

SlideShare

www.slideshare.net

Upload and share presentations with the world

what is it?

SlideShare, according to their website, is a “business media site for sharing presentations, documents, and pdfs.” So what does that mean? Well, basically once you set up an account, you can upload your PowerPoint presentations (or documents and pdfs) and share them with the world. You can even upload and link slides with audio to create slidecasts as well as embed YouTube videos into presentations. SlideShare also generates embed code which enable users to embed their own or others’ presentations, documents, or pdfs into web pages. But SlideShare also has a vibrant professional community in which people download, favorite, comment, and follow others in the community. In many ways, SlideShare is essentially YouTube for PowerPoint presentations, documents, and pdfs.

educational use?

SlideShare has a number of educational uses and benefits. First, it serves as one place for faculty and students to upload course materials. So rather than uploading course materials each semester into each shell in your Learning Management System (and as a result needlessly taking up server space), SlideShare enables you to simply add the embed code to each course you are teaching. Second, embedding a SlideShare presentation into your courses enables students to access a flash-based version of your presentation, which enables users regardless of operating system or presentation software to view the same presentation (assuming they have the flash plug-in installed in their browser). Third, by posting your course materials online, you are able to contribute to the larger open education movement that aims to make educational materials open and available. Finally, posting your course materials online helps eliminate the need to make copies to lug to class and hand out.

pros & cons?

The best things about Slideshare are the ability to store all your presentations in one location, the ability for you or others to embed and distribute your presentations, and the ability to make your work available to a larger audience (e.g., you can track not only the total number of views but your presentations will also come up on a Google search).

what’s it cost?

It’s free to use but there is a paid version as well.

alternatives?

Some alternatives to SlideShare include Slideboom (<http://www.slideboom.com>), SlideRocket (<http://www.sliderocket.com/>), and authorStream (<http://www.authorstream.com/>) to name a few.

resources?

SlideShare Quick Tour – Summary of features & capabilities
<http://www.slideshare.net/AmitRanjan/quick-tour>