



Why PowerPoint Should be Avoided

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- ✧ PowerPoint dumbs down the presentation
- ✧ A presentation manager should not be used without a good reason
- ✧ Viable alternatives to PowerPoint exist



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Does PowerPoint make you stupid?

Edward Tufte, *PowerPoint is Evil*

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.09/ppt2.html>

- ✧ Based on the needs of a business user
 - ◆ presentation intended to make you buy something you don't really need
 - ◆ every presentation becomes a sales pitch
- ✧ Format emphasized over content
- ✧ When you turn to **bullets** to convince your audience...
- ✧ Adverse impact on cognitive style (lowers attention span)
- ✧ Presentation manager software should supplement the presentation, not substitute for it



Next slide,
Comrade!



Why need a presentation manager?

✧ Presentation managers:

- ✧ Sacrifice flexibility
- ✧ Sacrifice an age-proven method of instruction
- ✧ Sacrifice audience participation on the same level as the level of the presentation

✧ PowerPoint was simply not designed as a teaching tool

✧ If you need just slides (or pictures), why use PowerPoint?

✧ Graphics:

IrfanView (viewer) <http://www.irfanview.com>

GIMP (editor) <http://www.gimp.org>

✧ Plots:

GNUPLOT (interactivity!) <http://www.gnuplot.info>

✧ Slides:

`\documentclass{slides}` in L^AT_EX

FOILT_EX (add-on package for L^AT_EX) <http://www.ctan.org>



If you need a presentation manager, why use PowerPoint?

❖ OpenOffice (<http://www.openoffice.org>)

◆ Pros:

- Open source
- Free
- Windows/Linux/Solaris

◆ Cons:

- too much like PowerPoint

❖ Corel Presentations (<http://www.corel.com>)

◆ Pros:

- more flexible than PowerPoint
- cheaper (\$100 for office suite - single educational licence)

◆ Cons

- proprietary

❖ Both support .ppt, XML, HTML, PDF



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Conclusion

✧ Power corrupts

✧ PowerPoint corrupts pointlessly

✧ Disclaimer: This presentation is 100% Powerpoint-free. Boycott proprietary formats and illegal software monopolies.