

## 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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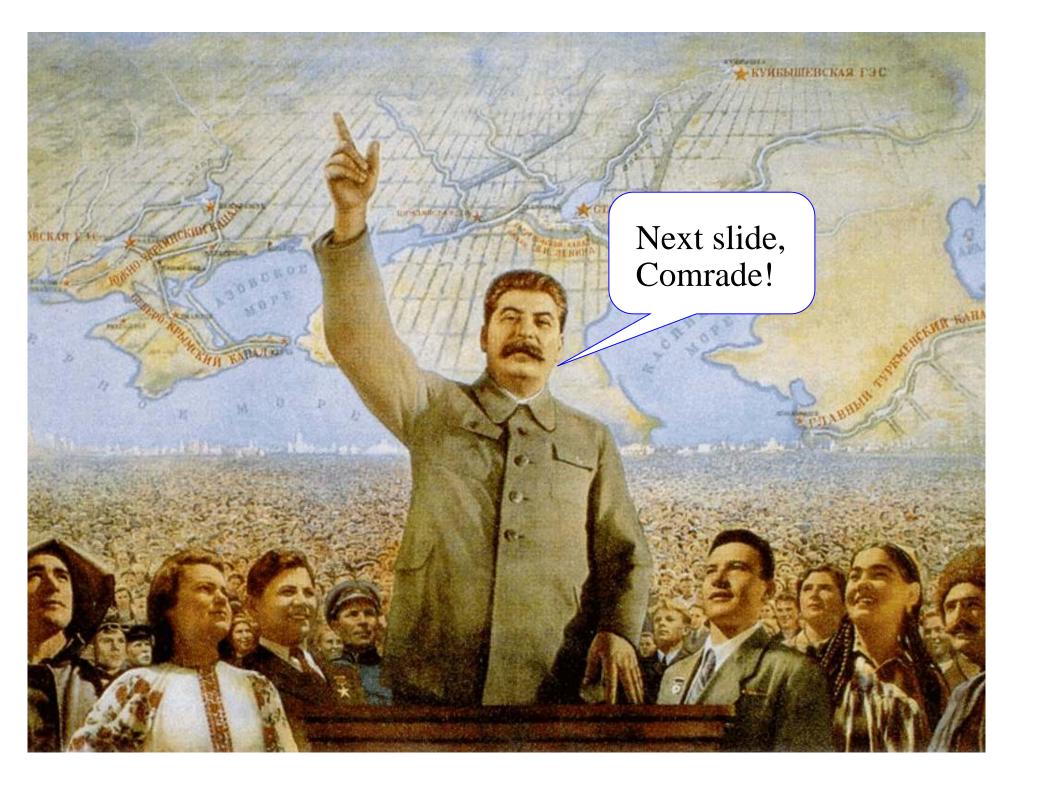
**Does PowerPoint make you stupid?** 

## Edward Tufte, PowerPoint is Evil

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

 $\Rightarrow$ 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





The University of New Mexico

## 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?

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Graphics:
IrfanView (viewer) http://www.irfanview.com
GIMP (editor) http://www.gimp.org
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Plots:

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

✦ Slides:

 $\constant{documentclass{slides}} in L^{A}T_{E}X$ 

FOILT<sub>E</sub>X (add-on package for  $L^{A}T_{E}X$ ) 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





♦Power corrupts

PowerPoint corrupts pointlessly

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