

Doodle

www.doodle.com

Coordinate meetings with ease

what is it?

Ever need to find the best day to schedule a meeting with a bunch of different people? Need to decide where to go to lunch with a big group? Want to make sure everyone doesn't bring meatloaf to the next potluck? Doodle provides a simple tool for setting up polls that let people make selections and display the results back to the group.

educational use?

Whether coordinating meetings with faculty, administrators or students, it takes only a few minutes to set up a Doodle poll. Email the poll link to the participants and they select the days that work for their schedule. Once everyone has replied, you simply look for the column total with the most available participants and select that day.

The same system would work for selecting what to bring to a group picnic to doling out topics to students. Simply set up a poll and have participants reply. They can type in what they will bring or the subject for a class report. As new participants come to add to the poll, they can see what has already been taken.

Fast, flexible, and free, Doodle is an elegant solution to a tricky problem of coordinating groups.

pros & cons?

Doodle works so well at what it does, that eventually you will find you want it to do things that it doesn't. But if you can deal with its straightforward approach to group polls, then there's nothing not to like about this tool.

what's it cost?

It's free to use but they now offer paid accounts with additional features as well.

alternatives?

When all participants are Exchange users, the Outlook tools work well to coordinate meetings.

Google Forms works well when coordinating input from a group of people, but it is not as effective at coordinating meetings.

Whenisgood.net is another application for scheduling meetings.

resources?

About Doodle

<http://www.doodle.com/about/about.html>