

How to Use Prezi - The Zooming Presentation Tool



“Prezi” at <http://prezi.com/> is a Web 2.0 tool that combines concept maps, posters, and presentations, all into one very nicely integrated unit. It allows us to create non-linear presentations where we can zoom in and out of a visual map containing words, links, images, and videos. This way we can give our Audience “big picture” overviews, as well as zooming in to view extreme details related to some items. So instead of slides, we create a large map and basically zoom around it while we do our presentation.

The underlying technology is a Flash-based presentation system that produces very dynamic presentations. We can zoom in and out across a large area (no sequential slides to step through), create a sequence path, embed images and video and do things that a fully blown Adobe Flash developer would take hours to produce. It is made by “ZuiPrezi”, who are located in Budapest Hungary.

Currently there is not any way to embed the examples that are given on the Prezi website at: <http://prezi.com/showcase/> because they do not supply embed Html code. However, by Googling we found at : http://peterpappas.blogs.com/copy_paste/2009/02/how-to-embed-a-prezi-presentation-in-your-blog.html

that an iframe can be used on a blog page to embed a Prezi like this:

```
<iframe height="360" src="http://prezi.com/6272/view" width="480"></iframe>
```

The above is a sample Prezi from Peter Pappas at <http://peterpappas.blogs.com>

The only problem is when we try to use the mouse wheel for zooming, because it scrolls the blog page as well.

To see another good example of a Prezi, try out this link:

<http://prezi.com/31849/view/> . Use the bottom right hand corner forward button to progress through the presentation, and at the same time try using the zoom in and zoom out tools, or just simply wind your mouse wheel to do the zooming.

It takes a while to become familiar with the way Prezi creates presentations, although the interface is fairly easy to navigate, once we get used to using the “Zebra” manipulation tool. There are a number of very good tutorial videos to assist in creating Prezi presentations. In fact, the Prezi site has a full training course on it, that shows step by step how to use all of the functions in Prezi. This learning course is at: <http://prezi.com/learn/> .

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A four minute You Tube Video showing a Prezi being made about Ice Cream at:

<http://www.youtube.com/v/j1J4H2UzFZ0&hl=en&fs=1&rel=0>

Getting Started with Prezi

To get started, we can use the free version which brands every presentation with a Prezi logo, offers 100 MB of file storage, comes with an offline player, but without the ability to make presentations private. We simply sign up, supply an email address, and choose the free version. They then send us a verify email, and inside the mail we click on a link which then registers us to use Prezi.

For around \$40 U.S, per year, we can get normal Prezi, plus 500 MB storage space and the option not to have our presentations made public. A third 'Pro' version costs around \$100 U.S. per year, and includes a desktop application we can use to create and edit Prezi presentations offline.

There is a good Ready Reference Guide PDF by RJ Tarr at:

http://www.activehistory.co.uk/Miscellaneous/free_stuff/worksheets/Prezi.pdf

This is useful to print out and use while doing our first Prezi.

If we are converting a Powerpoint to a Prezi and want to use some of the PPT pictures, we have to right click them in PowerPoint, and save them as a picture, into a folder on our PC, so that we can upload them to Prezi. (Eg. We cannot cut and paste between the applications).

It is also painful that we cannot cut and paste any text into Prezi at all, but have to always type it in manually. Perhaps this is because Prezi is supposed to be far less text based than PowerPoint, and just present short, sharp, ideas; rather than a set of detailed notes. Probably for this same reason we cannot print out a Prezi.

The best way to get started with Prezi is to do all of the "Learn" tutorials on their web page, look at some of their example Prezis from their "Showcase", and then just have a go.

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This is how I made my basic Prezi which can be viewed at:

<http://prezi.com/121616/> .

It could perhaps do with some finer details added; however I plan to use it as a review memory jogger presentation for my students, to recap on work we did in detail previously.

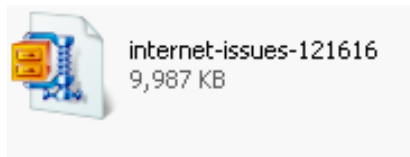
Use the bottom right hand corner grey forward arrow to progress forwards through the presentation.

Saving Our Prezi

While we are making our Prezi, there is a blue circle File and Save option that we should use to save it as we are working online. (And it is not known what might happen if our internet cut out, as prezi does not appear to do any auto-saving while we are working.

Downloading Our Prezi as “stand alone” to a Computer

When our Prezi is completed, we can “Download” it to our PC or laptop, so that when we give the presentation we do not have to go online. This can be a bit tricky, because we download and save a “zip” file that looks something like this:



This file has to be “unzipped” to get the resource folders, and the Flash Player file.

“WINRAR” is excellent for unzipping files.

If you do not know how to unzip a file, then the following web pages have instructions on how to do this:

<http://www.software.com/page/150/how-to-extract-files-with-winrar/>

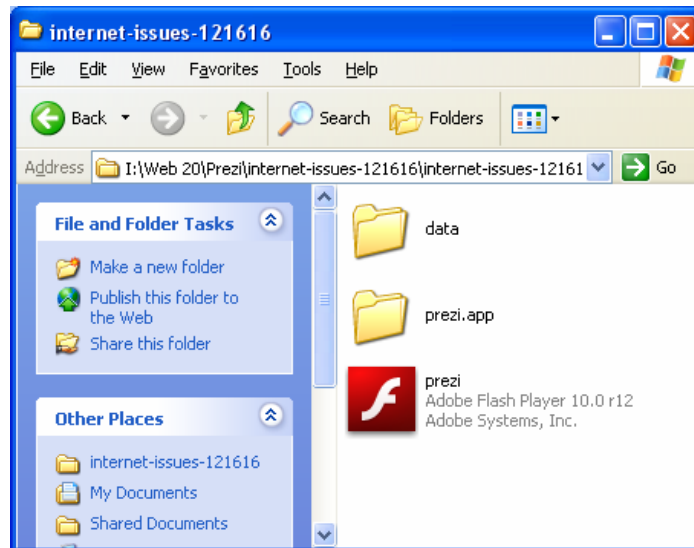
<http://lifehacker.com/221066/>

You can download WINRAR from CNET at:

http://download.cnet.com/WinRAR/3000-2250_4-10007677.html

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Once the files are unzipped with Winrar, there will be a main folder containing 3 sets of items like this:



It is important that these items all stay together, (eg. Do not delete or move any of them).

Double clicking the “Prezi” red “f” Flash folder will make it start up on your computer as like this:



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We then use the big grey right hand arrow to advance through the presentation. We can also maximize the presentation on our computer, and it still plays quite clearly.

How to Insert a Prezi Presentation into a Blog

Prezi provides no embed Html on their site, and so it is back to using the old “iframe” method, contained in a Div like this:

```
<div style="text-align: left;"><iframe height="412"
src="http://prezi.com/121616/view" width="550"></iframe></div>
```

The normal size for a Prezi is width = 480 and Height = 360, but I have proportionally changed mine to width=550 and Height = $550/480 \times 360 = 412$ and it works just fine. We can even go to full screen (by clicking the bottom right corner button) and then either click the button again, or press Escape key, to return into the Blog.

There are quite a few websites around praising Prezi as the latest and greatest, and saying that PowerPoint and SlideShare are finished and have no future. However, it seems that Prezi is best suited to presentations involving a hierarchy of ideas, or a big picture to specific details display. Powerpoint and Slideshare are still very useful where a sequence of ideas, class notes, or instructions need to be given.

One issue with Prezi is that not everyone knows of it yet, or how to use this “zooming” presentation interface. Hence it is not so easy to email and share a Prezi presentation amongst colleagues, or students. Whereas with PowerPoint and Slideshare, a lot of people know straight away what it is and how to use it.

Prezi is certainly gaining popularity quickly, and is a nice break from one dimensional sequential slide show presentations. It would be nice if it evolves like “Slideshare” has, and we can search the Prezi site someday and find ready-made presentations, that we can either use straight away, or download and edit to suit our own needs.

So give Prezi a go, it will make for a new and interesting show, and is kind of fun once you get used to its unique zooming zebra interface.

Enjoy, Passy