Top 100 Tools for Learning Spring 2008

Summary Information
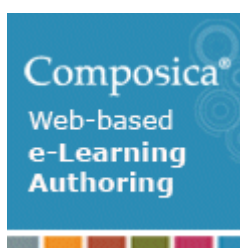
Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies
www.C4LPT.co.uk

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About the Top 100 Tools for Learning activity

Between January and March 2008 the Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies (C4LPT) invited learning professionals to share their Top 10 Tools for Learning – both for their own personal learning/productivity as well as for creating learning for others.

155 learning professionals contributed their Top 10 Tools. You can find the links to their individual Top 10 favourite Tools lists at www.c4lpt.co.uk/recommended/

In total over 460 different tools were named, but from these Top 10 Tools lists we compiled a list of the *Top 100 Tools for Learning Spring 2008*. 109 Tools were mentioned 3 or more times, and an additional 34 tools were mentioned twice. The list appears on pages 3-10 of this document and also online at www.c4lpt.co.uk/recommended/top100.html

An *Analysis* of the Top 100 Tools for Learning 2008 list appears online at www.c4lpt.co.uk/recommended/analysis.html

The tool links in these two lists take you to pages at the Centre's website where you can find further information about each tool:

- cost and availability information
- a summary of the tool
- the aggregated comments of the contributors who named this tool as one of their favourites.

We then categorised the Top 100 Tools list by type of tool – to create *A Core Toolset for Learning 2008*. This appears on pages 11-13 of this document and online at www.c4lpt.co.uk/recommended/toolbox2008.html

We have also aggregated the top performing free tools to create *25 Tools: A Free Toolset for Learning 2008*, and this resource is described on page 14 of this document and appears online at www.c4lpt.co.uk/25Tools/Tools/about.html

We hope you find this Summary PDF as well as the online resources at the Centre useful.

Jane Hart, Head of Centre
www.C4LPT.co.uk and www.janehart.com

100 Top Tools for Learning Spring 2008

Key:
H = Hosted; D = Download; C = Insert code
Shaded rows are new tools on the list from 2007.

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
1	2	del.icio.us	65	**del.icio.us** Social bookmarking tool	Free	H
2	1	Firefox	54.5	**Firefox** Web browser	Free	D
3	7=	Google Reader	48	**Google Reader** RSS/Feed reader	Free	H
4	3=	Skype	43.5	**Skype** Instant messaging, VoIP tool	Free	D
5	3=	Google Search	40.5	**Google Search** Web search tool	Free	H
6	6	Wordpress	39	**Wordpress** Blogging tool	Free	H/D
7	5	PowerPoint	34.5	**PowerPoint** Presentation software	£	D
8	7=	Gmail	31	**GMail** Web-based email	Free	H
9=	11	Audacity	30	**Audacity** Sound editor and recorder	Free	D
	9	Blogger	30	**Blogger** Blogging tool	Free	H
11	14	Google Docs	29	**Google Docs** Web-based documents	Free	H
12	26=	Wikipedia	27.5	**Wikipedia** Online encylopedia	Free	H
13	12=	Moodle	26.5	**Moodle** Course management system	Free	D/H
14	31=	Slideshare	23	**Slideshare** Hosting/sharing presentations	Free	H
15=	16	flickr	22	**flickr** Photo storage/sharing site	Free	H
	17=	iGoogle	22	**iGoogle** Personalised start page	Free	H
17=	31=	Ning	21	**Ning** Social networking tool	Free	H
	43=	twitter	21	**twitter** Microblogging and social network	Free	H
	22=	YouTube	21	**YouTube** Video hosting/sharing site.	Free	H

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
20	15	Wikispaces	20	**Wikispaces** Wiki tool	Free/£	H
21	26=	SnagIt	17	**Snagit** Screen capture tool	Free/£	D
22=	22=	Articulate	16	**Articulate** Presenter/Engage/Quizmaker	£	D
	10	Word	16	**Word** Word processing software	£	D
24=	12=	Bloglines	15	**Bloglines** RSS/Feed reader	Free	H
	101=	VoiceThread	15	**VoiceThread** Collaborative slideshows	Free/£	H
26	26=	iTunes	13.5	**iTunes** Music and podcast player	Free	D
27	17=	Captivate	13	**Captivate** Demo and scenario-based tool	£	D
28=	17=	Facebook	11	**Facebook** Social networking site	Free	H
	43=	PB Wiki	11	**PB Wiki** Wiki tool	Free/£	H
30	-	Jing	10.5	**Jing** Record/share screen captures/casts	Free	D/H
31=	36=	Google Calendar	10	**Google Calendar** Web-based calendar	Free	H
	17=	MindManager	10	**MindManager** Mind mapping tool	£	D
	17=	Outlook	10	**Outlook** Email software	£	D
	101=	Pageflakes	10	**Pageflakes** Start page	Free	H
35	50=	Camtasia Studio	9.5	**Camtasia Studio** Screencasting tool	£	D
36=	43=	Flash	9	**Flash** Animation authoring tool	£	D
	57=	Zoho	9	**Zoho Suite** Online office suite	Free	H
38=	31=	LinkedIn	8	**LinkedIn** Social network	Free/£	H
	57=	TypePad	8	**TypePad** Blogging tool	£	H

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
40	36=	Google Maps	7.5	**Google Maps** Maps of the US. UK, etc	Free	H
41=	31=	OpenOffice	7	**OpenOffice** Office software suite	Free	D
	101=	SecondLife	7	**Second Life** Virtual world application	Free	H
43=	26=	Dreamweaver	6	**Dreamweaver** Web authoring tool	£	D
	72=	Edublogs	6	**edublogs** Blogging tool for educators	Free	H
	57=	Google Alerts	6	**Google Alerts** Keep track of new information	Free	H
	26=	Netvibes	6	**Netvibes** Personal start page	Free	H
	-	Wetpaint	6	**Wetpaint** Wiki tool	Free	H
48=	22=	Excel	5.5	**Excel** Spreadsheet software	£	D
	40=	Google Earth	5.5	**Google Earth** Geographic information	Free	D
	43=	iPod	5.5	**iPod** MP3 player	£	-
	-	Nvu	5.5	**Nvu** Web authoring tool	Free	D
52=	72=	Adobe Connect	5	**Adobe Connect** Web meeting/conferencing	£	H
	-	Blogs/Blogging	5	**Blogging tools** Of all types	Free/£	H/D
	72=	diigo	5	**diigo** Social bookmarking	Free	H
	72=	eXe	5	**eXe** SCORM content authoring	Free	D
	50=	FreeMind	5	**Freemind** Mind mapping tool	Free	D
	-	Garageband	5	**Garageband** Personal recording studio	Free	D
	101=	Google Apps	5	**Google Apps** Communication/collaboration	£	H
	31=	Internet Explorer	5	**Internet Explorer** Web browser	Free	D
	72=	Keynote	5	**Keynote** Presentation software	£	D

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
52=	-	Paint.NET	5	**Paint.NET** Image and photo editing	Free	D
	-	Stumbleupon	5	**Stumbleupon** Social bookmarking tool	Free	H
63	22=	Thunderbird	4.5	**Thunderbird** Email client	Free	D
64=	50=	Adobe Photoshop	4	**Photoshop** Photo/Image editing tools	£	D
	-	Basecamp	4	**Basecamp** Collaborative, project management tool	Free/£	H
	50=	Elluminate	4	**Elluminate** Web meeting/conferencing	Free/£	H
	36=	Google Scholar	4	**Google Scholar** Search for scholarly literature	Free	H
	-	Linux/LAMP	4	**LAMP** Linux, Apache, MySQL, Perl	Free	D
	72=	Notepad	4	**Notepad** HTML and text editor	Free	D
	-	OneNote	4	**OneNote** Personal Information Manager	£	D
	-	Opera	4	**Opera/Opera mini** Web browser	Free	D
	50=	Scribd	4	**Scribd** Document hosting and sharing site	Free	H
	-	Ustream	4	**Ustream** Live, interactive broadcasting	Free	H
	-	Wink	4	**Wink** Software demonstration tool	Free	D
	72=	Yugma	4	**Yugma** Web meeting/conferencing	Free/£	D
76=	72=	Adobe Reader	3.5	**Adobe Reader** PDF Reader	Free	D
	101=	Blackboard	3.5	**Blackboard** Course management system	£	D
	57=	TeacherTube	3.5	**TeacherTube** Instructional video sharing site	Free	H
79=	101=	Bubbl.us	3	**Bubbl.us** Mind mapping tool	Free	D
	-	ClassTools	3	**ClassTools** Create Flash-based learning	Free	D

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
79=	-	Comic Life	3	**Comic Life** Create comics from photos	£	D
	101=	CourseLab	3	**CourseLab** Course authoring tool	Free	D
	101=	CutePDF Writer	3	**Cute PDF Writer** PDF Conversion tool	Free	D
	72=	Drupal	3	**Drupal/DrupalEd** Content management system	Free	D
	101=	eSnips	3	**eSnips** Upload and share files	Free	H
	-	Filezilla	3	**Filezilla** FTP client	Free	D
	72=	Furl	3	**Furl** Social bookmarking tool	Free	H
	-	Gcast	3	**Gcast** Podcasting service	Free	H
	43=	GIMP	3	**GIMP** Image/photo editing tool	Free	D
	72=	Gliffy	3	**Gliffy** Diagramming tool	Free	D
	-	Google Analytics	3	**Google Analytics** Website analysis tool	Free	C
	50=	Google Notebook	3	**Google Notebook** Personal online notebook	Free	H
	101=	Google Sites	3	**Google Sites/Jotspot** Wiki tool	Free	H
	-	iMovie	3	**iMovie** Video editing software	£	D
	-	Lectora	3	**Lectora** Course authoring tools	£	D
	-	LibraryThing	3	**LibrayThing** Library catalogue/book club	Free	H
	36=	MediaWiki	3	**MediaWiki** Wiki tool	Free	D
	101=	Mozy	3	**Mozy** Online backup tool	£	H
	-	Polldaddy	3	**Polldaddy** Polling and survey tool	Free	H/C
	-	Remember the Milk	3	**Remember the Milk** Manage your tasks	Free	H
	-	RSS	3	**RSS** Really Simple Syndication	Free	-

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
79=	72=	Safari	3	**Safari** Web browser	Free	D
	-	Skitch	3	**Skitch** Screen capture tool	Free	D
	-	SMART interactive whiteboard	3	**SMART Board** Interactive whiteboard tools	Free	D
	-	Survey Monkey	3	**Survey Monkey** Survey and questionnaire tool	Free	H
	72=	Tiddlywiki	3	**TiddlyWiki** Personal wiki tool	Free	D
	57=	Yahoo Mail	3	**Yahoo Mail** Web-based email	Free	H
	-	Zamzar	3	**Zamzar** Online file conversion tool	Free	H
	72=	Zotero	3	**Zotero** Firefox add-on to support research	Free	D

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Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
110=	72=	Adobe Acrobat Professional	2	**Adobe Acrobat Professional** Create and control PDF documents	£	D
	72=	Adobe Presenter	2	**Adobe Presenter** Narrated presentations	£	D
	-	Blogbridge	2	**Blogbridge** RSS reader	Free	D
	72=	Cmap	2	**Cmap** Concept mapping tool	Free/£	D
	-	digg	2	**Digg** Social bookmarking and rating	Free	H
	101=	FeedBlitz	2	**FeedBlitz** Feed to email service	Free	H
	-	Feedburner	2	**Feedburner** RSS service	Free	H
		FolderShare	2	**FolderShare** Share folders	Free	H
	101=	Gabcast	2	**Gabcast** Phone in your podcast	Free	H

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
110=	-	Geogebra	2	**Geogebra** Mathematics software	Free	D
	40=	Google Desktop	2	**Google Desktop** Computer search/organiser	Free	D
	57=	Google Page Creator	2	**Google Page Creator** Simple web page authoring tool	Free	H
	101=	iChat	2	**iChat** Instant messaging for the Mac	Free	D
	-	iPhoto	2	**iPhoto** Photo management tool	£	D
	-	Joomla	2	**Joomla!** Content management system	Free	D
	-	Jott	2	**Jott** Voice to text	Free	H
	101=	Meebo	2	**Meebo** Instant messaging tool	Free	H
	101=	MindMeister	2	**MindMeister** Mind mapping tool	Free/£	D
	72=	Notepad++	2	**Notepad++** Text and HTML editor	Free	D
	-	OmniFocus	2	**OmniFocus** Task management tool	£	D
	72=	OmniGraffle	2	**OmniGraffle** Diagramming tool	£	D
	-	OmniOutliner	2	**OmniOutliner** Keep track of projects	£	D
	-	ooVoo	2	**ooVoo** Video chat and conferencing	Free	D/H
	72=	Paint Shop Pro	2	**Paint Shop Pro** Image editing tool	£	D
	57=	Picasa	2	**Picasa** Picture editing tool	Free	D
	-	Portable apps	2	**Portable apps** Suite of apps for a USB stick	Free	D
	72=	Quicksilver	2	**Quicksilver** Interface to work with PC apps on Mac	£	D
	-	Scratch	2	**Scratch** Visual programming environment/ toolkit to create animated stories	Free	D/H
	-	Sony Vegas Video	2	**Sony Vegas Video** Video production tool	£	D

Ranking		Tool	Votes	Description	Cost	Avail
2008	2007					
110=	-	ToonDoo	2	**ToonDoo** Create/share comic strips	Free	H
	-	Trillian	2	**Trillian** IM Aggregator	Free	H
	-	tumblr	2	**tumblr** Micro-blogging platform	Free	H
	-	Ubuntu	2	**Ubuntu** Linux-based operating system	Free	D
	-	WebEx	2	**WebEx** Web conferencing system	£	H
	-	Wikis	2	**Wikis** Of all types	Free	D/H
	-	Windows LiveWriter	2	**Windows LiveWriter** Desktop blogging tool	Free	D
	50=	Yahoo Groups	2	**Yahoo Groups** Community tool	Free	H

A Core Toolset for Learning 2008

The following table offers a core toolset of tools derived from the *Top 100 Tools for Learning Spring 2008* list.

- Links in the *25 key FREE Tools* column go to tool activities in the *25 Tools: Free Toolset for Learning* section at the Centre's website. (For more information, see page 13)
- Links in the other columns go to tool descriptions in the *Top Tools for Learning* section at the Centre's website.

Type	25 key FREE tools	Other Free Tools	Commercial tools
Web browsers and extensions	Firefox	Internet Explorer | Opera | Safari | Zotero	-
Players and other readers		iTunes | Adobe Reader	-
Email Tools	gMail/ Google Mai	Thunderbird | Yahoo Mail	Outlook
Instant messaging/ voice call tool	Skype	-	-
Social bookmarking	Delicious	diigo | Stumbleupon | Furl	-
RSS readers	Google Reader	Bloglines	-
Microblogging tools	Twitter	-	-
Productivity Tools (online)	Google Calendar	Google Maps | Google Alerts | Google Notebook | Remember the Milk | Zamzar | eSnips | LibraryThing	Mozy
Productivity Tools (desktop)			
(Re)search Tools		Google Earth | Filezilla	OneNote
		Google Search | Wikipedia | Google Scholar	
Office suites (doc, pres and s/s tools)	Google Docs	Zoho | OpenOffice	Word | PowerPoint Excel | Keynote
Document hosting tool		Scribd	-
PDF tools		CutePDF Writer	-
Mindmapping Tools	Freemind	Bubbl.us	MindManager
Personal start pages	iGoogle	Pageflakes | Netvibes	-
Blogging Tools	Wordpress	Blogger | Edublogs	TypePad

Web Authoring Tools	Nvu	-	Dreamweaver
Text editors		Notepad	-
Website analysis tools		Google Analytics	-
Wiki Tools	PBwiki	Wikispaces | Wetpaint | Google Sites | MediaWiki Tiddlywiki	-
Photo hosting tool	Flickr	-	-
Other photo tools		Comic Life	Adobe Photoshop
Presentation hosting tools	Slideshare	-	-
Video hosting tools	YouTube	TeacherTube	-
Other video tools		-	iMovie
Collaborative tools	Voicethread	Basecamp	-
Podcasting Tools	Audacity	Gcast	Garageband
Screen capture and screencasting tools	Jing	Skitch | Wink	SnagIt | Camtasia Studio | Captivate
Graphic and imaging tools		Paint.NET | GIMP | Gliffy	-
Polling /Survey tools	PollDaddy	Survey Monkey	-
Interactivity and animation tools		ClassTools | SMART interactive whiteboard	Flash
Web Meeting/ Conferencing Tools	Yugma	Elluminate	Adobe Connect | Elluminate
Live broadcast tools	Ustream	-	-
Virtual world Tools		SecondLife	-
Social networking Tools	Ning	-	-
Social networks		Facebook | LinkedIn	-
Course authoring tools	eXe	CourseLab	Lectora | Articulate
Course/Learning Management systems	Moodle	-	Blackboard
Content management Systems		Drupal	

25 Tools: A Free Toolset for Learning 2008

This resource is intended for those working in education, workplace learning or professional development who want to broaden their horizons in terms of the wide range of technologies and tools available for learning and performance support - in a very practical way by getting to grips with **a core set of 25 tools** taken from the *Top 100 Tools for Learning 2008*.

The tools are a mix of **personal productivity** tools for managing your own personal learning as well as **authoring** tools for creating all kinds of learning and performance solutions. Many of them are **Web 2.0** tools that promote a social, collaborative, sharing approach to learning. But what is more important is that all these tools are **FREE**, which makes them very suitable for those on a low (or non-existent) budget to explore the widening e-learning space - and also ideal for a recession.

How to use this resource

Behind each of the **25 Tools** lies an Activity that comprises a number of short tasks to help you find out more about the technology behind each tool, the tool itself and why it is so popular, how to use the tool and reflect on its application for teaching, learning and for productivity and performance support. Many of the tool activities are inter-related, so you will also be using other tools for some tasks.

The tools are listed (on page 14) in 8 different categories. Each tool description also shows whether it is available to download and install on your own computer (D) or as a hosted service (H) or both [D/H].

There is also a **Community** where you can share your thoughts, experiences and resources as well as get help and advice from other members.

More information about the Programme is at www.c4lpt.co.uk/25Tools/Tools/about.html

The 25 Tools

A **The bare essentials**
These are the basic tools you need to have

1	**Web browser**	Firefox	More than just a browser with 100s of extensions available to provide an enormous range of extra functionality not found with other browsers. [D]
2	**Email tool**	gMail/ Google Mail	No more worrying about an email client on your desktop and dealing with spam and viruses - and tons of free storage space. [H]
3	**Instant messenger**	Skype	An easy way of not only text messaging your contacts but also free voice calls - with low charges out to landlines. [D]

B **Keep yourself up-to-date**
These tools will help you keep up to date with what people are doing and what's happening in the e-learning world

4	**Social bookmarking tool**	Delicious	Store your bookmarks online, tag them and share them with others, students, colleagues and so on. [D/H]
5	**RSS reader**	Google Reader	Subscribe to website and blog feeds and the news is delivered automatically to you. Effortless! [H]
6	**Microblogging tool**	Twitter	If you want to stay in touch with people no matter where you are or what you're doing. [H]

C **Manage your own productivity**
Here are a variety of tools to help you with your day-to-day working and learning life

7	**Online calendar**	Google Calendar	Don't keep your calendar to yourself, share it and make scheduling events an easier process. [H]
8	**Office suite**	Google Docs	An online suite of office tools for personal use or to collaborate with other. It can read in Microsoft Office documents too. [H]
9	**Mind mapping tool**	Freemind	For organising your thoughts or just brainstorming. [D]
10	**Start page tool**	iGoogle	Aggregate all your resources, mail, RSS feeds, etc, in one place. [H]

D **Get an online presence**
You won't necessarily need to set up all three; but here are 3 ways to get a web presence

11	**Blogging tool**	Wordpress	Use it to create a personal or professional use . [H]
12	**Web authoring tool**	Nvu	A versatile web authoring to build web pages and web sites. [D]
13	**Wiki tool**	PBwiki	Create editable websites for collaborative writing and working. [H]

E **Share content with others**
Make use of existing engaging content by using these three tools. You can use them to host and share your own content too.

14	**Photo hosting tool**	Flickr	Host your personal or professional picture collection, and share them with friends, colleagues and others. [H]
15	**Presentation hosting tool**	Slideshare	Upload presentations, tag them and share them with others. Synchronise them with an audio file to create a narrated presentation. [H]
16	**Video hosting tool**	YouTube	A large collection of shareable videos - host your own there tool. [H]

F **Build content and share it with others**
These tools will help you create additional content and share it with others online.

17	**Collaborative presentation tool**	Voicethread	Create a slideshow around images and invite comments (audio or text) from others. [H]
18	**Podcasting tool**	Audacity	Record and edit audio and, with the extra encoder, convert your audio files into MP3 podcasts/ [D]
19	**Screen capture/ casting tool**	Jing	An "always-ready" program that instantly captures and shares images and video. [D/H]
20	**Polling and survey tool**	PollDaddy	Want to get some quick feedback? Set up a poll, and track responses. [H]

G **Bring people together**
For live broadcasts or meetings or for socialising, these 3 tools are key

21	**Web conferencing tool**	Yugma	For small meetings of up to 10 people, to whiteboard, annotate and share files. You can even use Skype. [D]
22	**Live broadcasting tool**	Ustream	Live interactive video broadcasting to a global audience. All it takes is a camera and an internet connection. [H]
23	**Social networking tool**	Ning	Create and customise a private community for a group of like-minded people, large or small. [H]

H **Develop and manage courses**
If you want to create and manage formal learning content (courses, programmes etc), then these tools are useful.

24	**Course authoring tool**	eXe	Create SCORM-compliant learning content that doesn't require you to be proficient in HTML or XML markup. [D]
25	**Course management tool**	Moodle	Host a complete course or program or simply provide user authentication for other training materials. [D or H]