### What is a Web Based Tool?

Simply, a web based tool is a software that is used and utilized on a browser for specific purposes. Its name can also be referred to as a web based application or program. These softwares run on web servers which basically means that all you need is an internet connection and a browser, and you do not need to install anything into your computer. The purposes of a web based tool can vary from different things; it can come down to needing that certain functionality for a more convenient experience.

Examples of web based tools/applications include productivity tools such as Google Docs, Excel, Slides, and etc.. These productivity web based tools help more users to be able to work, collaborate, and even more on any device. On the business side, it can include the shopping cart function in e-stores, this can give companies/businesses more ease of access to accessing information between customers.

### Situation where someone benefits

As previously stated before, a benefit of web based tools is their convenience; you’re able to use these tools/applications on literally any device that can support a browser and use an internet connection. This would allow users that need to work on an essay they need to write, to be able to work anywhere and on the go, all they would need is their laptop, a wifi connection and they’re able to do their work.

On the business side, as stated previously, it gives them and their customers a way to communicate. Say a customer wants to buy this specific product from a company, the shopping cart tool would help the customer by simply “adding to cart” and then buying the product. This would communicate to the company or whatever manufacturer that this item needs to be given to the customer after they’ve purchased it, so they get it ready to be sent out. Another example, customizing web apps is easy and also precise, which makes it a non issue for developers.

Another benefit of web based tools is that they use less resources on your computer and are not tough to run. A traditional desktop application would require you to go through an installation, and would need space to install the application, and would require one and only one device to work on. A web based application takes away all this, not needing any space in your storage to be able to run, being able to run it on any device that has a browser, and no installations needed, which basically goes back to the first benefit reason. Also, for the user, the application doesn’t need to be updated because going through a server based application makes it so everyone has the same version.

### Situation where it’s undesirable

One main disadvantage of web apps is because of their simple needs, aka a web browser and internet connection. As we all know, those things aren’t perfect, especially our internet. In many parts of the world, there are regions that have terrible internet connections which makes the convenience aspect even less convenient; to add to this, good internet can cost a lot in certain places and not many people are able to afford them. Also, the browser determines the performance of the web app, and web apps generally perform slower than a desktop app.

In addition, the website’s quality is also responsible for the performance of the web app. Web apps depend on the website that they’re being hosted on, so if the website were to fail, the web app would also fail. This also leads to the cost of running these websites, which are usually monthly/annual payments.

Also, with web based apps, security might not be the best. There are ways to reduce the risk such as using SSL enforcement [which protects the server and the client from attacks], but even then, it’s not a 100% guarantee to protect from attacks.

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