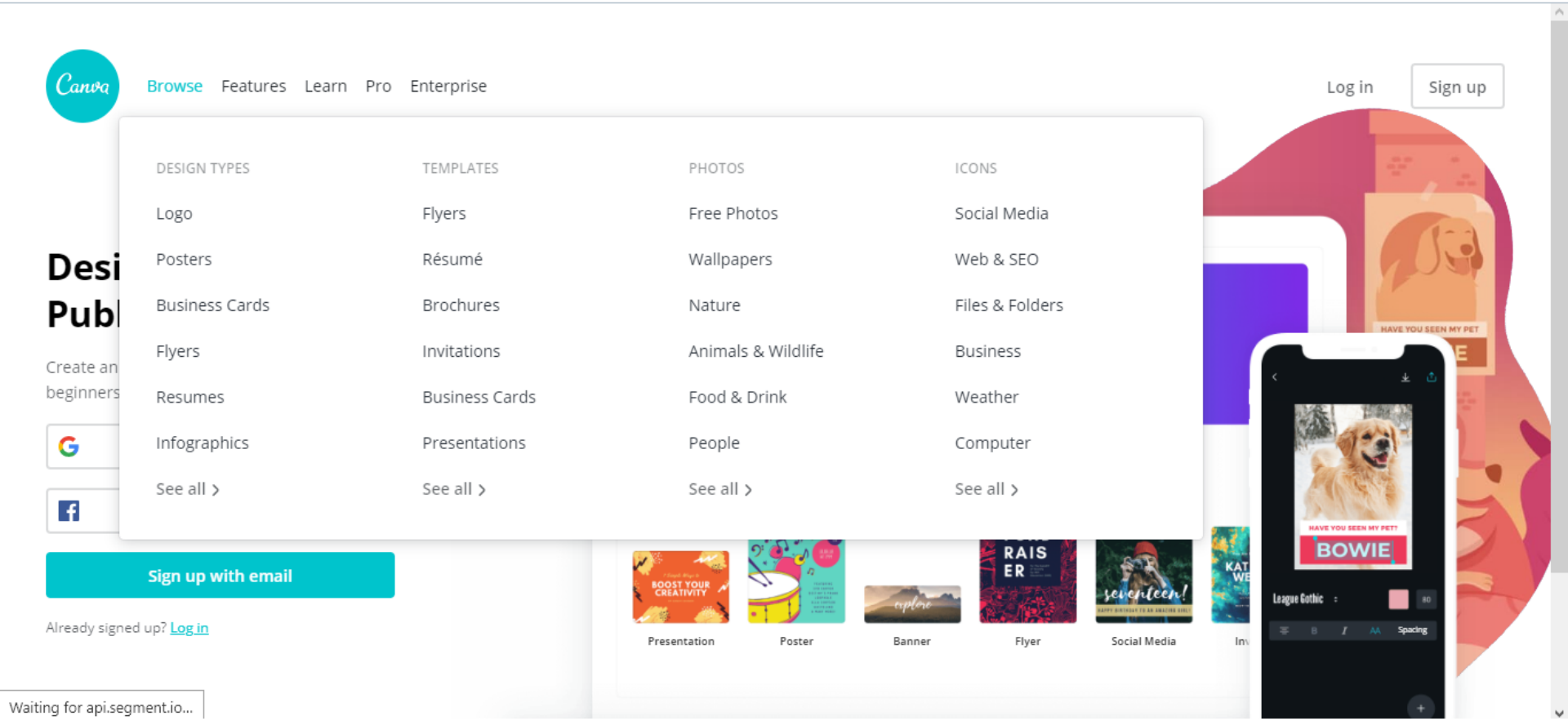
Pixlr –Online image editor

- 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

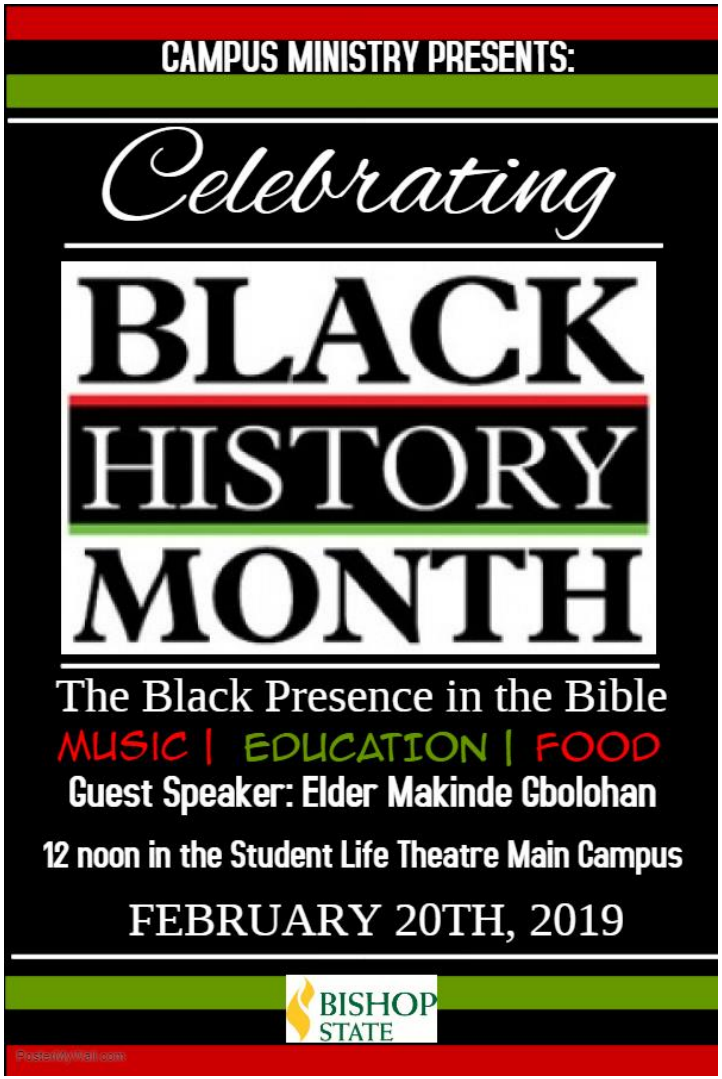
Canva



- https://www.canva.com/

Poster My Wall

- www.postermywall.com
- Create amazing posters, videos & graphics



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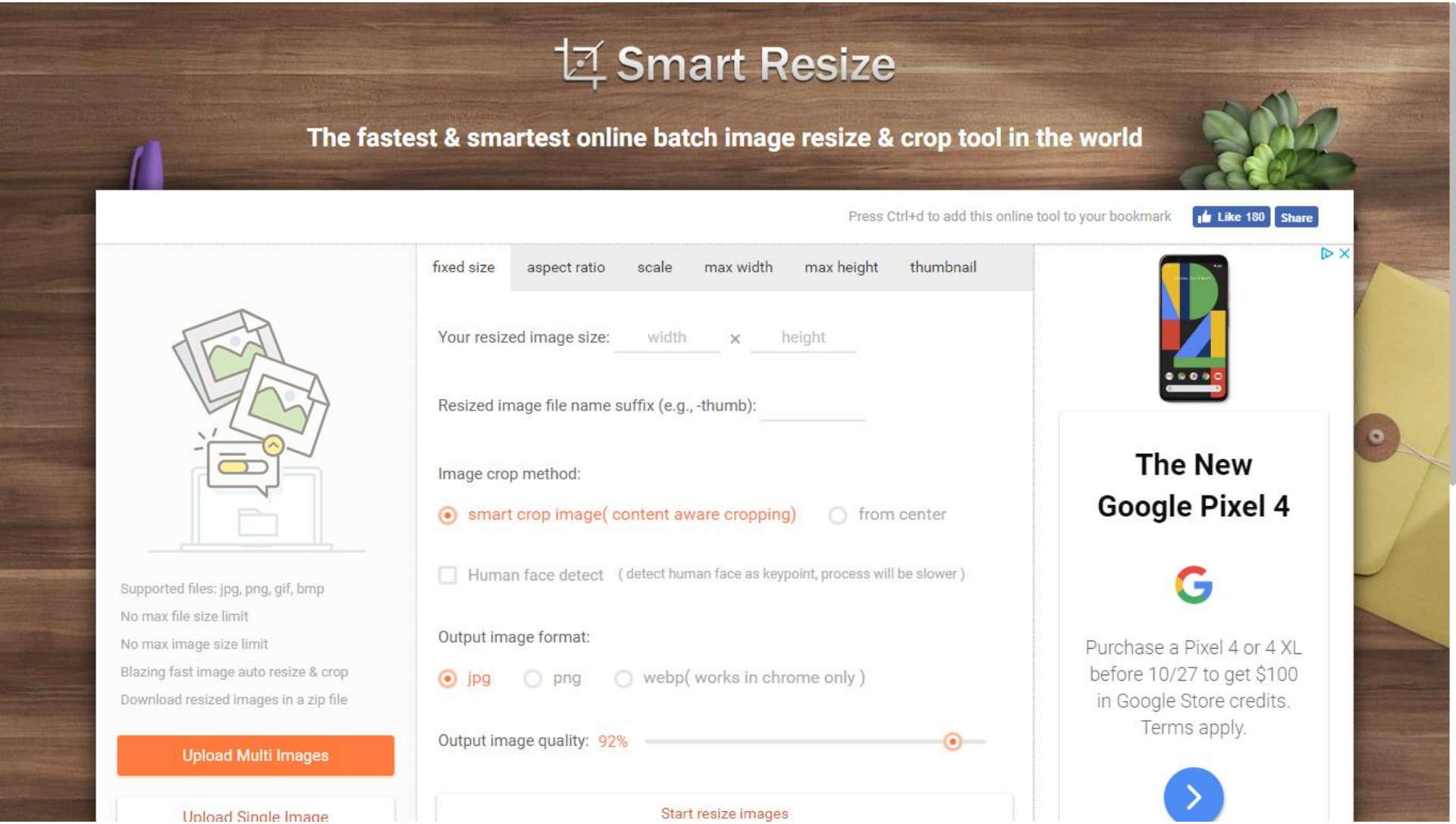
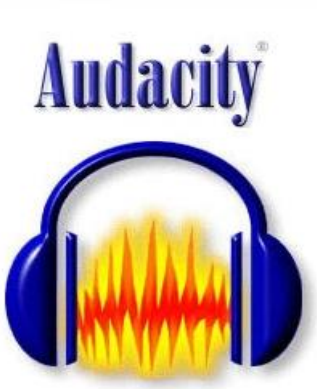


- https://www.smartresize.com/

Audio Editors

Audacity

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



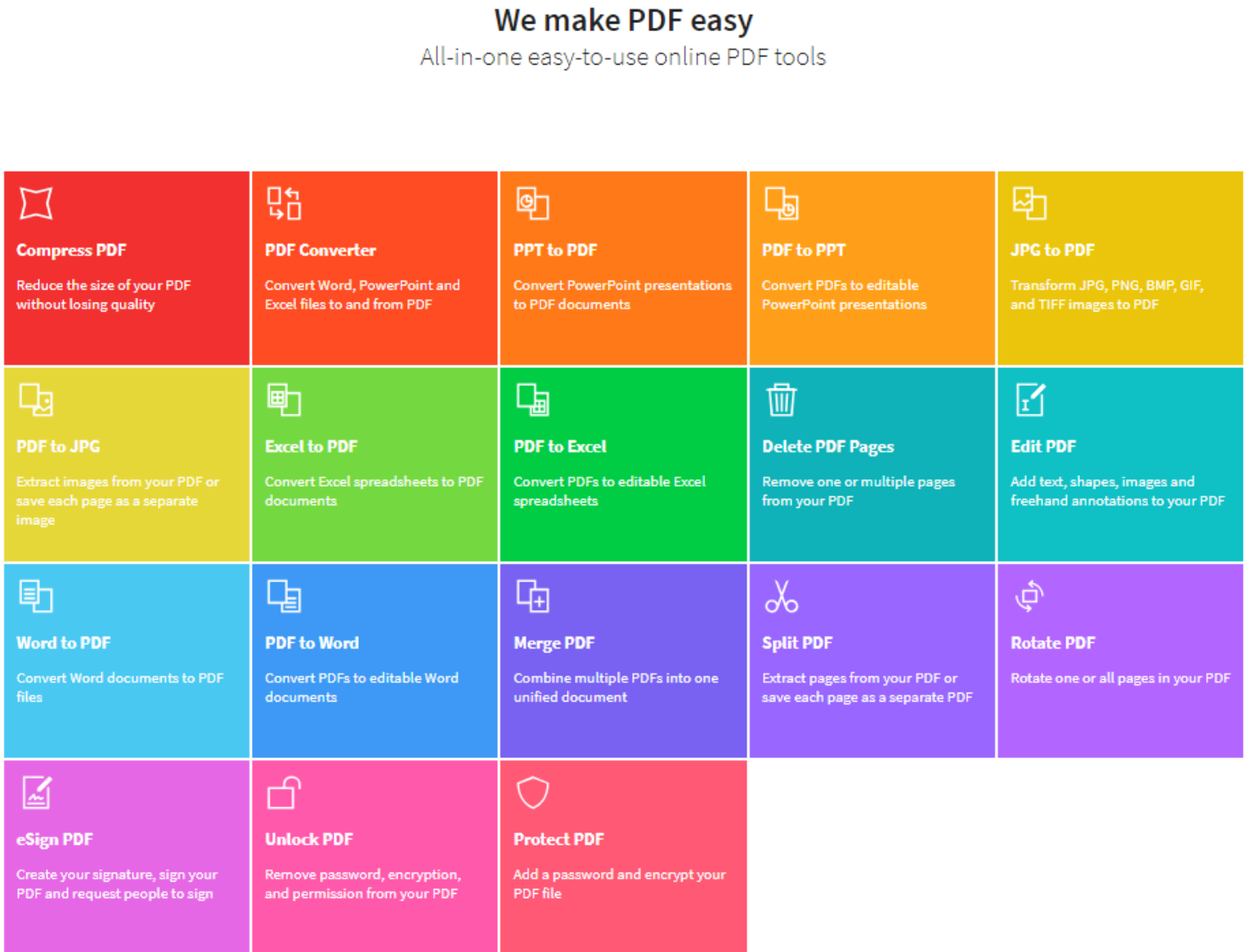
Bear Audio

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

File Conversation

SmallPDF

- www.smallpdf.com



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.

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

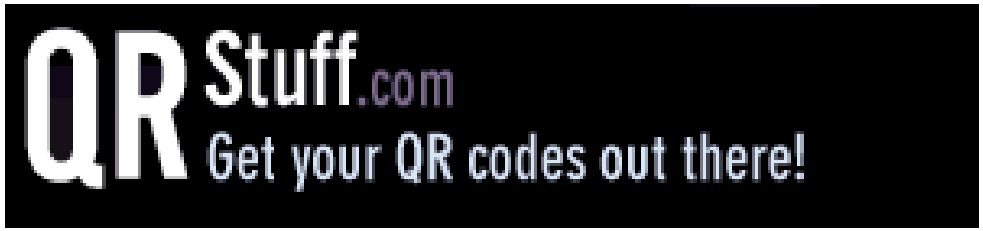
Norton Safe Web

- 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/



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

- CNET is the premier destination for tech product reviews, news, price comparisons, free software downloads, daily videos, and podcasts.
- www.cnet.com
  - Click on DOWNLOAD
    - FREE APPS

Summary

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

AHA!

For More Information

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  - www.techtiptuesday.net