



Top 100 Tools for Learning 2007

Summary Information

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About the Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies



Jane Hart set up the Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies in May 2007. Jane has been active in the learning world for nearly 25 years – working in both Further and Higher Education as well as in corporate training. For the last 10 years she has been providing independent e-learning consultancy services to both businesses and education.

The main aims of the Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies are:

- to keep a watching brief on current and emerging tools and technologies suitable for learning and performance support
- to disseminate this information through the website, blog, articles, workshops and other events
- to provide independent advice and guidance on tools and technologies to both businesses and education

At the Centre, Jane has been compiling the Directory of Learning Tools – which now contains over 1,700 free and commercial tools suitable for use for learning and performance purposes. However, it is the Top 10 Tools feature that has captured the attention of many people, and has more than achieved its (as well as the Centre's) goal of spreading the word about the wide range of tools available for learning in all its forms.

If you would like to contact Jane about an e-learning project - whether it be for advice on the selection of the right tool or the best approach to a learning problem or challenge, or for learning design services, you can do so at Jane.Hart@C4LPT.co.uk.

About this document

In July and August 2007 the Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies invited learning professionals to contribute their Top 10 Tools lists. The brief was simple: "What are your top 10 favourite tools for your own personal learning/working or for creating learning for others".

109 people responded to the invitation:

Jay Cross, Jane Hart, Barry Dahl, Clive Shepherd, Andreas Büsing, Pam Atkins, Wendy Phillips, Mark Berthelemy, Donald Taylor, Paul Coyne, B J Schone, Terry Elliott, Steve Rayson, Mike Alcock, Vaughan Waller, Clark Quinn, Brent Schlenker, Stephen Downes, Christy Tucker, Larry Ferlazzo, Ilpo Halonen, Janet Clarey, Patrick Dunn, David Wilson, Karyn Romeis, Dennis Coxe, Audrey J Williams, Rick Lillie, Seb Schmoller, Joan Vinall-Cox, James Farmer, David Parry, Scott Wilson, Cammy Bean, Jane Bozarth, Teemu Arina, Tim Stahmer, Anol Bhattacharya, Harold Jarche, Karl Kapp, Eduardo Peirano, Daniel Lemire, Guy Boulet, Charles Jennings, Michele Martin, Paulo Simões, Kevin Gamble, Edward Mijnsbergen, Tim Schlotfeldt, Ana Maria Mendes, Wilfred Rubens, Jose Carlos del Arco, David Jennings, Dave Lee, Eraser Cabeza Borradora, David Sugden, Mark van Harmelen, Frances Bell, Gabriela Grosseck, Cristina Menezes Da Costa, David Flanders, Lynn Wernham, Daniel Molnar, José Luis Cabello, Jorge Gonçalves, Colette Cassinelli, Cary Gordon, Nicole Cargill-Kilpar, Lisa Neal, Phil Green, Robert Talbert, David Meaney, Nancy Luikart, Nick Hood, Leigh Zeitz, Cathy Moore, Adelina Moura, John Weedon, Lisa Valentine, Lisa M Lane, Michael Prophet, Ulrik Juul Christensen, Paulo Gingão, David Delgado, Gianni Marconato, Ramona Dietrich, Michael McVey, Carmen Holotescu, Jack Vinson, Gerry Paille, Doris Edwards, Cheri Toledo, Matt Lisle, Zaid Alsagoff, Thomas Stone, Britt Watwood, George Siemens, Bertram (Chip) Bruce, Andrea Barrett, Patrick Higgins, Matthias Melcher, Meir Navon, Russel Tarr, Seaghan Moriarty, Tom Winterstein, Mike Taylor, Michael Chalk, Gabe Anderson and Susan Quinn

You can find the links to their individual Top 10 favourite Tools lists at [Top 10 Tools for Learning 2007](#).

In total over 400 different tools were named, but from these Top 10 Tools lists we compiled a list of the Top 100 Tools for Learning. 100 Tools were mentioned 3 or more times, and an additional 50 tools were mentioned twice. This list appears in **A: Top 100 Tools for Learning**

We then categorised this list by type of learning tool – both for personal learning (ie Personal Tools) and for creating learning (ie Producer Tools) - and this list appears in **B: Top 100 Tools for Learning – by type of tool**.

In **C: Top 100 Tools for Learning – in alphabetical order** we summarise some key information about the tools, in particular their cost (i.e. whether they are free or not) and their availability (i.e. whether they are online or if you have to download them), and in the latter case whether they run on a PC or Mac or need to be installed on a server.

On each of the three lists, the Tool link will take you to the relevant page at the Centre's website, where you can find full information about the tool

- cost and availability information
- a summary of the tool
- the aggregated comments of the Top 10 Tools contributors who mentioned the tool
- links to further resources about the tool or the technology in general
- link to the relevant page of the online Guide to the Tools.

As this document's subtitle explains, it provides *summary* information about the Top 100 Tools for Learning. To get the most out of the document you will need to use it in conjunction with the relevant online resources. This includes

- the online [Guide to the Top 100 Tools](#) which provides some general background information about the technologies and how the Top 100 Tools fit in.
- an [Analysis](#) of the Top 100 Tools for Learning 2007 list
- [Reviews](#) of the Top 10/100 Tools feature which includes emails received and links to reviews on blogs, websites, etc

In the summer of 2008 we will repeat the Top 10 Tools activity and ask all the existing contributors to revisit their lists. There will also be an open invitation for others to contribute their own lists, and we hope that you will wish to do so. We will use the new lists to compile the Top 100 Tools for Learning 2008.

A: 100 Top Tools for Learning

Here we list in order of popularity the 100 tools that received 3 or more mentions from the 109 contributors to the Top 10 Tools feature. Beneath the list are a further 50 tools that received 2 mentions.

Position	No of mentions	Tool	Description
1	61	Firefox	Web browser
2	41	del.icio.us	Social bookmarking tool
3	38	Skype	Instant messaging, VoIP tool
4	37	Google Search	Web search tool
5	35	PowerPoint	Presentation software
6	31	Wordpress	Blogging tool
7=	30	Gmail	Web-based email
	30	Google Reader	RSS/Feed reader
9	27	Blogger	Blogging tool
10	22	Word	Word processing software
11	20	Audacity	Sound editor and recorder
12=	19	Bloglines	RSS/Feed reader
	19	Moodle	Course management system
14	17	Google Docs & Spreadsheets	Web-based document creation
15	15	Wikispaces	Wiki tool
16	13	flickr	Photo storage and sharing site
17=	12	Captivate	Demo and scenario-based tool
	12	Facebook	Social networking site
	12	iGoogle	Personalised start page
	12	MindManager	Mind mapping tool
	12	Outlook	Email software
22=	11	Articulate	Presenter, Engage, Quizmaker

Position	No of mentions	Tool	Description
	11	Excel	Spreadsheet software
	11	Thunderbird	Email client
	11	YouTube	Video hosting and sharing site.
26=	10	Dreamweaver	Web authoring tool
	10	iTunes	Music and podcast player
	10	Netvibes	Personal start page
	10	SnagIt	Screen capture tool
	10	Wikipedia	Online collaborative encyclopedia
31=	9	Internet Explorer	Web browser
	9	LinkedIn	Social network for professionals
	9	Ning	Social networking tool
	9	OpenOffice	Office software suite
	9	Slideshare	Hosting/sharing presentations
36=	8	Google Calendar	Web-based calendar
	8	Google Maps	Maps of the US. UK, etc
	8	Google Scholar	Search for scholarly literature
	8	MediaWiki	Wiki tool
40=	7	Elgg/Eduspaces	Social networking tool/community
	7	Google Desktop	Computer search and organiser
	7	Google Earth	Geographic information
43=	6	Flash	Animation authoring tool
	6	GIMP	Image and photo editing tool
	6	iPod/MP3 player	iPod or any MP3 player
	6	Mobile phone	Phone or PDA of any description
	6	PB Wiki	Wiki tool
	6	twitter	IM and social network

Position	No of mentions	Tool	Description
	6	The written word	Books, paper, sketchbook, etc
50=	5	Camtasia	Screencasting tool
	5	Elluminate	Web meeting/conferencing tool
	5	FreeMind	Mind mapping tool
	5	Google Notebook	Personal online notebook
	5	Photoshop	Photo/Image editing tools
	5	Scribd	Document hosting/sharing site
	5	Yahoo Groups	Community tool
57=	4	Adium	Instant messaging tool
	4	Explode	Social network
	4	Fireworks	Graphics tool
	4	Google Alerts	Keep track of new information
	4	Google Groups	Group/collaboration tool
	4	Google Page Creator	Simple web page authoring tool
	4	Google Talk	Instant messaging tool
	4	MSN/ Windows Messenger	Instant messaging tool
	4	Parallels	Run Windows on a Mac
	4	Picasa	Picture editing tool
	4	TeacherTube	Instructional video sharing site
	4	Technorati	Search for user-generated media
	4	TypePad	Blogging tool
	4	Yahoo Mail	Web-based email
	4	Zoho	Online office suite
72=	3	Access	Database software
	3	Adobe Acrobat Professional	Create/control PDF documents
	3	Adobe Connect Professional	Web meeting/conferencing tool

Position	No of mentions	Tool	Description
	3	Adobe Presenter	Narrated presentation tool
	3	Adobe Reader	PDF Reader
	3	Amazon	Online bookstore
	3	Cmap	Concept mapping tool
	3	diigo	Social bookmarking/annotation
	3	Drupal/DrupalEd	Content management system
	3	Edublogs	Blogging tool for educators
	3	Eudora	Email client
	3	eXe	SCORM content authoring tool
	3	Flock	Social web browser
	3	Furl	Social bookmarking tool
	3	Gliffy	Diagramming tool
	3	Inspiration	For visual thinking
	3	Jaiku	Mobile phone tool /social network
	3	Keynote	Presentation software
	3	Notepad	HTML and text editor
	3	Notepad++	HTML and text editor
	3	OmniGraffle	Diagramming tool
	3	Paint Shop Pro	Image editing tool
	3	Quicksilver	Interface for working with apps
	3	Safari	Web browser
	3	Subversion	Version control software
	3	Tiddlywiki	Personal wiki tool
	3	Web Developer	Firefox addon for debugging webs
	3	Yugma	Web meeting/conferencing tool
	3	Zotero	Firefox add-on for researchers

Here are the 50 tools that received 2 mentions

Position	No of mentions	Tool	Description
101=	2	Apple Mail	Email software
	2	b2evolution	Content management/bloggging
	2	Blackboard	Course management system
	2	Blogmusik (now Deezer)	Music sharing website
	2	Bubbl.us	Mind mapping tool
	2	CoComment	Track blog comments
	2	Confluence	Enterprise wiki solution
	2	Copernic Desktop Search	Computer search tool
	2	CourseLab	Course authoring tool
	2	CutePDF Writer	PDF conversion tool
	2	delicious Bookmarks	Firefox add-on
	2	Dogpile	Search engine
	2	ecto	Desktop blogging client
	2	EndNote	For managing bibliographies
	2	eSnips	Upload and share files
	2	FeedBlitz	Feed to email service
	2	FeedRaider	RSS/feed reader
	2	Firebug	Firefox addon to debug webs
	2	Frontpage	Web authoring tool
	2	Gabcast	Phone in your podcast
	2	Gadwin PrintScreen	Screen capture utility
	2	Google Apps	Communication/collaboration tools
	2	HTML-Kit	HTML authoring tool
	2	iChat	Instant messaging tool
	2	iShowU	Capture/record videos

Position	No of mentions	Tool	Description
	2	iVocalize	Web conferencing
	2	Jotspot	Wiki tool
	2	Last.fm	Music sharing site
	2	Linux	Operating system
	2	Meebo	Instant messaging tool
	2	MindMeister	Mind mapping tool
	2	MovableType	Blogging platform
	2	Mozy	Online backup tool
	2	MyBlogLog	Widget for blogs/websites
	2	NetNewsWire	Desktop RSS/feed reader
	2	Odeo	MP3s to share
	2	Outlook Express	Email client
	2	Pageflakes	Start page
	2	PhotoStory	Create photo slideshows
	2	Pidgin	IM tool (prev GAIM)
	2	QuickBooks	Accounting software
	2	Quintura	Visual search engine
	2	RSS	Really Simple Syndication
	2	ScribeFire	Firefox addon for blog postings
	2	SecondLife	Virtual world application
	2	StatCounter	Website stat coutner
	2	TextPad	Text editor
	2	Vim	Text editor
	2	VoiceThread	Capture voices
	2	X1	Desktop search

B: Top 100 Tools for Learning – by type of tool

This list categorises the tools in two ways:

1. **Personal Tools:** tools to access and view content as well as communicate with others (for your own personal learning/working)
2. **Producer Tools:** tools to develop and deliver content and other learning solutions (for yourself and others)

Recommendations are the highest ranked tool in the category; **Other suggestions** are the other tools listed in Part A in the category (from both the Top 100 and Extra 50 lists).

Personal Tools

Tool Category	Recommendation	Other suggestions
Web browsers and extensions	Firefox	Internet Explorer Flock Safari Zotero CoComment delicious Bookmarks Firebug ScribeFire
RSS readers	Google Reader	Bloglines FeedRaider NetNewsWire
Email tools	Gmail	Outlook Thunderbird Yahoo Mail Eudora Apple Mail Outlook Express
Personal home/start pages	iGoogle	Netvibes Pageflakes
Social bookmarking tools	del.icio.us	diigo Furl
Podcast players	iTunes	-
PDF readers	Adobe Reader	-
Social networks	Facebook	LinkedIn Eduspaces twitter Explode
Instant messengers	Skype	Adium Google Talk MSN/ Windows Messenger twitter iChat Meebo Pidgin
(Re)search tools	Google Search	Wikipedia Google Scholar Technorati Amazon Dogpile Quintura
Online productivity tools	Google Calendar	Google Maps Google Notebook Google Alerts Mozy
Desktop productivity tools	Google Desktop	Google Earth Parallels Quicksilver Copernic Desktop Search X1
Mobile phone tools	twitter Jaiku Meebo	
iPod tools	iTunes	

Producer Tools

Tool category	Recommendation	Other suggestions
Document, Spreadsheet (& Database) Tools	Word	Google Docs & Spreadsheets Excel OpenOffice Zoho Access EndNote
Presentation tools	PowerPoint	Slideshare OpenOffice Zoho Keynote
Narrated presentation tools	Articulate Presenter	Adobe Presenter Slideshare PhotoStory VoiceThread
PDF Conversion Tools	Adobe Acrobat Professional	OpenOffice CutePDF Writer
Blogging tools	Wordpress	Blogger TypePad Edublogs MovableType b2evolution ScribeFire ecto Firebug FeedBlitz CoComment MyBlogLog StatCounter
Podcasting tools	Audacity	Gabcast Odeo
Wiki tools	Wikispaces	MediaWiki PB Wiki Tiddlywiki Jotspot Confluence
Mindmapping tools	MindManager	FreeMind Cmap Inspiration Bubbl.us MindMeister
Web authoring tools	Dreamweaver	Flash Google Page Creator Frontpage Firebug Web Developer StatCounter
HTML/Text editors	HTML-Kit	Notepad Notepad++ TextPad Vim
Graphics, image and photo editing tools	GIMP	Photoshop Fireworks Picasa Gliffy OmniGraffle Paint Shop Pro
Course and tutorial (rapid e-learning) tools	Articulate Rapid E-Learning Studio	Adobe Presenter eXe CourseLab
Interactivity, quiz and testing tools	Articulate Engage and Quizmaker	Flash
Course management systems	Moodle	DrupalEd Blackboard
Course by Email Tools	Gmail	Outlook Thunderbird Yahoo Mail Eudora Apple Mail

Tool Category	Recommendation	Other suggestions
Screen capture and screencasting tools	Captivate	SnagIt Camtasia Gadwin PrintScreen iShowU
Live E-Learning/ Web Meeting tools	Elluminate	Adobe Connect Professional Yugma iVocalize Skype
Social networking tools	Ning	Elgg
Content management systems	Drupal	b2evolution
Group space tools	Yahoo Groups	Google Groups
Virtual World tools	SecondLife	-
File hosting/sharing sites	flickr YouTube Slideshare Scribd TeacherTube Odeo eSnips Blogmusik (now Deezer) Last.fm	

C: Top 100 Tools for Learning – in alphabetical order

On the following pages you will find a chart containing summary details of all the software tools listed in Parts A and B. The tools are listed in alphabetical order.

The information shown in the chart is as follows

- **TOOL** – the name of the tool as shown in Parts A and B with a link to the page at the Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies where you can find further information about the tool.
 - A summary of the tool
 - Aggregated comments from the contributors of the Top 10 Tools list who mentioned this tool
 - Links to other resources about the tool
 - Link to the relevant page of the online Guide to the Top 100 Tools
 - Link to further general reading about the underlying technology
- **Cost** – whether **Free** or Commercial (£) and in the case of the later if there is a **Free Trial**
- **Availability/Set up**
 - **O** = Online
 - **D** = Download
 - **PC/Mac** – platforms on which personal software will run
 - **Server/Site**
 - **Install** - If the software needs to be installed on a server
 - **Code** – if the widget/application/content can be added to a blog/website

TOOL	Cost			Availability/Set up				
	Free	£	Free Trial	O	D	PC	Mac	Server/ Site
Access		£	Y		D	PC		
Adium	Free			O				
Adobe Acrobat Professional		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
Adobe Connect Professional		£	Y	O				
Adobe Presenter		£	Y		D	PC		
Adobe Reader	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Amazon		£			O			
Apple Mail	Pre-installed on Mac							
Articulate		£	Y		D	PC		
Audacity	Free				D	PC	Mac	
b2evolution	Free				D			Install
Blackboard		£			D			Install
Blogger	Free			O				
Bloglines	Free			O				
Blogmusik (now Deezer)	Free			O				
Bubbl.us	Free			O				
Camtasia		£	Y		D	PC		
Captivate		£	Y		D	PC		
Cmap	Free	£			D	PC	Mac	
CoComment	Free				D	PC	Mac	Code
Confluence	Free	£	Y	O	D	PC		
Copernic Desktop Search	Free				D	PC		
CourseLab	Free				D	PC		

TOOL	Cost			Availability/Set up				
	Free	£	Free Trial	O	D	PC	Mac	Server/ Site
CutePDF Writer	Free				D	PC		
del.icio.us	Free			O				
delicious Bookmarks	Free				D	PC	Mac	
diigo	Free			O				
Dogpile	Free			O				
Dreamweaver		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
Drupal/DrupalEd	Free				D			Install
ecto		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
Edublogs	Free			O				
Eduspaces	Free			O				
Elgg	Free				D			Install
Elluminate	Free	£	Y	O				
EndNote		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
eSnips	Free			O				
Eudora	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Excel		£	Y		D	PC		
eXe	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Explode	Free			O				Code
Facebook	Free			O				
FeedBlitz	Free			O				Code
FeedRaider	Free			O				
Firebug	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Firefox	Free				D	PC	Mac	

TOOL	Cost			Availability/Set up				
	Free	£	Free Trial	O	D	PC	Mac	Server/ Site
Fireworks		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
Flash		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
flickr	Free			O				
Flock	Free				D	PC	Mac	
FreeMind	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Frontpage		£			D	PC		
Furl	Free			O				
Gabcast	Free			O				
Gadwin PrintScreen	Free	£	Y		D	PC		
GIMP	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Gliffy	Free			O				
Gmail	Free			O				
Google Alerts	Free			O				
Google Apps		£	Y	O				
Google Calendar	Free			O				
Google Desktop	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Google Docs & Spreadsheets	Free			O				
Google Earth	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Google Groups	Free			O				
Google Maps	Free			O				Code
Google Notebook	Free			O				
Google Page Creator	Free			O				
Google Reader	Free			O				

TOOL	Cost			Availability/Set up				
	Free	£	Free Trial	O	D	PC	Mac	Server/ Site
Google Scholar	Free			O				
Google Search	Free			O				
Google Talk	Free				D	PC		Code
HTML-Kit	Free				D	PC		
iChat	Pre-installed on Mac							
iGoogle	Free			O				
Inspiration		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
Internet Explorer	Free				D	PC		
iShowU		£	Y		D		Mac	
iTunes	Free				D	PC	Mac	
iVocalize		£	Y	O				
Jaiku	Free			O				
Jotspot	Free			O				
Keynote		£			D		Mac	
Last.fm	Free			O				
LinkedIn	Free			O				Code
Linux	Free				D	PC	Mac	Install
MediaWiki	Free				D			Install
Meebo	Free			O				
MindManager		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
MindMeister	Free	£	Y	O				
Moodle	Free				D	PC	Mac	Install
MovableType		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	Install

TOOL	Cost			Availability/Set up				
	Free	£	Free Trial	O	D	PC	Mac	Server/ Site
Mozy	Free	£		O	D	PC	Mac	
MSN/ Windows Live Messenger	Free				D	PC		
MyBlogLog	Free							Code
NetNewsWire		£	Y		D		Mac	
Netvibes	Free			O				
Ning	Free			O				Code
Notepad	Included with Windows							
Notepad++	Free				D	PC		
Odeo	Free			O				Code
OmniGraffle		£	Y		D	PC	Mac	
OpenOffice	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Outlook		£	Y		D	PC		
Outlook Express	Free				D	PC		
Pageflakes	Free			O				
Paint Shop Pro		£	Y		D	PC		
Parallels		£	Y		D		Mac	
PB Wiki	Free	£		O				
Photoshop		£	Y		D	PC		
PhotoStory	Free				D	PC		
Picasa	Free				D	PC		
Pidgin	Free				D	PC		
PowerPoint		£	Y		D	PC		
QuickBooks		£		O	D	PC	Mac	

TOOL	Cost			Availability/Set up				
	Free	£	Free Trial	O	D	PC	Mac	Server/ Site
Quicksilver	Free				D		Mac	
Quintura	Free			O				
Safari	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Scribd	Free			O				Code
ScribeFire	Free				D	PC	Mac	
SecondLife	Free			O				
Skype	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Slideshare	Free			O				Code
SnagIt		£	Y		D	PC		
StatCounter	Free							Code
Subversion	Free				D	PC	Mac	Install
TeacherTube	Free			O				Code
Technorati	Free			O				
TextPad		£	Y		D	PC		
Thunderbird	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Tiddlywiki	Free				D	PC	Mac	
twitter	Free			O				Code
TypePad		£	Y	O				
Vim	Free				D	PC	Mac	
VoiceThread	Free			O				
Web Developer	Free				D	PC	Mac	
Wikipedia	Free			O				
Wikispaces	Free	£	Y	O				

TOOL	Cost			Availability/Set up				
	Free	£	Free Trial	O	D	PC	Mac	Server/ Site
Word		£	Y		D	PC		
Wordpress	Free			O	D			Install
X1		£	Y		D	PC		
Yahoo Groups	Free			O				
Yahoo Mail	Free			O				
YouTube	Free			O				Code
Yugma	Free			O				
Zoho	Free			O				
Zotero	Free				D	PC	Mac	