

SECTIONS Model

Software Tool Evaluation – [Trello](#)

Completed By Jessica Joy

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STUDENTS

This technology is readily accessible for students; the tool provides a Free license which includes sufficient features to help students stay organized. As a cloud-based SaaS tool, students must have internet access to use it. The digital skills required to begin using this tool would be minimal.

EASE OF USE

The tool is rated very high in terms of its ease of use and would allow students to begin using most of its features right away with little to no additional support. As a cloud-based SaaS tool, maintenance would not be required on the student's part. Trello's initial release was over 10 years ago, and it has since been acquired by a large software company, Atlassian, with substantial resources to ensure the stability of the software in the long-term. Should the service be retired, it is expected that sufficient notice would be given to users allowing the opportunity to backup all stored work. The company offers technical support to all users; however, it should be noted that priority support is provided to paid licenses only.

COST

Setting up a "board" in Trello is very quick and easy. With the input information readily available, students could possibly set up a board in as little as 30 minutes. This is not a tool that is directly supported by our institution, however Trello's Free license negates the need for that support.

TEACHING AND PEDAGOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This technology can be used in many ways to support learning outcomes, including helping students further develop digital skills and understanding of software systems, and encouraging collaboration between students as well as with faculty (a priority in a digital learning environment). Students must learn and understand how to present and organize information using this tool and apply some of the more advanced features of the software to further their digital skill sets.

INTERACTIONS

With this tool, the student is actively engaged with both the software, fellow students and the faculty. Collaborative management and use of "comments" and other social tools on the elements of their board provide a high level of interaction.

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

There are several technologies faculty are encouraged to use, however few, if any, would fit the need for which this tool evaluation is being completed. Faculty are encouraged to create engaging, interactive, collaborative learning environments facilitated through the use of various technologies, some directly supported by the organization and others at the discretion of the faculty.

NETWORKING

Trello provides several ways for learners to network with fellow students, including the ability to share their board (either to view or edit) and the addition of social add-ons and tools.

SECURITY & PRIVACY

There are no obvious security concerns with students using this tool; however, all individual users/students must be aware of the company's privacy policy which details how their private information will be captured, stored and/or shared. The onus is on the user to agree to the terms of this policy.