Authoring Tools….

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Authoring Tools….

**Aim:-**Give example of two authoring tools of all four categories.

**Theory:-** An authoring tool assists you in creating digital content. The tool could be something as simple as Google documents, or as complex as a video production suite.

In the context of learning and development, an [**authoring tool**](https://blog.gutenberg-technology.com/en/gutenberg-technology-is-chosen-as-a-top-authoring-tools-for-the-2nd-consecutive-year) commonly refers to software that helps to create elearning and other digital content.The main job of an authoring tool is to make developing content more efficiently, and open up possibilities that would be infeasible, or too time consuming to develop without a dedicated tool. A simple example would be adding hotspots to an image. Most elearning authoring tools allow you to do this in a few clicks, but to code this functionality on a case by case basis would take hours.

Authoring Tool Features

Building the Interface

-Specify screen dimensions and background color

- Create links that go to "next" and "previous" screens

-Create links that go to non-adjacent screens

-Specify transitions

-Define button appearance, icon, style

-Make invisible buttons (hot spots)

-Draw simple screen elements

Media handling

-import sound, graphics, video so they become part of the executable

-access sound, graphics, and video as external files at run time

-synchronize different media

#### **Advantages**

Following are the advantages of card based authoring tools.

* Easy to understand.
* One screen is equal to 1card or 1page.
* Easy to use as these tools provide template.
* Short development time.

#### **Disadvantages**

Following are the disadvantages of card based authoring tools.

* Some run only on one platform.
* Tools not as powerful as equivalent stand alones.

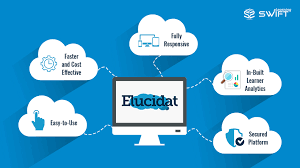
*Different types of authoring tools:-*

1.Cloud-Based eLearning Authoring Tools

Also known as SaaS tools, these authoring platforms are hosted on the Cloud. Thus, you don't have to install any software on your local hard drive. To access the [cloud based eLearning authoring tool](https://elearningindustry.com/tags/cloud-based-authoring-tools), you simply login to the system, where you'll find a user dashboard or interface. As such, you can access the platform via your mobile device and work remotely.

**Pros**: Many service providers also provide free updates and maintenance. You simply have to pay the monthly or yearly subscription fee. [eLearning vendors](https://elearningindustry.com/directory/business-categories/elearning-software-vendors) typically add eLearning templates, themes and other assets on a regular basis. As a result, you can keep your eLearning content fresh without having to worry about additional costs.

**Cons**: Cloud-based eLearning authoring tools are online, which makes them more vulnerable. For example, data theft may be a concern for organizations who store sensitive information. However, most service providers offer advanced encryption features and [security](https://elearningindustry.com/tags/elearning-security) protocols to ensure data safety.

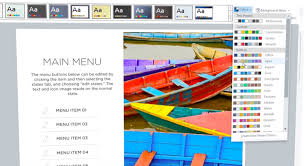


### 2.Locally Hosted eLearning Authoring Tools.

### This type of eLearning authoring tool is installed on the local hard drive. In years past, this was the ONLY option, as you had to purchase a disc that contained the software. Today, most locally hosted eLearning authoring tools are downloaded directly from the vendor's site.

**Pros**: Locally hosted eLearning authoring tools typically include advanced features and greater flexibility. In many cases, they are "all-in-one" platforms, meaning that they can handle a variety of different tasks. Thus, eLearning professionals have the power to create a broad range of eLearning content, from immersive eLearning course layouts to interactive online presentations. Locally hosted eLearning authoring tools also typically have asset libraries that are ideal for [rapid eLearning development](https://elearningindustry.com/rapid-elearning-authoring-tools-5-pros-3-cons-consider). For example, certain platforms include eLearning templates, cutout eLearning characters, and themes that you can use in your eLearning course design.

**Cons**: Some locally hosted eLearning authoring tools are more difficult to master. Greater flexibility may lead to a greater learning curve. Also, the package may not include updates, which means that you'll have to foot the bill for extras, such as upgraded support or additional online assets. Another downside is the cost, as many installed options are more expensive than cloud-based solutions. This is primarily due to the fact that you have to pay for product licensing up front, rather than a monthly subscription fee.



### 3. Multimedia eLearning Authoring Tools

These eLearning authoring tools can be cloud-based or locally hosted, but they tend to focus on one key aspect of eLearning course design. For example, creating interactive slideshows or animated eLearning videos. Most platforms allows you to import media from other sources and then export the finished product to third-party eLearning tools.

**Pros**: Since these platforms specialize in one specific area of eLearning content creation, you usually have a great deal of creative freedom and design options. For example, a video editing tool may include a wide range of filters and effects. As such, the sky is the limit when it comes to interactivity. Most eLearning authoring tools also feature impressive asset libraries and templates that reduce development time.

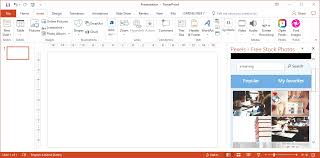
**Cons**: Exporting the eLearning content to your [Learning Management System](https://elearningindustry.com/directory/software-categories/learning-management-systems)or website can be challenging, in some respects. You typically have to package the multimedia in the desired format, such as SCORM, and then upload it to the system. However, you must ensure that both platforms are compatible with one another.

### 4. PowerPoint Ribbon eLearning Authoring Tools

These are add-in eLearning authoring tools that are accessible via PowerPoint. Users can create eLearning content by using the ribbon interface in the application. They are a natural choice for eLearning professionals who are already using PowerPoint on a regular basis.

**Pros**: PowerPoint ribbons are easy to use, as you are already familiar with the application. You simply download the add-in of your choice and start working with Power Point. If you know how to use PowerPoint, you won't have to worry about mastering a brand new tool.

**Cons**: While many service providers offer PowerPoint ribbons, their full versions are typically more robust and versatile. Therefore, you may find that the add-in lacks certain features and functions that you're looking for.



### 5. Screen Capturing And Recording eLearning Authoring Tools

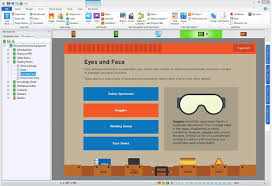
These eLearning authoring tools are custom tailored for screen recording. They are ideal for developing software [**simulations**](https://elearningindustry.com/tags/simulations) and tech tutorials, as you can capture everything that appears on your screen. Most of these products also feature editing and annotation tools.

**Pros**: Screen capturing and recording eLearning authoring tools give you the ability to transform simple screenshots into comprehensive walkthroughs. Many even allow you to add special effects, such as filters and transitions, to create a more polished finished eLearning deliverable.

**Cons**: These tools are limited and, in some cases, the controls may be difficult to learn. This is particularly true for eLearning professionals who aren't familiar with video editors. Also, you still need to package the eLearning content and upload it to your LMS or website. However, there are a variety of tutorials and online demos that can help you through the process.

From locally hosted to cloud-based, there is a plethora of eLearning authoring tool types to choose from. If you are still unsure about which is best for your next eLearning project, why not take advantage of free trials? You can also look online for user reviews and product ratings to see if the platform is worth the investment.

Are you working with a tight eLearning budget? Read the article [eLearning Authoring Tool Costs: 7 Factors To Consider](https://elearningindustry.com/elearning-authoring-tool-costs-7-factors-consider)and discovercost factors you should consider when choosing an eLearning authoring tool.



**Features of authoring authoring tools**

• Editing and organizing organizing features features.

• Programming features.

• Interacti i v ty features.

• Performance tuning and playback features.

• Delivery, cross‐platform, and Internet py y la ability feature

**Types of authoring authoring tools**

• Card‐ and page‐based tools.

• Icon‐based, event‐driven tools.

• Time‐b d ase tools.

**Card‐ and page‐based authoring systems**

• Card‐ and page‐based authoring authoring systems systems provide a simple and easily understood metaphor for organizing organizing multimedia multimedia elements elements.

• It contains media objects such as buttons, text fields, and graphic graphic objects objects.

• It provides a facility for linking objects to pages or cards

• HyperCard (Mac)

• ToolBook (Mac / Windows) 1

**Icon‐based, event‐driven tools.**

• Icon‐based, event‐driven tools provide provide a visual programming approach to organize and present multimedia.

• Multimedia elements and interaction cues are organized organized as objects objects in a flowchart flowchart.

• Flowchart can be built by dragging appropriate icons from a library, and then adding the content. 15 – examples of authoring tools

• Authorware(Mac/Windows)

• IconAuthor (Windows)

**Time‐based authoring tools**

• Time‐based tools are best suited for messages messages with a beginning and an end.

• Some time‐based tools facilitate facilitate navigation navigation and interactive control.

• M di ’ acromedia’s Director and Fl h as are time‐ based development environments.

• Example: ‐ Macromedia Director Director / Flash (Mac/Windows)

***Conclusion :***-In conclusion, Authoring tools are specialized software packages that are used to create interactive products with graphical user interfaces. They are designed to simplify the task of creating the interface, and although this limits the type of products one can create with them, they are perfect for creating interactive multimedia. Although the development metaphors adopted by different authoring tools vary widely, the task accomplished by each is essentially the same: provide a simple way to construct an interactive interface and programming tools to give the interface more complex tasks.