

A huge problem for students is often their inability to communicate with their peers during collaborative assignments. Imagine a tool that allowed you to set deadlines and track each other's progress during your projects. Slack is a free to use service that allows you to seamlessly communicate with an unlimited number of people. Their service is intended for businesses, but it works perfectly fine as a tool for students. Just as a test, I went ahead and signed up, which took a total of maybe three minutes. After I signed up, I was greeted with a simple enough walkthrough and the opportunity to earn \$50 in credits for answering four checkbox style questions.

Slack really makes it easy for you to add information to your group's information flow and also send private messages to other members of your organization. Content that has been added to the community stream is searchable, making it a breeze to find what you need in a heartbeat. Streams are set up by any member of the team and it allows you to sort information by section. Beyond that is the helpful Slackbot, which sets up your profile through a short questionnaire taken one question at a time. It adds your name, skype profile and email to your profile and then finishes by asking who you'd like to invite to your company.

Slack really outdid themselves with a free to use, cross platform communication software. To make things even more convenient, you have the option to enable desktop notifications to make sure you receive play by play updates. No longer will you have to worry about exchanging information and trying in vain to get a group chat working with either buggy servers \*ahem skype\* or phones that don't play well together \*apple and android\*. Sorry about the cough. Like I've mentioned before, all great programs offer a premium service. Slack's primarily is based on their support system and integration with other services. They allow guest access, google authentication, and premium support for low fees totaling about \$60 a year.

Slack is the perfect communication tool for students looking to escape the hassles of normal communication. As of now they are limited to messaging, but with their upcoming integration with Screenhero, they will soon have calling and remote desktop control.