



## Technology configuration inventory

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 Community (UN SD goal): #4 Quality Education  
 Date: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Instructions

It is useful to inventory the current technology configuration of the community, i.e., the current technology that the people working, learning, advancing knowledge (etc.) in the specific area you are engineering software for are using, as a way to understand the community better and what matters to them better. If yours is a new community, it may not have any specific technology yet, but even for brand new communities, the current configuration may not be empty, for instance if general tools like email or phone are going to be used. You can use a version of the table on the next page to inventory and analyze the current configuration of your community:

1. Get the big picture. Research the area and make a list of all the platforms and stand-alone tools in your community's configuration as best you can
2. For each platform, list the tools and check the ones that are being used. Why are some not being used? Are there duplicates? Are there issues around integration between tools?
3. To the left, make a note of which community activities/orientations the tools currently support in your community
4. To the right, identify the key features of tools. Are some of these features commonly or rarely used? What are the reasons for that?
5. Assess actual tool use if you can. Identify which are dominant and which are only used by smaller groups and individuals.

**NOTE:** Add new rows as needed below. Please know your search should be as exhaustive as possible given the area you are researching

Platform	The Vent – ProTeacher Community		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes
Discussions, Sharing of content & knowledge	Discussion Board	Teachers can anonymously post their stories, experiences, and frustrations to an online forum and have discussions about it.	It's very interesting to see teachers use these anonymous discussion boards. Some openly vent their frustrations and get very upset while others just look to tell their daily stories of what's happening in their classroom.

Platform	'An Anonymous Teacher Speaks' - @anonteachspeaks on Twitter & Padlet		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes



Discussions, Sharing of content & knowledge	Social Media Network	On twitter, teachers can directly contact this account and have their anonymous experiences posted, additionally they can participate in discussions within the tweets on twitter, or they can directly post their experiences themselves on the Padlet website instead.	This is just one of many media outlets where teacher's can anonymously post their feelings and stories, in this case though it's often tied to a personal twitter account. So less anonymity is present.
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Platform	Facebook		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes
Discussion	Personal posts, group discussions	Sharing, liking comments, commenting	I have many friends either in education or who are teachers now who will readily use Facebook to discuss their experiences and frustrations in the classroom. There are many different groups focused around sharing problems and frustrations as a teacher. But much like twitter, if you make a post on Facebook being upset or frustrated with your classroom experience, it's often tied to your main personal account.

Unfortunately, for this piece of documentation from my research there isn't much openly advertised resources that teachers can readily go to for assistance and to share their stories.

I have a feeling this is due to the inherent negativity that comes with posting about frustrations and difficulties online. It's difficult for something to be posted on the internet without it offending someone or it being a difficult subject to speak on.

This is something that I will continue to investigate and hopefully update this document with more platforms and tools as time goes on due to its inherent difficulty.