



Technology configuration inventory

Name: Kaila Neigum

Community (UN SD goal): Affordable and Clean Energy

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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

Platform	Platform type or name		
Supported activities	Tools	Key features	Usage notes
Learning	Same tools mentioned below. Platform: websites. Most websites just contain one stand-alone tool but the website is how the one tool is packaged.	Search There are so many duplicate tools on the web. Its difficult to tell how much these are used.	Websites can be access on any operating system.
Calculating/Tracking	App <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Calculator- Simulator- Tracker	Location using Maps Settings/ data storage for user Again these are difficult to observe the use as there is no indicator	No interaction with others. Similar to website calculators. Some trackers connect to solar panels and display their results, but you need to already have panels. Could be more useful if the tracked, real-time



			information could be shared.
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Stand-alone tool	Tool type or name		
Supported activities	Tool	Key features	Usage notes
Conversation/discussions/ Q&A	Forums	<p>Multi-discussion – there are a lot of discussions started by members. Highly used feature.</p> <p>Filter/sort</p> <p>Likes – it appears that these are commonly used by member</p> <p>Share</p> <p>(Usage of other features is not indicated)</p>	<p>Lots of different conversations on one forum site. Many forum sites out there. Some forums are organized into types of solar systems, energy storage discussion, reviews of brands, etc. some forum sites are not and are very confusing.</p>
Interactive information acquisition	Solar calculators	<p>Insert own data</p> <p>Content integration (links)</p> <p>(Usage of features unknown as there is no indication or data of other member use)</p>	<p>These calculators allow you to insert your power usage and approximate solar hours to get an estimated solar array size (in kW). Some have links that let you compare different brands for various sized systems. Some let you save your data/results for future use, some don't. Some ask for power usage in Watts (or kilowatts), some ask for kWh: this might confuse people because these aren't the same thing and kWh is more convenient because it is typically the measurement presented on people's utility bills.</p>