

Spring 2015

## EdTech Tools - 8 Take Aways

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### Recommended Citation

van Putten, Center for Learning and Teaching, "EdTech Tools - 8 Take Aways" (2015). *CLT Workshops*. 11.  
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# 8 TAKE AWAYS

## EdTech Tools



### Communication & Collaboration

voicethread 

#### VoiceThread

VoiceThread is cloud-based application that allows users to engage in group conversations based on images, documents, presentations, audio files, or videos. Comments can be made by group members in a variety of ways beyond just simple text, to include audio and video. VoiceThread can increase social presence in an online, asynchronous environment and facilitate faculty-to-student and student-to-student communication. There are many ways you could use Voicethreads, from critical commentary or debate to showcasing and evaluating work. In addition, if you are using Blackboard or a personal website, VoiceThreads can be embedded for easy access by students. VoiceThreads can be kept private, shared with specific people, or opened up to the entire world. VoiceThread will work in any modern web browser and on almost any internet connection or through an iOS device.

[voicethread.com](http://voicethread.com)

 Backchannel Chat 

#### Backchannel Chat

Backchannel chat is a real time chat tool that enables your students to participate in class by asking questions or sharing comments in a centralized location. Students can communicate with you privately or share their questions in the open forum. You are able to archive your chat transcripts for later review. Students are able to promote messages, permitting you to focus on the most needed concerns. Documents can be shared, YouTube or Flickr links can be embedded, and polls can be set up for student response. If a room is getting too active, the discussion can be locked from further contribution. Each room even has a special URL that will only accept a Google login, such as a student's BMail account, which enables you to know exactly who is chatting. You can also pin messages at the top of the chat as a way of providing instructions to students.

[backchannelchat.com](http://backchannelchat.com)

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## Web Conferencing



### WebEx

WebEx is a video collaboration and web conferencing platform that can be used for virtual class meetings, tutoring, or office hours. It couples WebEx Personal Rooms and the cloud-based WebEx Video Bridge into one, always-available meeting experience. Accessible from multiple devices, it provides simple, highly secure collaboration regardless of location or technology.

For 2015, the Center for Learning and Teaching is able to provide Binghamton University faculty and staff with free WebEx accounts. For more information, contact [jlscott@binghamton.edu](mailto:jlscott@binghamton.edu).

[webex.com](http://webex.com)



### Zoom

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing platform available for Windows, Mac, iOS, and Android. What makes zoom different from other video-conferencing systems is its ease of use. Features of Zoom include group messaging, screen sharing of any iPad/iPhone app, co-annotation on a shared screen, and desktop and application sharing. The free version of Zoom allows for 25 participants and a 40 minute meeting duration for class meetings and an unlimited number of 1 to 1 meetings for office hours.

[zoom.us](http://zoom.us)

## Assessment



### Socrative

Socrative is a student response system that allows students to become actively engaged with the course material during a lecture. You start by posing a question to your students. This question could be pre-written as a quiz or on-the-fly and can come in various forms, such as multiple choice, true/false, or short answer. Your students then respond using their devices - smartphones, laptops, or tablets. The application collects their responses immediately and can display a graph of their choices. Instructional choices can be made in response to the graph, such as leading students in a discussion of the merits of each answer choice or asking students to discuss the question in small groups.

[socrative.com](http://socrative.com)



### Video Assessments

Video Assessment Resources, like eduCanon and TedEd, are online environments that you can use to create and share interactive video lessons. You can transform the traditionally passive experience of watching a video into an active experience for students by linking activities that students engage with as the video progresses. Reflective pauses, quizzes, and discussions can be inserted into the content, allowing the video to be segmented into digestible components - increasing student engagement. Answer-specific feedback can also be included.

[educanon.com](http://educanon.com) / [ed.ted.com](http://ed.ted.com)

## Video Creation



### Camtasia Studio

Videos are great for engaging students and conveying information. Camtasia Studio is a screencasting program that allows you to record your voice, your computer screen, and input from your webcam all at the same time. Camtasia videos are easy to edit and share with your students. It is often used by faculty to record PowerPoint presentations, computer navigation, or simply to record a video. Editing features include captions, call-outs, zoom and pan, and animation. In-video quizzes can be incorporated to monitor viewing-time and assess comprehension. Camtasia Studio is one of the most popular tools for creating online lectures.

[techsmith.com/camtasia](http://techsmith.com/camtasia)



### Moovly

Moovly is a fun and simple way to create animated video and other multimedia content. It is an easy to use cloud-based digital media and content creation platform. A basic package is freely available so your students can showcase their knowledge and creativity without purchasing expensive software. Moovly is browser-based and does not require any software installation. You can use visuals, sounds, voice and video to produce clear explanations or engaging stories. Moovly also features a graphic library with animated objects.

[moovly.com](http://moovly.com)

## Resources

- EdTechTeacher - <http://edtechteacher.org/tools/>
- The EdSurge Edtech Index - <https://www.edsurge.com/products/>

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