

Visualizing Word Clouds

What is a word cloud?

A word cloud (also known as tag cloud, or weighted list) is a visual representation of text data, typically used to depict keyword metadata (tags) on websites, or to visualize free form text. In word cloud representations the most frequent words in a document are graphically represented with larger sizes. This helps in quickly visualizing the important words in a document.

There are several freeware web-based word clouds visualization programs: TagCrowd, Tagul, Tagxedo, Wordclouds, or Wordle (Wordle can also be downloaded at https://download.cnet.com/Wordle/3000-2191_4-75642424.html).

Let's take the following article from the *Atlanta Constitution* of 2-9-1888, page 2,

SHOT TO DEATH.

An Incendiary Put Out of the Way.

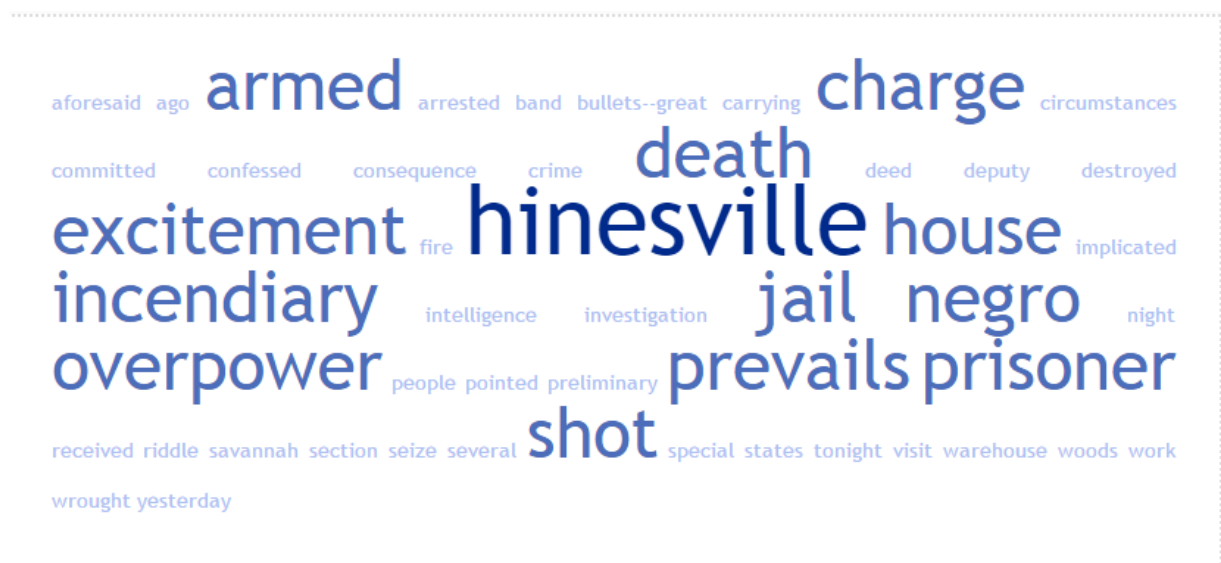
ARMED MEN VISIT HINESVILLE JAIL,

Overpower the Jailer, Seize a Negro Prisoner and Riddle Him With Bullets—Great Excitement Prevails.

Savannah, February 8.—[Special.] —A few weeks ago a house and a warehouse were destroyed by fire in Hinesville, and all the circumstances pointed to its being the work of an incendiary. The people have been greatly wrought up in consequence.

Intelligence received here tonight states that a negro was arrested there yesterday on the charge of burning the houses aforesaid. He is said to have confessed the deed, and implicated several in the crime. After a preliminary investigation, he was committed to jail in Hinesville. Last night a band of armed men overpowered the deputy sheriff, who had the prisoner in charge, and carrying him off the woods shot him to death. Great excitement prevails in that section.

The words of this article would be displayed in TagCrowd (<http://tagcrowd.com/>) like this.



Tagul (now renamed WordArt, <https://tagul.com/>), Tagxedo (<http://www.tagxedo.com/>), and Wordclouds (<http://www.wordclouds.com/>) also allow users to draw a word cloud in a specific shape.

The screenshot shows the Tagxedo website interface on the left and a word cloud on the right. The interface includes a logo, a text input area, and various settings like 'Load ...', 'Save | Share ...', 'Respins', 'Color', 'Theme', 'Font', 'Orientation', 'Layout', 'All', 'Options', 'Shape' (highlighted with a red circle), 'History ...', and 'Word | Layout Options ...'. Social media links for Twitter and Facebook are at the bottom. The word cloud on the right is a circular arrangement of words, with 'Hinesville' and 'Incar' being the most prominent.

When hovering over the picture, words are highlighted.

[illegible]

Respin: Done

 Heart (5x4)

 Quiet Mornir [FullScreen](#) [Zoom](#)





That same image in Tagul (<https://tagul.com>) would look like this.






Name: Cloud 1






Words






Shapes

CLICK HERE TO ADD YOUR IMAGE

Fonts

Layout

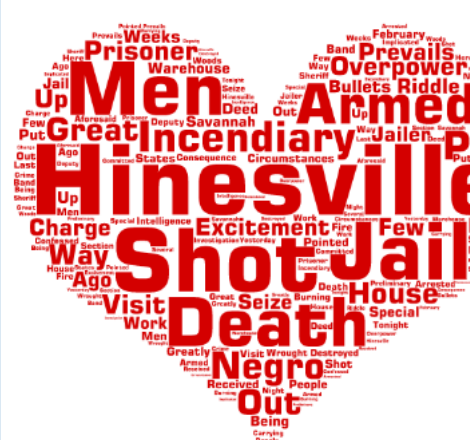
Colors and Animations

Download and Share

Visualize

Animation mode

Edit mode



Print it on a poster, t-shirt and more!

Print

Save changes

Perhaps, more appropriately, we could use the shape of the STOP sign:

Name: Cloud 1

Words

Shapes



Fonts

Layout

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