

## Are New Apps Leaving PowerPoint in the Dust?

Tired of using slides for every presentation? Contrary to popular belief, PowerPoint isn't the only slide show creation application. There are other apps available, some that live in the cloud, and some that are free to use. PowerPoint is arguably the most powerful app with the most features, but it's not necessarily the best tool for every job. Most of these other apps allow you to "save as" to other formats, making it easy to port your presentation from one app to another with minimal compatibility issues. Here's a roundup of popular PowerPoint alternatives:



**Keynote** is part of the Apple iWork suite of applications. For Apple products only, including an app for the iPad, it offers an attractive set of themes, animations and graphic formatting options that make it easy to create attractive, elegant presentations. Keynote also handles embedded media and graphics very well. This app can be purchased from the Apple [App Store](#).



**Prezi** is a unique cloud-based application that takes a different approach to presentation design. Instead of building a linear slide show, Prezi allows you to create a large canvas of grouped topics, and then flow in and out of each when presenting. This allows the presenter to show context, as you can zoom out to see the entire presentation. To see Prezi in action, check out their [Explore page](#).



**Google Presentations** is part of the [Google Docs](#) suite, and is a cloud-based application. It is not as powerful as Keynote or PowerPoint, but it's extremely useful for teams who are collaborating virtually to build a presentation, because it offers "character-by-character collaboration" (team members can make edits live, at the same time). There are animation effects, transitions and drawing tools. You can easily import from and export to a variety of file types, like PowerPoint. Google Presentations is free to use; all you need is a Google account.

In summary, if you're looking to shake things up and think outside the box, Prezi is the obvious choice, though it does have some limitations. Keynote is elegant and simple, yet powerful enough to compete with PowerPoint's feature set. Google Presentations is very basic, but flexible and probably the easiest tool of the bunch to use when you need to collaborating with a team.

The important thing to keep in mind, is that these are just tools. Your content and experiences are the most important part of your presentation!

*Have you used any of these other applications? Do you have any likes or dislikes? Do you have any recommendations of your own? Share your thoughts with the PR Committee!*