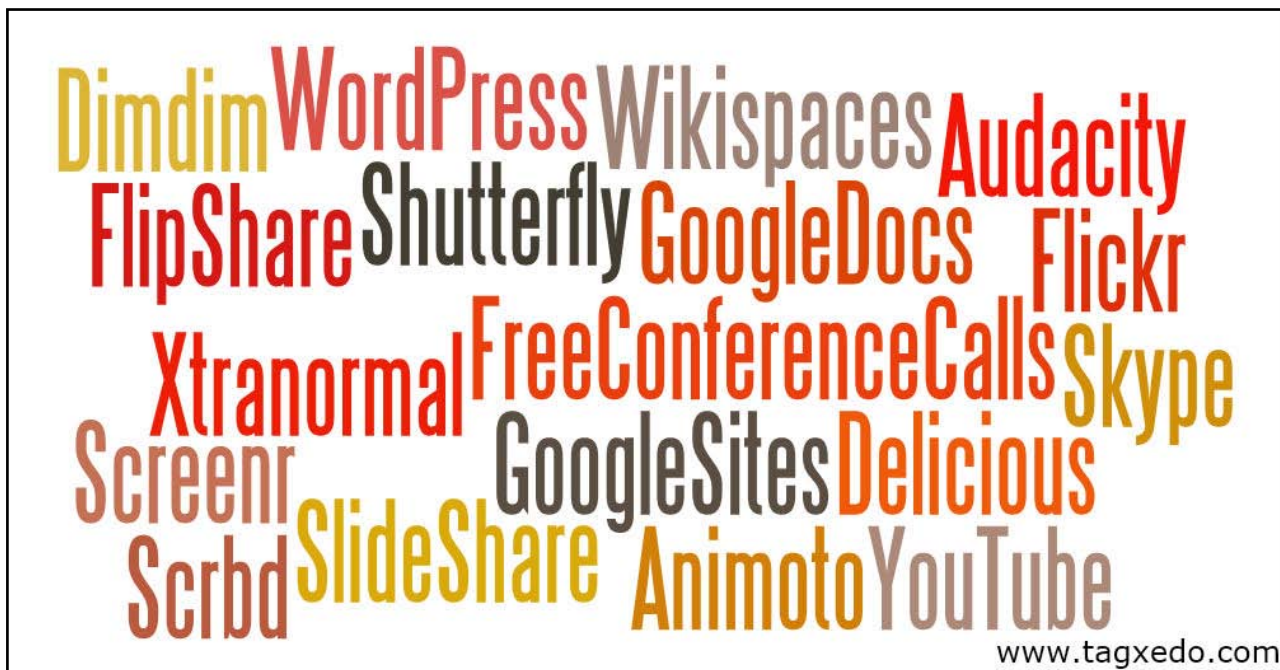


# Free (mostly) Applications

## For Supporting Communities of Practice and Learning Communities

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This document provides quick access to about 20 free (mostly) applications that are used frequently used to facilitate exchanges of communication and information among members of learning communities and communities of practice. The **purposes** of these applications include building relationships, producing new knowledge, and disseminating content. The **functions** of these various applications include providing portals, sharing information, and creating opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous communication.

On the next page is a table of four essential functions for supporting learning communities and communities of practice along with corresponding strategies for each, examples of free applications, and, where appropriate, examples of how they have been used. The apps are hyperlinked for easy access. I tried to provide examples of their use that I have produced or that have been produced by programs funded by the [Office of Special Education Programs](#).

The free apps in this document represent a very small sampling of those available. For a much more extensive list, along with some important notes about the use of free apps, please download my 23-page handout: *Free Applications –Hundreds of Apps with Potential to Enhance Professional Development, Technical Assistance, and Dissemination Activities and Results*: <http://exploringtech.wordpress.com/>

Lastly, although these apps are free, you might need a few pieces of equipment in order to use them. On page three are a few recommendations for relatively inexpensive devices that I have used effectively for video conferencing, capturing video, and recording audio.



## Time to Explore!

Functions	Strategies	Free Apps	Examples of their Use
Provide a portal	Wiki	<a href="http://wikispaces">wikispaces</a>	<a href="http://sigms.iste.wikispaces.net/">http://sigms.iste.wikispaces.net/</a>
	Social network	<a href="http://tadnet.ning.com/">Ning</a> <b>FREE</b>	<a href="http://tadnet.ning.com/">http://tadnet.ning.com/</a>
	Blog	<a href="http://exploringtech.wordpress.com/">WordPress</a>	<a href="http://exploringtech.wordpress.com/">http://exploringtech.wordpress.com/</a>
	Web site	<a href="#">Google sites</a>	Jon Harding will provide an example
Share information	Text-based docs	<a href="http://www.scribd.com/search?cat=redesign&amp;q=TACSEI&amp;x=0&amp;y=0">Scrbd</a>	<a href="http://www.scribd.com/search?cat=redesign&amp;q=TACSEI&amp;x=0&amp;y=0">http://www.scribd.com/search?cat=redesign&amp;q=TACSEI&amp;x=0&amp;y=0</a>
	PPT slides	<a href="http://www.slideshare.net/LarryEdelman123/wikis-and-networks-and-blogs-oh-my">SlideShare</a>	<a href="http://www.slideshare.net/LarryEdelman123/wikis-and-networks-and-blogs-oh-my">http://www.slideshare.net/LarryEdelman123/wikis-and-networks-and-blogs-oh-my</a>
	URLs	<a href="#">Delicious</a>	Register for a free account and then search for content or users
	Screen cast	<a href="http://screenr.com/DPM">Screenr</a>	<a href="http://screenr.com/DPM">http://screenr.com/DPM</a>
	Voice/Audio	<a href="http://www.challengingbehavior.org/webpublishing/?cat=5">Audacity</a>	<a href="http://www.challengingbehavior.org/webpublishing/?cat=5">http://www.challengingbehavior.org/webpublishing/?cat=5</a>
	Video	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJc7XFZJS2o">Flip video</a> <b>FREE</b>	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJc7XFZJS2o">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJc7XFZJS2o</a>
		<a href="http://www.theflip.com/en-us/App/fvsw/5.x/update/">Flipshare</a>	<a href="http://www.theflip.com/en-us/App/fvsw/5.x/update/">http://www.theflip.com/en-us/App/fvsw/5.x/update/</a>
		<a href="http://www.theflip.com/en-us/buzz/articles/us/buzz_061609.aspx">FlipChannels</a>	<a href="http://www.theflip.com/en-us/buzz/articles/us/buzz_061609.aspx">http://www.theflip.com/en-us/buzz/articles/us/buzz_061609.aspx</a>
		<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY1fnegoMjc">YouTube</a>	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY1fnegoMjc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY1fnegoMjc</a>
		<a href="http://vimeo.com/user1161633/videos">Vimeo</a>	<a href="http://vimeo.com/user1161633/videos">http://vimeo.com/user1161633/videos</a>
	Photos	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/explore/">Flickr</a>	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/explore/">http://www.flickr.com/explore/</a>
<a href="http://community.shutterfly.com/community/start.sfly">Shutterfly</a>		<a href="http://community.shutterfly.com/community/start.sfly">http://community.shutterfly.com/community/start.sfly</a>	
Rich media movies	<a href="http://animoto.com/play/BSnUf5kuoMXJUvKsSGK4Zw">Animoto</a>	<a href="http://animoto.com/play/BSnUf5kuoMXJUvKsSGK4Zw">http://animoto.com/play/BSnUf5kuoMXJUvKsSGK4Zw</a>	
Avatars	<a href="http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/7760803">Xtranormal</a>	<a href="http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/7760803">http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/7760803</a>	
Communicate Synchronously	Telephone conference	<a href="http://blog.freeconferencecall.com/">Free Conference Calls</a>	<a href="http://blog.freeconferencecall.com/">http://blog.freeconferencecall.com/</a>
	Webinar, -conf, -cast	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_682485&amp;v=enX7W1LDjKM&amp;feature=iv">Dimdim</a>	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_682485&amp;v=enX7W1LDjKM&amp;feature=iv">http://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_682485&amp;v=enX7W1LDjKM&amp;feature=iv</a>
	Video conferencing	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1mflr-kQlk">Skype</a>	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1mflr-kQlk">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1mflr-kQlk</a>
<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cacYjY46Do">ooVoo</a>		<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cacYjY46Do">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cacYjY46Do</a>	
Collaborate Asynchronously	Collaborative docs	<a href="http://docs.google.com/demo/edit?id=scABUzNupFdMUKLklaKtH2A24&amp;hl=en&amp;dt=drawing#drawing">Google docs</a>	<a href="http://docs.google.com/demo/edit?id=scABUzNupFdMUKLklaKtH2A24&amp;hl=en&amp;dt=drawing#drawing">http://docs.google.com/demo/edit?id=scABUzNupFdMUKLklaKtH2A24&amp;hl=en&amp;dt=drawing#drawing</a>
	Wiki	<a href="http://wikispaces">wikispaces</a>	<a href="http://sigms.iste.wikispaces.net/">http://sigms.iste.wikispaces.net/</a>
	Social network	<a href="http://tadnet.ning.com/">Ning</a> <b>FREE</b>	<a href="http://tadnet.ning.com/">http://tadnet.ning.com/</a>

A few recommendations for relatively inexpensive devices for video conferencing, capturing video, and recording audio

### Low-Cost Digital Video Recorders



### Combined Digital Audio Recorder and USB Microphone



### Webcam

