



Technology configuration inventory

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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

Platforms - Steam, GameJolt, etc	Platform type: Video game stores		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buy/download games - Review/comment on games - View games similar to ones that you've played 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make a purchase - View game - View similar game - Review game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to find and download new games in the genre that you like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All of these tools are well utilized
Platform - YouTube	Platform type: Video sharing		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch videos - Upload videos - Subscribe to channels - Comment on videos - Get 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch video - Upload video - Subscribe to channel - Get notifications - Make a comment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to view videos that you like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Let's Plays" YouTubers often introduce the community to new games. - Gives exposure to



recommendations based on what you've watched	- View similar videos		smaller video games
Platform - Twitch	Platform type: Livestreaming service		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch streams - Watch VODs (video-on-demand) - Stream - Follow/subscribe to channels - Live chat - Look for streams in the same category that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - View stream - Get notifications - Follow channel - Subscribe to channel - Live chat - Donate to channel - Live stream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to view streamers you like, and view similar streams in the same category 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Let's Plays" Twitch streamers often introduce the community to new games. - Gives exposure to smaller video games - Donating and subscribing require access to money
Platform – TikTok, Twitter (X), Instagram, Tumblr, etc	Platform type: Social Media		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make posts/videos - View posts/videos - Comment on posts - Follow accounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make post/video - Get notifications - View posts from friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to post and comment and view others posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be used to promote the game or the lesson behind the game

Stand-alone tool - Text	Tool type: Text messaging		
Supported activities	Tool	Key features	Usage notes
Send a text message to the desired number	Text messaging	Send a photo, video, or text	Likely used more by the older end of the group