

# Software Design Solutions and Tools

Following are some of the advantages and disadvantages of software design:

## Advantages

- Optimum usage of resources and business processes.
- Novel models and the possibility of the invention of new designs.
- It helps to focus and emphasize profits and business.
- Reliability and credibility of the solution.
- Uniqueness and Adaptability of the software are promised.
- Compatibility and Elite exclusiveness are one of the major advantages.

## Disadvantages

- Fewer chances of predicting the outcome from the design alone.
- It requires too much time and demands commitment.
- It is also demanding real-time discussions at each step of designing from the developers and clients.
- The project may easily fall off track due to a lack of documentation.

## Software for Diagram

- Miro

*Miro is an online, visual collaboration platform designed to unlock creativity and accelerate innovation among teams of all kinds. The platform's infinite canvas enables teams to lead engaging workshops and meetings, design products, and brainstorm ideas. Miro, co-headquartered in San Francisco and Amsterdam, states they currently serve more than 50M users worldwide, including users at 99% of the Fortune 100. Miro > was founded in 2011 and currently has more than 1,500 employees in 12 hubs around the world.*

- Lucidchart

*Lucidchart is a diagramming application that helps teams to clarify complexity, align their insights, and build faster. With this cloud-based solution, users can work visually and collaborate in real-time while building flowcharts, mockups, and UML diagrams. Lucidchart is utilized in over 180 countries by more than 25 million users, from sales managers mapping out target organizations to IT directors visualizing their network infrastructure. The vendor boasts users among ninety-nine percent of the Fortune 500, and that their customers include Google, GE, NBC Universal, and Johnson & Johnson. Lucidchart is based in Utah, and was founded in 2010.*

*Research (<https://www.trustradius.com/products/lucidchart/reviews?qs=pros-and-cons#product-demos>).*

- FigJam

*If you're keeping up with the world of UI / UX design at least a little, you would have heard that Figma launched FigJam – their new whiteboarding tool. As a team of designers, we couldn't miss this release. We use tools like Miro and Whimsical on a daily basis, which, of course, implies having two more tools and extra expenses. Therefore, the prospect of moving to Figma not only for UI design but whiteboarding as well is certainly attractive. Would FigJam be able to replace the other whiteboarding tools on the market? We asked this very question to our team of designers. Without further ado, let's dive into what they had to say.*

*Research (<https://adamfard.com/blog/figjam-ux-review>).*

- Visio

*Microsoft offers Visio, a diagramming tool for building flowcharts, diagrams (e.g. network diagrams), org charts and floor plans, available online as a subscription and also in enterprise level packages (e.g. Visio Professional).*

*Research (<https://www.trustradius.com/products/visio/reviews?qs=pros-and-cons#product-details>).*

- Gliffy

*Gliffy's diagramming applications enables users to communicate and collaborate at the speed of ideas. Whether Gliffy is being used in Confluence and Jira, or as a standalone diagramming tool, Gliffy Online, Gliffy is designed to provide an intuitive way to draw diagrams. Drag-and-drop for professional-looking flowcharts, UML diagrams, entity-relationship diagrams, in just a few clicks. Use a template to make a mind map or concept map while brainstorming. Embed an org chart in the tools a team already uses. Visualize cloud architecture or IT networks and add them to a team's documentation. For planning, project managing, or dreaming up, Gliffy can help bring it to life. The vendor states Gliffy is the most popular diagramming app in the Atlassian Ecosystem, with over 16 million users diagramming in Confluence alone. Gliffy is used by teams of all sizes and averages over 700 users per install as an enterprise diagramming solution. Gliffy is available for a trial via the Atlassian Marketplace or by signing up for a two-week free trial of Gliffy Online on gliffy.com.*

*Research (<https://www.trustradius.com/products/gliffy/reviews?q=pros-and-cons#product-details>)*

- SmartDraw

*SmartDraw is a diagramming and flow chart building tool from SmartDraw Software in San Diego, California. CategoriesDiagrammingMind MappingWorkspace PlanningOrg Chart While our first impressions of SmartDraw were quite positive, here we dive deeper into how they market their visual design tool, what their pricing plans look like, what users enjoy about SmartDraw, and what issues users have with SmartDraw. The biggest takeaway, is that SmartDraw offers so many different templates for diagrams, org charts, flow charts, floor plans, and even legal documents - that it's hard to look elsewhere, especially if you need something quick.*

*Research (<https://www.trustradius.com/products/smartdraw/reviews?q=pros-and-cons#product-details>)*

- Creately

*Creately is presented as a visual workspace for brainstorming, planning, executing, and analyzing around projects. An "infinite canvas" supporting diagramming and drawing along with real-time collaboration, enabling teams to centralize documents, resources, tasks, and communication, creating a single source of truth for effective decision-making and increased productivity. More specifically it features: Specialized shapes for 70 diagram types and an extensible library helps you visualize virtually anything. Drawing shortcuts so users can create shapes and connectors in a single interaction. Apply formatting and other changes with the toolbar. Predefined styles, themes and formatting options. Creately supports marketing use cases by enabling users to plan all marketing activities and brainstorm ideas, and keep track of campaign deliverables, and note dependencies on the canvas, or use Creately as a hub for a creative workshop, or create a shared workspace to interact better with sponsors, partners, and stakeholders. For product development, users can create a release plan, capture actionable feedback and ideas, and prioritize features, as well as plan and outline product launch initiatives and coordinate cross-functional team effort. The user can also map personas and journey maps to communicate insights across the design and development teams. For IT projects, Creately enables users to visualize a project charter, identify task dependencies, allocate resources, and track milestone progress, as well as communicate progress to stakeholders. Creately also suggests educational use cases, such as tracking student progress and homework in real-time and providing immediate feedback where needed. Users can share a central repository of resources, and facilitate different types of learning activities through collaboration, mind mapping, brainstorming, and discussions. These use cases are in addition to general business use cases, such as org charts, mind maps of various kinds, Gantt charts, flowcharts, wireframing, BPM, or SWOT analysis. Creately is available on a free plan, supporting up to 3 documents and a limited usage (60) of elements, and community support. Tiers of paid service provide upgrades to premium support, advanced collaboration features, and unlimited use of elements, as well as unlimited product documents and folders. Creately is a product from Cinergix, a company founded in 2008 and headquartered in Melbourne. They boast a number of high profile users of Creately, including users at Amazon, Siemens, Deloitte, Orange, Huawei, and eBay, among others.*

*Research (<https://www.trustradius.com/products/creately/reviews?q=pros-and-cons#product-details>).*

- Sketch

*Sketch is a visual design tool of use for application prototyping, coming with a wide variety of extensions, plugins, and an active user community.*

*Research (<https://www.trustradius.com/products/sketch/reviews?q=pros-and-cons#product-details>).*

# The Most Popular Design Solutions Vs. Competitors

If you know the design tool that you're most interested in, it's also useful to see how it stacks up against its top competitors. Here are analyses that compare the most popular design tools against their top competitors.

- Adobe Illustrator Competitors & Alternatives

*Adobe Illustrator is an advanced design software built for intermediate and advanced graphic designers in need of the most flexible scalable graphic design tool. Although its tool kit allows for various use cases, Illustrator is not the ideal tool for newer designers in need of more guided and beginner-friendly design software.*

- Adobe Photoshop Competitors & Alternatives

*Adobe Photoshop is the best option for experienced designers in need of highly advanced photo creation and editing features. Photoshop's tool kit is built for a variety of use cases and is highly adaptable. However, this flexibility comes at the expense of an easy learning curve.*

- Figma Competitors & Alternatives

*Figma is a powerful prototyping software built primarily for user experience designers and design teams in need of strong collaboration features. Figma's free plan as well as its web browser support make it far more accessible than its direct counterparts, Sketch and Adobe XD. This accessibility also makes Figma a viable option for beginners in prototyping software.*

- Visme Competitors & Alternatives

*Visme is a robust design software built for small business owners in need of ready-made and editable content. Visme's tool kit is slightly more advanced than Canva's and therefore offers more flexibility in creating presentations, infographics, and documents. However, marketers will find that Canva's social media integrations and content calendar more suited for their needs.*

- Canva Competitors & Alternatives

*Canva is a robust design software built for marketers, bloggers, and other small business owners in need of ready-made and highly shareable content. Canva makes creating presentations, videos, and social media posts very simple to do. In doing so, however, Canva loses much of the flexibility more advanced alternatives like Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator offer.*

# Comparing Popular Design Solutions Against Each Other

One of the best ways to understand the differences between design software tools is to compare one solution against another. We've written in-depth guides comparing the top design tools against each other.

- Canva vs. Adobe Photoshop

*Adobe Photoshop is best for businesses in need of truly advanced photo editing and design software, no matter the steep learning curve. Canva, on the other hand, > is the best option for businesses looking to create high quality graphics and videos as easily as possible, and willing to give up flexibility in features to do so.*

- Canva vs. Adobe Spark

*Canva is the best option for businesses looking to create high quality graphics and videos as easily as possible. Although Adobe Spark is easy to use and affordable, each feature it offers is respectively more robust in Canva.*

- Canva vs. PicMonkey

*Canva is the best option for businesses looking to create high quality graphics and videos as easily as possible. Although PicMonkey is easy to use and affordable, each feature it offers is respectively more robust in Canva.*

- Canva vs. Visme

*Canva is the best option for businesses looking to create high quality graphics and videos as easily as possible. Although Visme is easy to use and slightly more powerful, Canva is more affordable and has more robust social media sharing features.*

- Figma vs. InVision

*Figma is the best option for businesses looking to create high quality wireframes and interactive prototypes. Although InVision is also effective, its collaboration and workflow limitations as well as its lack of a free plan make Figma the better option.*

- Figma vs. Adobe XD

*Figma is the best option for businesses looking to create high quality wireframes and interactive prototypes. Although Adobe XD is also effective, its features might not be best suited for users who do not already have Adobe Creative Cloud plans.*

- Figma vs. Sketch

*Figma is the best option for businesses looking to create high quality wireframes and interactive prototypes. Although Sketch is also effective, it is only available through paid plans on Mac computers, and therefore does not offer the flexible team collaboration that Figma does.*

- Adobe Illustrator vs. Adobe Photoshop

*Adobe Photoshop is best for businesses in need of truly advanced photo editing and design software, no matter the steep learning curve. Adobe Illustrator, on the other hand, is the best option for advanced graphic designers looking to create high quality graphics with little beginner-friendly assistance.*

Research (<https://www.softwarepundit.com/design/design-software-comparison>)