the mindmapping softwareblog

MIND MAPPING SOFTWARE COMPARISON

	ConceptDraw MINDMAP	iMindMap	iMindQ	MindGenius	MindMaple	MindMapper	MindManager	NovaMind	Mindview	The Brain	XMIND
Operating System											
Windows	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mac OS X	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●
Linux										●	●
Program Versions											
Basic		●		●	●	●	●		●		●
Advanced	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mobile versions offered											
Tablet - iPad		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Tablet - Android		●					●	●		●	
Mobile - iPhone		●	●		●	●	●			●	
Mobile - Android		●					●			●	
Map Formats Supported											
Radial (traditional)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Directional (right/left)	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Organizational chart	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fishbone (cause/effect)						●					●
Concept map		●	●								
Topic Features											
Map markers/symbols	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Add images to symbol library			●	●		●	●				●
Hand-drawn symbols											
Topic fills											
Solid	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Gradient	●		●	●	●	●		●	●		
Image				●							
Snap to grid (for topic positioning)		●			●						
Topic tags/resources					●	●	●				
Task data	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Call-outs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Floating topics	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Topic notes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Audio notes		●							●		●
Hyperlinks											
Only 1 hyperlink per branch	●				●						●
Multiple links per branch		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	
Attachments											
Attach only 1 file per topic	●										●
Multiple attachments per topic		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Conditional formatting							●				
Topic numbering	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Topic boundaries	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Topic alerts/alarms			●				●				
Organic (tapered) topic lines		●	●	●	●		●	●			●
Hand-drawn text styles		●									
Designate topics as favorites/"pin" them		●							●	●	
Embed Excel/spreadsheet data in topics		●	●			●	●				
Map Features											
Mind map templates/styles	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Background image		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Freehand drawing tools/sketching		●									
Spell check	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
"Getting started" wizard	●						●				
Relationship lines	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Import images to map	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Break off topics into linked maps	●	●		●		●	●	●	●		
Advanced Features											
Filter/search topics	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Save/re-use filters, searches				●			●		●		

	ConceptDraw MINDMAP	iMindMap	iMindQ	MindGenius	MindMaple	MindMapper	MindManager	NovaMind	Mindview	The Brain	XMIND
Save/re-use topic styles	●		●	●	●	●	●				●
Save/re-use branch structures/map parts		●	●	●			●				
Focus in/out on topic		●	●	●			●		●	●	
Topic value calculations							●		●		
Embedded browser/file viewer			●				●				
Macro editor							●				
Modes											
Map	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Outline	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Brainstorming	●	●		●		●	●				●
GANTT/Project Management		●	●	●		●	●		●		●
Presentation	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			●
Flowcharts		●	●								
3D		●									
Interface Features											
Office 97 style "ribbon" toolbar	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Collaboration											
Review/approve map changes with others		●			●	●	●		●		
Save to web-based collab/storage site		●					●		●		
Share map via local area network											●
Integration Capabilites											
Outlook (task synchronization)	●		●	●		●	●		●		
Evernote	●										
Droptask		●									
iCal								●			
SharePoint			●				●				
Export Formats Supported											
Direct to PDF	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Word	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
PowerPoint	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
OPML		●		●			●				
MS Project	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●
HTML (web page w/ text outline)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
HTML (clickable mind map)							●			●	
Image formats											
PNG	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
GIF	●				●	●	●				●
JPG	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●
SVG			●								●
XML		●		●		●	●		●		
"Pack and go" (map + attachments)		●		●		●	●		●		
Dropbox											
Box											
MindManager	●		●					●			●
FreeMind			●	●							●

READ ON FOR MORE ADVICE AND RESOURCES

- Notable features of each program
- Links to my latest reviews of each program
- Links to each developer's website

Please see the companion specification guide for questions and advice on how to select mind mapping software.

the mindmapping softwareblog

Notable features and reviews

ConceptDraw MINDMAP *Product review* *Website*	The brainstorming mode is a favorite feature. The fact that it inserts your ideas into the workspace as floating topics helps you keep your thinking free-form. It doesn't force you to figure out which branch an idea "belongs" to during the brainstorming session.
iMindMap *Product review* *Website*	iMindMap provides the most organic mapping experience - that is, it's the most like hand-drawing a mind map. Its integration with task management app DropTask is also a strong point. 3D view is also a great way to wow. audiences during presentations.
iMindQ *Product review* *Website*	iMindQ's presentation view "flys" audiences around a mind map, which provides a more cohesive way of presenting ideas than presenting a series of disjointed "snapshots" of map topics. iMindQ also has a solid set of project management tools.
MindGenius *Product review* *Website*	MindGenius 5's colorful template panel aids first-time users of the program by showing them what they can do. At other times, the panel displays helpful resources, such as links to a getting started guide and video, additional resources on the MindGenius website, the program's Help file and product support contacts
MindMaple *Product review* *Website*	MindMaple is one of the most intuitive and easy to use mind mapping programs. That's why I regularly recommend it to first-time users. A snap-to-grid command enables you to quickly align groups of topics; it's very similar to similar functionality in illustration and diagramming software.
MindMapper *Product review* *Website*	MindMapper enables up to 10 people to conduct online meetings and co-edit mind maps. You can easily revert to an earlier version of your map, if your colleagues get carried away with making changes. MindMapper's flexible export capabilities are also worthy of mention.
MindManager *Product review* *Website*	MindManager offers a big selection of "map parts" - collections of topics and subtopics you can drag and drop into your map. You can even save and re-use your own. Intuitive "quick add" buttons on each topic enable you to quickly add new child, sibling or parent topics. Conditional formatting, which enables a topic to change color or other qualities if certain conditions are met, is also very useful.
NovaMind *Product review* *Website*	If I want to quickly create great-looking, colorful mind maps for use in blog posts or presentations, I turn to NovaMind first. It offers some very attractive templates, and gives you a surprising level of control over topic layout and appearance. NovaMind has also taken the lead by adopting a "touch first" interface that works equally well on PCs, Macs and tablets. NovaMind is always innovating!
MindView *Product review* *Website*	From enhanced project management and calculation tools to advanced Microsoft Office integration and new map navigation options, there is much to like about MindView. Its MS Office integration is also quite strong; most notable is the ability to export tasks to other team members' Outlook Tasks using Active Directory. Another cool feature: Map pins.
TheBrain *Product review* *Website*	For knowledge management, no program compares to TheBrain. This the developer has focused heavily on the user experience – helping you get started faster with templates, making it easier to apply tags and thought types and a new timeline view make TheBrain 8 a pleasure to work with. Also notable: Tight integration between the desktop program and online file storage.
XMind *Product review* *Website*	XMind is one of the program I recommend to people who are just starting out with mind mapping software. That's because it's affordable (free in its basic version) and easy to use. Among the surprises: The ability to designate a local network drive as the home for your maps, and then monitor when they change. Also, scalable SVG export is real plus!

Disclaimer

This comparison chart is based upon information supplied by each software developer and verified by Chuck Frey, opublisher Chuck Frey, publisher of the Mind Mapping Software Blog. It represents software developers that update their programs at least once every 2 years. There are more mind mapping programs available, but they aren't included in this comparison because they are rarely, if ever, updated.

Updated: December 22, 2014

Compiled by Chuck Frey
chuck@chuckfrey.com

© 2014 The Mind Mapping Software Blog