The Essential Guide to Getting Started with Mind Mapping Software

Everything you need to know to accelerate your productivity, creativity and effectiveness at work.

- Selecting the best program for your needs
- Benefits and advantages of mind mapping software
- Powerful business applications
- Must-have features to look for
- A glossary of mind mapping terms
- 11 leading programs compared on 80+ features
- Software developer profiles

By Chuck Frey

mindmappingsoftwareblog.com
A practical process for identifying the right software

This guide is designed to help you understand how mind mapping software can help you be more productive, creative and effective. It will do so by following a simple four-step process, outlined in the diagram below.

This process begins with helping you to understand the business case for mind mapping software. Why do you need it? How can it help you accelerate and improve your work.

Next, this guide will help you to determine what specific features and capabilities you may need. These are based upon a number of common business scenarios. You can easily select the one that most closely mirrors the way in which you work and the challenges you face in managing information and ideas. You can then develop and refine a list of requirements which the software needs to meet.

Third, this guide will provide you with the resources you need to identify the right software programs that ought to meet your needs, based on the requirements you identified in step 2.

Finally, this guide will help you to select or purchase the software you need.

You’re about to take a fascinating journey into the world of visual thinking. I hope you find this collection of knowledge and resources to be a helpful guide to your journey!

Best Regards,

Chuck Frey

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**STEP 1**
- What is mind mapping software?
- Why do I need it?
- What can it do for me?
- What are some of the common ways business people are benefiting from it today?

**STEP 2**
- How do you plan to use mind mapping software in your work?
- What software features support this type of work?
- What essential features should you look for?

**STEP 3**
- Tips on how to select mind mapping software
- Mind mapping software comparison chart

**STEP 1**
- Vendor profiles
The compelling business advantages of mind mapping software

Mind mapping software is often dismissed by linear thinkers as being somewhat frivolous and not worthy of their attention. But by ignoring it, they’re missing out on one of the most powerful productivity tools of the modern age. This infographic explains why.

As you can see, mind mapping software offers numerous advantages in terms of productivity, creativity and effectiveness. According to the readers of the Mind Mapping Software Blog, this type of software gives them a powerful edge over their peers. It enables them to handle more complex projects, tackle information overload and see patterns and opportunities in information that others aren’t even aware of.

What could you do with this potent business tool?

“Mind mapping software is the savvy executive’s secret weapon.”
- Chuck Frey

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The key benefit of communicating visually in business

Dave Gray, visual thinking expert, founder and chairman of XPLANE and author of the book Gamestorming, is all about clarity. So it's not surprising that he recently gave the clearest explanation I've ever heard of the key benefit of visual communications, captured in the simple flow diagram above.

**Simply put, communicating information to others visually delivers results.**

Gray gave this explanation in a recent video interview with Dr. Martin Eppler from the University of St. Gallens

Dave’s concise explanation makes a lot of sense to me. Here’s why. As human beings living in a post-modern era, we’re overwhelmed by the amount of communication coming at us. As a result, we’ve gotten into the habit of constantly filtering it, distilling it down to just the essential information we need to survive and thrive.

In business, if we don’t understand something, we’ll ignore it, or at the very least, refuse to make a decision about it. The sooner we understand, the sooner we can act on it. And that, simply put, drives results.
45 ways to use mind mapping software for business

Mind mapping software gives business executives a set of visual modeling tools that enable them to manipulate information, knowledge and ideas with a freedom that is unprecedented. As a result, a savvy businesspeople are utilizing this type of productivity software for an amazing number of applications, including these:

1. Conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis.

2. Plan and manage a project.

3. Plan a meeting – including outlining the agenda, meeting room requirements and invitees.

4. Capture ideas from a group brainstorming meeting.

5. Maintain an idea database.

6. Develop an information “dashboard” for fast access to key metrics and resources.

7. Take notes during meetings.


9. Maintain a to-do list.

10. Formulate a plan for the launch of a new business or for an acquisition.

11. Make better-informed business decisions.


13. Knowledge management.

14. Develop job descriptions for key employees and positions within your organization.

15. Manage performance reviews.

16. Outline and organize the content of a business report or technical paper.

17. Develop and give a presentation.

18. Map the services that “surround” your company’s products and brainstorm ways to improve customer experience.

19. Do scenario planning.


21. Create detailed customer personas for marketing planning.

22. Analyze and improve your company’s business model.

23. Brainstorm potential partnering opportunities.

24. Sales account planning and management.

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25. Risk assessment and management.

26. Develop a business plan.

27. Identify strategic opportunities using a “PEST” template – detailing political, environmental, social and technological trends.


29. Plan and outline content for a training session.

30. Create a “force field” map to better understand the forces that are influencing a business situation, positively and negatively.

31. Conduct research for new projects and use a mind map to capture and organize your findings.

32. Use David Allen’s Getting Things Done (GTD) methodology to manage your workload more effectively.

33. Develop and organize the content for a new website.

34. Optimize your website’s ranking in the web search engines.

35. Map out and optimize your organizational structure.

36. Set and track your team’s progress toward departmental and organizational goals.

37. Summarize the key ideas contained in business books into maps for future reference.

38. Collaborate with others more effectively through shared mind maps.


40. Capture a detailed profile of a customer’s needs during a sales or consulting call.

41. Develop a marketing plan.

42. Create a personal development plan to help you to advance your career and improve your work performance.

43. Document work procedures and policies.

44. Capture key learnings at the conclusion of a major project.

45. Match the skills and capabilities of team members with the requirements of a project.

Which of these applications are you struggling with? Where could mind mapping software make a difference in your work?

Mind mapping software gives business executives a set of visual modeling tools that enable them to manipulate information, knowledge and ideas with a freedom that is unprecedented.
16 ways mind mapping software can elevate your performance

Mind mapping software is a powerful tool for savvy executives who want to improve their impact and effectiveness in their work. No software tool is better suited to help you think deeply about your work and to increase the value of your contributions to others in your organization.

Here are 16 powerful ways mind mapping software can help you to elevate your performance and make a bigger impact in your work:

**Productivity**

- Manage information overload and stay better organized
- Reach clarity faster on complex business issues
- Make better informed decisions
- Plan projects and manage tasks easier

**Analysis/critical thinking**

- Analyze problems more thoroughly
- See patterns and gaps in information more readily
- Play with ideas, possibilities and scenarios easily

**Creativity**

- Great tool for exploration and discovery
- Be more of a “whole-brained” thinker – left and right sides – analytical AND creative
- Capture ideas lurking at the periphery of your thinking
- Mind mapping provides a visual guide to the connections between ideas
- It bypasses the “inner critic” – you can easily do a brain dump and organize your thoughts later

**Collaboration**

- Reach shared understandings of business issues in meetings
- Get people more engaged in brainstorming sessions
- It enhances the group’s ability to do systems-level thinking
- It captures a “group memory” or history of what has been discussed in the meeting

If you’re not exploring this powerful type of business tool yet – you should be!
How mind mapping software can help you stay several steps ahead of the pack

Being successful today in any organization requires you to differentiate yourself, to separate yourself from the pack of people with similar backgrounds and career experience. To paraphrase the late Steve Jobs, you need to “think different.”

Mind mapping software can help you stand out and enjoy greater success. Here’s how:

1. **Mind mapping software can help you think more deeply about new ideas and opportunities**

   It is an incredibly rich and flexible canvas upon which you can capture your ideas. Not only that, you can utilize it to explore them in detail, record any questions you must answer, knowledge and information you need to gather, stakeholders you need to get on board, and much more. It is a powerful tool for transmuting your ideas into tangible form, where they can be manipulated, expanded upon and evaluated.

2. **Mind mapping software enables you to think through the implications of business decisions**

   It is a powerful tool for developing and working through future scenarios and the implications of multiple decision paths. Most business decisions today involve high percentages of risk, uncertainty and ambiguity.

   The widely-accepted practice of brainstorming and taking notes on flipchart sheets or in a Word document doesn’t help much, because it’s hard to connect the dots and see which potential decisions are the most advantageous and which may be problematic.

   A mind map enables you to visualize potential future courses of action as “flowing” forth from a central point – where you are now. You can play “what if” and explore the implications of changing conditions quite easily, see connections and generate additional ideas and improvements via association. How cool is that?

3. **Mind mapping software enables you to make your ideas more visible within the organization**
Selling your ideas within your organization is never easy, but it’s even harder during times of great uncertainty, like those we face today. During tough times, the status quo and hunkering down for survival continue to be the orders of the day.

Your ideas will be subjected to deep questioning and criticism. They may involve a significant amount of risk, with an uncertain payoff. They may threaten certain people, because what you’re proposing may affect their operational areas or even their job.

Mind mapping software can help you sell your ideas in two key areas:

**Organizing your thinking and anticipating potential objections:** In this case, you can create a mind map that lays out the key issues that your idea addresses, why it should be implemented now, who would implement it, investment and staffing required and how the company will benefit from it. You can then present your thinking using conventional means – but simply use the mind map to prepare your pitch thoroughly.

**Use it as the presentation medium:** In this scenario, you not only use your software to organize your thinking, you present it in visual form. This is potentially more risky, because some senior-level executives may feel uncomfortable viewing information in a non-linear format. But it many cases it’s worth the risk, because it will bring a “wow” factor to your ideas and will differentiate you as someone who is a savvy strategic thinker and planner.

4. **Mind mapping software can help you cultivate thought leadership**

Thought leadership is all about thinking differently – about having a distinct vision about your organization, your customers, your industry or profession and the forces that are shaping it. You need to communicate a unique perspective, both internally and externally to people who can influence your career. I'm convinced that mind mapping is a powerful tool that can help you to develop deep, well-thought out positions on key business issues that matter to the people whom you’re trying to influence.

Mind mapping software is a powerful, flexible canvas for exploring your thinking and converting your insights into reports, blog posts, presentations and other forms of content that command attention and influence the thinking of your stakeholders. No other type of productivity software gives you this level of flexibility and creativity.

**Conclusion**

In closing, mind mapping software is a tool that can help you to stand out as someone worthy of senior management attention – by the way you think, organize, distill and present your ideas to others.
5 essential features you should look for when buying mind mapping software

In a recent audio interview with Michael Tipper, he asked me what five features people should look for when trying to decide which mind mapping program to buy. Here is a distillation of what I told him:

1. Links and attachments: First, the mind mapping software you select ought to support a wide variety of links and attachments – including web pages, files, folders and, ideally, links to individual e-mail messages. When you’re conducting research and capturing ideas and knowledge in a mind map, a lot of that information tends to be embedded in the text of e-mail messages. Being able to pull that content into your mind maps is extremely powerful.

2. Topic notes: In software-produced mind maps, notes are an excellent way to capture extended thoughts without cluttering up the visible part of your mind map. Yet you can still "drill down" to them with a single mouse click. A note can contain anything from a single sentence to several paragraphs. So if you’ve got some additional thoughts or ideas that you want to capture that are longer than a few words, you can record them in map notes.

3. Content filtering: If you are planning large, complex projects, which will produce large, complex mind maps, the ability to filter their content is critically important. One of the most practical ways to filter map content is based on tasks, which displays only what needs to be done, and by whom. That’s another example is to filter your map’s content based on an icon or symbol, which could correspond to a person on your team or a certain segment of your business. The key benefit here is focus: Filtering temporarily hides everything else, so you can focus in on the information you need to be more organized and productive.

4. Export formats: The ability to export to multiple formats, such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Project, PDFs and web pages, is also very important when you’re considering which mind mapping program to buy. Often, what you’re producing in your mind map is not the end result. You may use it to organize all of your material and then export it to PowerPoint or Word, where you’ll finish it up.

5. Keyboard shortcuts: Most mind mapping programs require you to use toolbar buttons to add content to your map. But when you’re brainstorming, you need to be able to capture ideas quickly, without the program’s users interface getting in the way. That’s where keyboard shortcuts come in. They enable you to quickly create new topics and sub-topics, into which you can type your ideas without restricting your creative “flow.” One of the marvelous things about mind mapping software is you can just do a “brain dump” – capturing ideas on the fly without respect to their structure – and then rearrange them later.
The top 10 business benefits of mind mapping software

Periodically, the Mind Mapping Software Blog surveys its readers to learn how this type of software is being used in business. This data from the last reader survey highlights the top 10 business benefits of mind mapping software.

As you can see, the top six benefits deal with the ability to effectively gather, organize, synthesize and share information, a critical need for knowledge workers and executives today. Business challenges are getting more complex. Leaders and managers must deal with an accelerating rate of change and higher levels of ambiguity. No other type of business software supports these types of high-level thinking tasks the way mind mapping software does.

A mind map can help you to dissect a business challenge into its component parts, giving you a high-level overview of it. From this perspective, you are able to see patterns and relationships, and identify root causes. In this visual form, it’s easy to see what information is missing, and to identify “white space” opportunities that weren’t visible before. You can rearrange topics and subtopics at will, and add supporting information in notes and links.

Best of all, you can export the ideas, information, knowledge and data you have collected and organized into numerous formats, including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Project, HTML and most common image formats. That means you can use mind mapping software as a very efficient front-end planning tool, and then communicate your information in whatever format your bosses or stakeholders prefer.

Considering this compelling set of benefits, is it any wonder that this same reader survey showed that mind mapping software increases the productivity of the average user by over 20%? That’s like gaining an extra day each and every work week!

Mind mapping software increases productivity by over 20%. That’s like gaining an extra work day per week!
The important advantage of mind mapping software you may not know about

If you’re new to the world of mind mapping software, then you may not know about one of its most important productivity-enhancing features: You can attach notes, files, hypertext links and other data to map topics.

Many new users of mind mapping software find it’s quite useful for brainstorming and getting organized. But if your perceptions of what it can do has been shaped by the examples of software-produced mind maps you’ve seen online, then you’re just scratching the surface of what’s possible.

**Topics as “containers”**

Most mind mapping software enables you to attach numerous types of content to individual topics. When you rearrange the topics, these assets follow along. In that sense, it’s helpful to think of each topic as a “container” for information. This characteristic makes it unique among the many types of business productivity software. And it gives its users a major advantage:

You can use this capability to keep a wealth of supporting information just a mouse click away.

**A typical file management scenario**

Compare that to how you typically work. Like most of us, you probably have a deeply nested collection of file folders on your computer’s local drive or a network drive. Despite your best efforts to keep it organized, it has grown like a bed of weeds. That means you’re probably spending many frustrating hours a week just trying to figure out where you put files.

Your mind maps can keep all of this ancillary information neatly organized, within the context of the projects you’re working on. Think of these links as the functional equivalent of bookmarks or shortcuts in your web browser. They are pathways to information you want to be able to easily retrieve later.

As you can see from the image above, these assets – files, hyperlinks and topic notes – are represented by small, unobtrusive icons. If you need access to one of these resources, simply click on its icon and the file opens.

**Maintain a high-level view of your info**

On the other hand, if you are just doing high-level work and don’t need these assets, they remain neatly tucked away, ready to be summoned forth if and when they’re needed. Meanwhile, they’re not causing visual distractions, enabling you to work with a high-level view of your information.

That’s potentially a big time-saver, especially if you work on large, complex projects.
How to get started with mind mapping software

One of the most common questions I get from people is, “How do I get started with mind mapping software?” Here is a simple 6-step process that you can use to get up to speed quickly, even if you’re not a visual thinker.

1. Download and install a free or inexpensive program that is also easy to use. I recommend the free version of XMind.

2. Start by mapping something simple – your to do list. Open a new map in XMind (or your program of choice) and name it, “to do list.” Next, think about your major areas of responsibility and create a first-level topic for each one. Then focus in on each role and capture any tasks you need to complete in each area, each in a separate subtopic of that role. Add appropriate number icons to each task, corresponding to its level of priority (1 = critical, 2 = very important, 3 = somewhat important). If you feel adventurous, you can use your program’s task management features to add start and end dates to each task. You now have a fully-developed, visually-oriented to do list!

3. Look for tutorials on the software developer’s website, which will help you to learn more about your program’s unique features and functionality.

4. Become part of a forum or community to get support and answers to your questions about your program of choice. Don’t overlook Facebook pages, either created by the software developer or some enthusiastic users, discussion forums, LinkedIn groups and other online gathering places where your fellow users of your software go to ask questions and get answers.

5. Look at mind map galleries to get inspired by what others are doing. Excellent ones include BiggerPlate, Mappio and MapsForThat.

6. Think about other ways in which you can use your mind mapping software in your job. Basically, any task you do that involves large quantities of information – such as planning a major meeting, writing a business plan or managing a project – is fair game.

Remember: There is no “right” way to create a mind map. It’s a very personal creation, and it has to work for you. Try simply capturing your thoughts and ideas – without any concern with how they’re structured. You can always rearrange them after you’ve recorded them on screen.
An illustrated glossary of mind mapping software terms

As you look at the feature lists of mind mapping software developers, you're likely to see a lot of specialized terminology. Here's a list of the definitions of common mind mapping terms, along with helpful illustrations of many of them. These definitions will also help you to make more sense of the features listed in the Mind Mapping Software Comparison Chart that is included with this guide.

**Map marker/symbol:** A small graphical element added to a map branch to give it added meaning or context. For example, a checkbox is often used to denote a task, or a thumbs-up to indicate an idea that has the support of your team. Some programs enable you to customize their marker/symbol libraries by importing your own illustrations.

![Map symbol/marker](image)

**Call-out topic:** A “balloon” or supplementary text that can be located adjacent to a topic to help explain its meaning. You can also use it to call attention to a topic or post a reminder for yourself.

![This is a callout](image)

**Notes:** The capability of adding text notes to a map topic. Usually this is handled via an integrated window in the program’s workspace. Programs differ in their ability to handle text formatting, bullets, numbered lists, fonts, etc. This capability is important because it enables you to elaborate on a topic within your map without cluttering it up.

![Topic note](image)

**Topic boundaries:** Some mind mapping programs enable you to enclose a group of topics and subtopics within a border or outline. This helps other people who view the map to understand that these topics and subtopics should be considered as a group.

![Topic boundary](image)
Hyperlinks: This refers to the capability of linking a document, spreadsheet, file, web page, e-mail message or other content to a map topic. This makes it possible to connect supporting information, reports and other information to your map. In effect, hyperlinks can serve as a convenient source of “shortcuts” to your most important files and resources.

Embedded attachments: While hyperlinks are usually external to your mind map file, embedded attachments are actually stored within the mind map file. This means that when you e-mail a completed map to a colleague or coworker, they will receive all of the linked files as well. Also see “pack and go.”

Topic alerts/alarms: Some mind mapping software programs not only enable you to denote certain topics as tasks, but also create calendar/time-based alerts or alarms to them – sort of like the pop-up alarms that Microsoft Outlook uses to let you know of an upcoming appointment or task follow-up.

Floating topic: This type of topic isn’t attached to a central topic or another branch on your map; hence, it is considered to be free “floating.” This may be useful if you have come up with an idea, but aren’t quite sure where it belongs within the hierarchy of your map. Simply place it within the workspace of your map, and you can decide where it goes later. Not all programs support this capability, however.

Parent topic: The topic to which a subtopic or “child” topic is attached. It is one level closer to the center of the map, and hence is called the “parent” of any “child” topics (also called sub-topics) that may be attached to it.

Child topic: A sub-topic of a topic (see parent topic above).

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Relationship lines: Topics are obviously grouped and are related to each other by their arrangement within the map. But what if you have several topics that are connected to different branches of your map, but which you still want to denote as being related in some way? The answer is to join them with a “relationship line.” In a software-produced visual map, this is usually denoted by a curved line between the two related topics. Often, a dotted line is used to show that the “connection” between the two disparate topics is secondary in nature, compared to their primary “parent” topics.

Convert topics into tasks: Some mind mapping programs enable you to convert topics into tasks and attach task status details to them, including start and end dates, resources and percentage complete. This enables you to use mind mapping software as a simple task management tool.

GANTT view: Most programs that enable you to manage tasks also provide a GANTT view. This is a visual representation of your project’s timeline, displaying the start and end dates of tasks and any dependencies between them.

Background image: Many mind mapping programs enable you to import an image into the map you’re working on, for use as a background image. This image appears on a layer below your map, and may be used to add visual interest to it. But be careful if you use a background image, because it may obscure the contents of your map!

Linked sub-maps: A number of programs enable you to convert a large map into several smaller, linked “multi-maps.” Usually, you designate one sub-topic, perhaps 1 to 2 levels removed from the center of your map, as the point where you want to divide your map. A new map is created with that topic as the central idea. Back at the source map, all of the detail below that topic is removed, but a link is created to the new sub-map.
An illustrated glossary of mind mapping software terms

**Review mode:** Some programs enable you to share your maps with colleagues, who can add new content to them, edit their existing content and otherwise annotate them. With some programs, any modifications are “signed” with their initials, so you can tell who made them. This is a very useful feature if you work in a collaborative environment where you may need to share your maps with others and invite input from them.

**Filter topics:** Many mind mapping programs enable you to filter the contents of your map, usually in one of two ways. First, you can conduct keyword searches on the contents of your maps, which display only those topics that meet your search criteria, while “hiding” everything else. The second major way is by expanding and contracting branches by level. For example, showing level 1 would only display the central topic and its first-level subtopics. Displaying level 2 would show the central map topic and two levels of subtopics, and so forth. Expanding or collapsing your maps by level, or by opening and closing specific branches, is a very effective way for you to manage how much information you’re viewing within your map at any given time.

**Brainstorming mode:** Several mind mapping programs are equipped with a “brainstorming mode.” This usually takes the form of a streamlined method for entering a series of topics or ideas into your map, using only the keyboard. For example, you enter your first idea, hit the enter key, type in idea number two, hit the enter key, and so forth. This enables you to quickly capture a large number of ideas, without interrupting your creative “flow.” Other programs provide creative stimuli that help your brain to generate fresh ideas, insights and perspectives.
An illustrated glossary of mind mapping software terms

Outline mode: Because a visual map is a hierarchical model for storing ideas and information, many programs offer an outline view. When you switch to it, your visual map is converted into a hierarchical (indented, multi-level) outline. It’s another way of looking at the information in your map, from a linear point of view.

Presentation mode: Most mind mapping programs incorporate a presentation mode, which enables you to share your ideas with others, one topic or group of topics at a time. Why would you want to do that, instead of using PowerPoint? Business people who have done it tell me that it is highly engaging to many audiences, who have been lulled into a near-catatonic state by endless “decks” of bulleted slides.

Microsoft Office integration: Many mind mapping software programs can export the contents of your mind maps to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Project. This enables you to use your mind mapping software as a front-end thinking and planning tool, and then transfer your ideas to a more conventional, linear format. Several programs even enable you to “send” the contents of individual e-mail messages to your mind maps, ideal for capturing the information they contain in visual form.

Legend: A visual summary of the symbols used in your mind map and their meanings. If you plan to share your maps with others, then including a legend is a must, because other people may interpret the symbols you use in different ways.
Mind mapping software comparison chart

Need help finding the right mind mapping software for your needs?

The new Mind Mapping Software Comparison Chart has everything you need to make a smart decision!

DOWNLOAD IT TODAY!

Are you thinking about investing in mind mapping software, but don’t know which program to choose? Then you should download the new 2014 Mind Mapping Software Comparison Chart.

It will enable you to compare the features and functionality of 11 popular mind mapping programs, side-by-side, in a convenient dot chart. It also contains some new resources since the last edition of this popular guide:

- A summary of the most notable features of each program
- A link to my latest review of each program
- A link to each developer’s website
- A 6-page companion guide that will help you make sense of the dot chart. It explains the meaning behind many of the features listed in the chart. It also provides you with helpful questions you should ask to help you discern your software needs.

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ConceptDraw MINDMAP is a cross-platform productivity tool that is designed to empower individuals and teams with robust features that will make quick work of everyday tasks such as note-taking, meeting-management, writing, presenting, mapping process flows, managing projects, training, organizing databases, etc.

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- MS POWERPOINT
- MINDJET

ConceptDraw MINDMAP also integrates with MS Outlook, Evernote, Twitter, and Skype to help with communication tasks of every type. [http://bit.ly/MindMapShareLink](http://bit.ly/MindMapShareLink)

Website: [http://www.ConceptDraw.com](http://www.ConceptDraw.com)

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5. ConceptDraw Office v3 is a software suite from CS Odessa that combines ConceptDraw MINDMAP v8, ConceptDraw PROJECT v7, and ConceptDraw Office v10 into a powerful productivity suite.

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Mindjet MindManager is versatile mind mapping software that you use like a virtual whiteboard. Brainstorm, capture ideas, and communicate plans—all in a single view. It has advanced features for project management and business planning that you won’t find anywhere else.

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  Organize ideas and information in a single view so you can see connections and draw conclusions quickly.
- **Ensure Project Success**
  Get visibility into every aspect of your projects. Show the big picture and view the details in context.
- **Communicate More Effectively**
  Organize and present in a visual context to improve understanding and retention.

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**SPECIFICATIONS**

**Business and Project Tools**
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**Works with Your Current Applications**
Stay Streamlined. Use MindManager’s visual framework to organize your work, and then export to the tools you use everyday. MindManager works with most popular Microsoft Office and Apple productivity apps, including Outlook and Entourage.

**Mobile Mind Mapping**
Keep connected. Take MindManager on the road with Mindjet Maps for Android and iOS. Access and create maps, capture ideas, share files, and manage tasks from just about anywhere. Mindjet Mobile apps are available with MindManager PLUS and other Mindjet web subscriptions.

**Website:** http://www.mindjet.com/mindmanager/

**Cost**
- **MindManager** - $349 or $179* Upgrade
- **MindManager with MindManager Plus** - $448 or $278** Upgrade

*Versions eligible for upgrade: MindManager 14 for Windows, Mindjet 11 for Windows and MindManager for Mac versions 9 and 8. Prior versions are not eligible for upgrade.

**Versions eligible for upgrade: MindManager 14 for Windows, Mindjet 11 for Windows and MindManager for Mac versions 9 and 8. Prior versions are not eligible for upgrade. MindManager PLUS renews automatically at $99/year

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Join the global mind map library and community at Biggerplate.com for free access to thousands of mind map templates and examples!

Whether you’re new to mind mapping, or an experienced user, there’s plenty at Biggerplate.com to help you make the most out of your mind mapping software!

- Thousands of user-generated mind map templates and examples for both business and education
- Vibrant user community with over 80,000 registered members from around the world
- Tutorials and learning materials to help you get the most out of your chosen software
- Join interactive webinars, and real world events, including our Biggerplate Unplugged annual mind map user conference!
- Training and facilitation services to drive mind mapping adoption within your organisation!

Specifications:
Founded in 2008
Over 80,000 members
Thousands of mind map templates and examples

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The uniqueness of MindGenius’ business focus from inception together with over 10 years of further development since first launch makes it the most refined daily use Mind Mapping Software available.

“Our PMO now operates like a large Project Management Organisation with increased business value”
Monica A. Lussler, Director Strategic Platform Management, Interactive Data

“MindGenius is an invaluable tool for managing our complex product development programme. It allows us to quickly and confidently determine our goals, produce our work plans and meet our deadlines”
Raymond Coker, Chief Technology Officer, Toximet

“Associates embraced MindGenius as a collaboration and productivity”
Doug Grindle, PMO Director, Chemical Division, Milliken & Co.

“We use MindGenius for a wide variety of uses across the organisation – from process improvement, to developing our responses to tenders which we can quickly ‘translate’ into operational instructions and project plans”
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- Rod Parse, PMP

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About the Mind Mapping Software Blog

The Mind Mapping Software Blog is your leading source for news, trends and resources related to visual mapping. It covers a variety of topics that are focused on the needs of users of mind mapping software, including:

- Best practices to help you be more productive with this type of software
- Tips for getting the most out of it
- The most valuable tools and resources that will help you to enhance your visual mapping experience
- Reviews of visual mapping programs, add-ins and web-based applications
- New versions and enhancements to mind mapping programs

Increasingly, this blog is also becoming a valued resource for visual thinking news, information and strategies – including the topics of diagramming, infographics, sketching, sketchnoting and graphic facilitation.

About the author

Chuck Frey is the author of The Mind Mapping Software Blog. He has written numerous articles and reviews about mind mapping software, and is widely regarded as one of the leading experts on visual mapping and visual thinking.

CONNECT WITH CHUCK FREY

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Power Tips & Strategies for Mind Mapping Software 3rd Edition

This popular ebook contains a wealth of ideas, tips and strategies that you can put to work today to increase your effectiveness and efficiency. It is the definitive guide to getting the most out of your mind mapping software.

Mind Mapping Insider membership program

If you’re serious about accelerating your productivity, creativity and effectiveness using mind mapping software, then you ought to become a Mind Mapping Insider. This is where I share the most valuable tips, strategies and techniques to master visual mind mapping.

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