

Computer Tools for Collaboration
U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
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*Recommended by ECR Practitioners, Agency Staff and Technology Professionals at the
Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference 2008*

Computer and web-based tools are increasingly being applied to collaborative decision making and environmental conflict resolution (ECR) processes. From the relatively simple and inexpensive to the more complex and costly, most of us have used or are contemplating expanding our use of these kinds of tools.

What follows is a list of tools, grouped by function-based categories, which can be used in ECR processes, public involvement, natural resource decision making, planning, and countless other applications. The defining feature of this type of knowledge is its continual evolution. The tools listed here, by no means exhaustive, were suggested by practitioners through an online survey and then during the Computer Tools and Gadgets Recipe Swap session at the ECR 2008 Conference (all are PC/Mac compatible).

TOOL CATEGORIES

- **Communication:** Facilitate information sharing and interaction among individuals, working groups, and/or the public at large. More administrative tools handle tasks such as calendar sharing, document archival, and general project management needs. Easy web design tools are also included.
- **Coordination**
- **Information Sharing**
- **Web Site Design Tools**
- **Surveys and Polling:** Captures opinions real-time, such as during a public meeting, or gathers them for analysis
- **Mapping Tools:** Offers customizable and interactive maps, either geographic- or knowledge-based
- **Knowledge/Concept Mapping**
- **Multi-criteria decision analysis:** Transparent decisions that distinguish positions and interests, values and science
- **Content analysis:** Codes and organizes public comments.
- **Geovisualization and Scenario Development/Testing:** Provides visual understanding of potential solutions/alternatives.

COMMUNICATION

Comprehensive Communication, Coordination and Information Sharing

activeCollabb

<http://www.activeCollab.com>

Developer: a51 development

Description: Plan your projects and track their progress. Lets you assign tasks to people and

define what is urgent. See what your team is doing and what they need to do, discuss stuff that you are working on and more. Communicate with your team, clients, suppliers and everyone else you are working with in a friendly and an easy to use environment. Discuss and comment, receive email notifications, stay in touch. Everything is saved and available for future reference. Can be installed on your own server and keep complete control over your data. Can be modified to match your website and visual identity.

Accessibility: Web-based program and downloadable to personal server

Price: Small Biz - \$199; Corporate* - \$399

*Adds advanced task management, a tool for collaborative writing, calendar and time tracking on top of the Small Biz feature set.

Basecamp

<http://www.basecamphq.com>

Developer: 37signals, LLC

Description: A web-based tool that lets you manage and track projects (or simply ideas) and quickly create client/project extranets. Basecamp also serves administration functions. Was awarded "BusinessWeek Best of the Web award" in 2005 and 2006.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price:

Basic - \$24/mo; 15 active projects, 3 GB of space for files, Unlimited clients/users

Plus - \$49/mo; 35 active projects, 10 GB of space for files, Unlimited clients/users, Time tracking, SSL security

Max - \$149/mo; Unlimited projects, 50 GB of space for files, Unlimited clients/users, Time tracking, SSL security, Free campfire premium

FMYI

<http://www.fmyi.com>

Developer: FMYI, Inc.

Description: Online storage for files, messages, links, tasks, contact info, and more. Collaborate with your team through social networking-like profile pages. Also has communication functions. This web-based intranet ensures that each person is up to date at lightning speed. The design inspiration for our interface was a newspaper layout, which is the perfect metaphor to describe the purpose of FMYI - to dynamically and clearly convey fast-changing information from a community of people. It's quick to set up, and easy to use. This secure collaboration system has three distinctive sections, each a necessary component for accomplishing goals:

- Create a dynamic resource library: research, forms, news, press materials, procedures, and more
 - Track contacts: clients, staff, vendors, and others
 - Manage Projects: shared workspace to accomplish goals.
 - Accessibility: Web-based program
- Price: Free basic version with advertising; upgraded, non-advertising versions available

Google and Yahoo Groups

<http://groups.google.com/> and <http://groups.yahoo.com/>

Developer: Google and Yahoo! Inc., respectively

Description: A password protected web space where people with a shared interest meet, get to know each other, and stay informed. Services include document and photo storage, group event calendar, member polls, shared message archives, etc.

Accessibility: Web-based programs

Price: Free

GroupMind Express

<http://www.groupmindexpress.com>

Developer: GroupMind Solutions

Description: Hosted collaboration software that helps teams and organizations work together effectively by providing online collaboration. Hold virtual meetings or build collaborative websites. Also serves survey and polling functions. Offers optional per-access charges (no login required), for one-time, anonymous access to a survey or a meeting, without having to create registered user accounts. A cost-effective way to involve more stakeholders. \$0.50 per access.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Size of site: 5 seats (\$99 per month); 15 seats (\$230 per month); 25 seats (\$300 per month); 50 seats (\$400 per month); 100 seats (\$700 per month); 200 seats (\$1300 per month)

MS Groove

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/groove/default.aspx>

Developer: Microsoft

Description: Office Groove 2007 is a collaboration software program that helps teams work together dynamically and effectively, even if team members work for different organizations, work remotely, or work offline. Working in Groove workspaces saves time, increases productivity, and strengthens the quality of team deliverables.

Accessibility: CD based software

Price: \$229 or \$79.95/yr. as a subscription

MS Project

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/project>

Developer: Microsoft

Description: Control project work, schedules, and finances, keep project teams aligned, and integrate with other Microsoft Office system programs.

Accessibility: CD based software

Price: Professional: \$999.95; Standard: \$599.95

MS SharePoint

<http://www.microsoft.com/sharepoint>

Developer: Microsoft

Description: An integrated suite of server capabilities that can help improve organizational effectiveness by providing comprehensive content management and enterprise search, accelerating shared business processes, and facilitating information-sharing across boundaries for better business insight.

Accessibility: CD based software

Price: varies by suite selection and version.

Project Spaces

<http://www.projectsaces.com>

Developer: Forum One Communications Corporation

Description: Online workspace and extranet to help project teams, workgroups, committees, partners, and others easily connect, share and collaborate. Project Spaces also has communication functions.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Ranges from \$39 - \$499/mo depending on options, notably number of projects, number of users, and storage space.

vBulletin

<http://www.vBulletin.com>

Developer: Jelsoft Enterprises Limited

Description: A powerful community solution that makes it easy to add a forum messaging system to your web site. Developed using PHP and MySQL (a highly efficient open-source database). This solid back end technology allows for a product that is both amazingly fast, yet reassuringly stable. It gives you an instant community that lets your visitors interact, take part in discussions, ask questions, give answers and express opinions.

Accessibility: Downloadable software

Price: Leased License - \$85.00 each; allows you to use the software on your site for 1 year.

Owned License - \$160.00 each; allows you to run the software on your site indefinitely.

Campfire

<http://www.campfirenow.com/>

Developer: 37signals, LLC.

Description: A web-based group chat tool that lets you set up password-protected chat rooms in just seconds. Invite a client, colleague, or vendor to chat, collaborate, and make decisions. Link to a room on your intranet for internal communications. Supports chatting, file sharing, image previewing, decision making, etc. Up to 60 people can chat at once. You can browse previous chats by person, room, or date.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Five plans ranging from \$0 - \$99/mo., depending on file space and number of simultaneous chatters.

CPsquare

<http://www.cpsquare.org/>

Developer:

Description: Like a town square, a place for communities of practice to gather to connect and learn together. Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. Each member is involved in applying a community-of-practice approach. The community works together on problems, cases, methodologies.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Annual membership: Student - \$50, Non-profit organization - \$100, Regular - \$150

GoToMeeting

www.gotomeeting.com

Developer: Citrix Online, LLC.

Description: A Web conferencing tool that allows you to meet online rather than in a conference room; an easy and most cost-effective way to organize and attend online meetings. Patented technology enables co-workers, customers and prospects to view any application running on your PC in real time giving the flexibility to meet in person or online. Conduct on-the-fly or scheduled presentations with a prospective customer, perform live demonstrations in real time, collaborate on documents with your colleagues and provide training to customers and employees.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: \$49/mo. or \$468/yr.

Meebo

<http://www.meebo.com/>

Developer: Meebo, Inc.

Description: Online program for keeping in touch with others on any instant messaging network (AIM, Yahoo!, MSN, Google Talk, ICQ, and Jabber) on Meebo.com, or reach out and have live conversations with anyone at any website with Meebo Rooms and Meebo Me. Instant messaging from absolutely anywhere, no downloads or installs required.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Skype

<http://www.skype.com>

Developer: Skype Technologies S.A.

Description: Make calls over the Internet to other people on Skype or to regular phone numbers.

Accessibility: Downloadable software

Price: Skype-to-Skype calls are free. Unlimited calls from your computer to landlines and mobile numbers w/in US and Canada, including conference calls up to 8 people - \$23.60/year or \$2.95/month.

Text message broadcasting

Allows for mass distribution of a message; Many services available, some free and some at a cost. A few examples...

www.Voicebroadcasting.com

www.Call-Em-All.com/Message

www.Protus.com/message-broadcast/

www.prompttxt.com/text-messaging/broadcast

www.txtsignal.com/

COORDINATION

Doodle

www.doodle.ch

Developer: Swiss-based company Doodle AG

Description: Helps in finding suitable dates for group events, e.g., an appointment, a conference call, a family reunion, etc. Is particularly useful to people who do not use a common calendar. In addition to scheduling events, it also supports polls in general. That is, groups can conveniently decide on options other than dates: the movie for the next movie night, the logo of the new Web site, the restaurant for the Christmas dinner, etc. It is a Web-based service which is free, requires no registration and no software installation.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Google Calendar

<http://www.google.com/calendar/>

Developer: Google

Description: 1) Seeing the big picture: you can see your colleagues (as well as friend/family) schedules right next to your own; quickly add events mentioned in Gmail conversations or saved in other calendar applications; and add other interesting events that you find online. 2) Sharing events and calendars: You decide who can see your calendar and which details they can view. Planning an event? You can create invitations, send reminders and keep track of RSVPs right inside Google Calendar. Organizations can promote events, too. 3) Staying on schedule: You can set up automatic event reminders, including mobile phone notifications, and instantly bring up anything on your calendar with the built-in search tool.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Meet-O-Matic

<http://www.meetomatic.com/calendar.php>

Developer: meetomatic.com

Description: Easy and free meeting scheduler: use a simple web form, email participants, view results, and monitor progress. A meeting scheduler that does not constrain participants to share a common diary or even to use a common platform - you can propose and schedule meetings online and invite participants using your own email system, then monitor responses to your meeting invitation as they arrive and are displayed in Meet-O-Matic's intuitive visual constraint table. With this table you can perform a powerful what-if scenario analysis and home in quickly on the best dates.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

INFORMATION SHARING

Glance

<http://www.glance.net>

Developer: Glance Networks, Inc.

Description: Screen sharing to show your screen live to your collaborators. No distracting windows, menus or buttons. Guests connect instantly with just a browser. Up to 100 guests. No extra charge.

Accessibility: Web-based software

Price:

Personal - \$49.95/mo or \$499/yr; For individuals and small companies, 1 user/subscription, 1 session at a time

Corporate - \$249/mo or \$2499/yr; For medium and large companies, unlimited users, 2 sessions at a time (base plan)

Google Documents

<http://www.docs.google.com>

Developer: Google

Description: Edit, share, and manage your documents online. New offline feature recently available. Create, edit and upload quickly: Import your existing documents, spreadsheets and presentations, or create new ones from scratch. Access and edit from anywhere: All you need is a Web browser, Your documents are stored securely online. Share changes in real time: Invite people to your documents and make changes together, at the same time.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Granicus

<http://www.granicus.com/index.html>

Developer: Granicus, Inc.

Description: provides government agencies with the ability to deliver public meetings, service announcements, education content and video training through the Internet, live or on-demand. Deliver public information quickly with rich media like minutes, reports, agenda and more all synchronized with the video/audio content.

Accessibility: Downloadable Software

Price: Request for product sheets can be made through website

LexisNexis

www.lexisnexis.com

Developer: LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

Description: A leading global provider of business information solutions to professionals in law firms, corporations, government, law enforcement, tax, accounting, academic institutions and risk and compliance assessment. Through the integration of information and technology, LexisNexis uniquely unites proprietary brands, advanced Web technologies and premium information sources. Across the globe, LexisNexis provides customers with access to five billion searchable documents from more than 40,000 legal, news and business sources.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Depends on type of organization and numerous options; contact LexisNexis for specifics.

MediaFire

<http://www.mediafire.com/>

Developer: MediaFire

Description: An unlimited file and image hosting web site. Registration is optional and every feature of the service is available to you whether you choose to create an account or not. If you choose to, creating an account is easy and free, allowing you to quick and secure access to your saved files from any computer.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

WEB SITE DESIGN TOOLS

ComfyPage

comfypage.com

Developer: Affinity Software Pty Ltd.

Description: create simple, smart and super quick websites without the worry of hiring expensive web developers and designers. You get everything you need to build a website and have it live to the world. Easy to use.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free for a site with up to 1000 views/mo; If you exceed 1000 page views in a month a single block of ads provided by Google will appear at the bottom of your site for the remainder of the month. Alternatively, if you exceed 1000 page views in a month and you don't want ads on your site you can purchase auxiliary page views (\$7AUD for 10,000).

Freewebs

freewebs.com

Developer: freewebs

Description: An easy site building tools that helps you create professional good-looking site for your family, friends, customers or just for yourself. Users are given 40MB free space and 500MB bandwidth per month.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free with advertising and up to 40MB space; multiple premium packages are available and cost depends on package.

MediaWiki

<http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki>

Developer: MediaWiki

Description: a web-based wiki software application used by all projects of the Wikimedia Foundation, all wikis hosted by Wikia, and many other wikis, including some of the largest and most popular ones. Originally developed to serve the needs of the free content Wikipedia encyclopedia, today it has also been deployed by companies for internal knowledge management, and as a content management system (e.g., Novell uses it to operate several of its high traffic websites).

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

WebNode

webnode.com

Developer: WebNode.com

Description: WebNode delivers an innovative way of creating and editing websites that redefines the industry with website building technology that is easy to use. Users can create active content (articles, polls, FAQ, dynamic lists, e-commerce, site maps and photo galleries) via drag-and-drop from the toolbar, wherever the user wants them to display on the page. Really nice interface – would probably help to know how to use a WYSIWYG editor.

Accessibility: Web-based program
Price: Free

Weebly

weebly.com

Developer: Weebly, Inc.

Description: Easy way to create, upload a website, and share it with the world for free. From personal to professional sites, Weebly will enable you to spend your time on the most valuable part of your site, its content. Uses common templates and easy user interface.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

SURVEY AND POLLING TOOLS

Keypad polling

Developer: various versions offered by different developers

Description: Keypad Polling is a wireless voting technology. It can be used to enable community participation in events and to bring a focus to discussion and decision making. The technology comprises a number of hand held keypads (similar to TV remote controls) which communicate using radio frequencies with a base station. This base station is connected to a laptop computer which in turn is linked to a projector that displays onto a projection screen. Participants are given multiple choice questions or rating statements (or both) on the screen along with numbered responses. They vote anonymously by selecting the number on their keypad that best represents their preference. The result of the group vote is displayed on the projection screen within seconds.

Keypad polling services are offered by many firms and organizations. At the ECR conference, you can hear from PlaceMatters(<http://pollingresults.org/>) and AmericaSpeaks (<http://www.americaspeaks.org/>).

Accessibility: depends on version

Price: depends on version

QuestionPro

Developer: Survey Analytics Enterprise Survey Software

Description: A one-stop solution for managing feedback via the web; from simple web surveys to large, complex, international market research. Survey software includes a full suite of tools for creating surveys, sending email invitations, and analyzing survey data.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Basic - Free; Web Professional - \$15/mo; Corporate License - \$249/mo; Enterprise Edition - \$849/mo

Survey Monkey

<http://www.surveymonkey.com>

Developer: SurveyMonkey.com

Description: Create and publish custom surveys in minutes, and then view results graphically and in real time.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Basic - free; Monthly pro - \$19.95/month; Annual Pro - \$200/year

Zoomerang

<http://www.zoomerang.com>

Developer: MarketTools, Inc.

Description: Create custom web-based surveys. Enables you to quickly and efficiently collect and analyze market research surveys, employee surveys, customer satisfaction surveys and more.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Basic - Free; Professional for Business - \$599/yr, \$199/3mo, or \$75/1mo; Professional for educators or nonprofit - \$350/yr, \$99/3mo, or \$75/1mo

MAPPING TOOLS

Geographic/Geospatial Information Mapping

Digital Watershed

<http://35.8.121.101/water/mapfp.htm>

Developer: Michigan State University and US EPA

Description: Designed to provide both a centralized information repository and an online computing center for watersheds in the United States. This site is based on the comprehensive database of 8-digit watersheds for the whole continent of the United States, which is included in the EPA BASINS system. The database contains all regulated facilities, river network, DEM, state soil and other data layers. Also has mapping functions.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Earth Knowledge

<http://www.earthknowledge.net/home/>

Developer: Earth Knowledge, Inc.

Description: Interactive map resource for information about the Earth. Provides a bridge from the scientific community to all those who care about the Earth – business and community leaders, students and educators, the media, and others. Earth Knowledge is actively involved in facilitating day-to-day conversations among communities, policy makers and scientists to help maintain the delicate balance between consumption and preservation of the earth's resources.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Basic – Free; Standard, Enhanced and Professional subscription services are coming soon and will be \$4.99, \$24.99 and \$124.99/mo, respectively.

Google Earth

<http://earth.google.com>

Developer: Google

Description: Lets you fly anywhere on Earth to view satellite imagery, maps, terrain, 3D buildings and even explore galaxies in the Sky. You can explore rich geographical content, save your toured places and share with others.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price:

Google Earth - Free

Plus - \$20/yr; Adds GPS device support, faster performance, the ability to import spreadsheets, and higher resolution printing.

Pro - \$400/yr; Ideal for an organization: adds access to powerful research, presentation, and collaboration tools for location-specific information.

Google Maps

<http://maps.google.com/maps>

Developer: Google

Description: A free web mapping service application and technology provided by Google that powers many map-based services including the Google Maps website, Google Ride Finder and embedded maps on third-party websites via the Google Maps API. It offers street maps, a route planner, and an urban business locator for numerous countries around the world. Provides directions, interactive maps, and satellite/aerial imagery of the United States. Can also search by keyword such as type of business.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Long-Term Hydrologic Impact Assessment

http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/runoff/lthia/lthia_index.htm

Developer: Purdue University and US EPA

Description: Long-Term Hydrologic Impact Assessment, is designed to help these people to quantify the impact of land use change on the quantity and quality of their water. This tool uses the land use and a soil characteristic from the user along with thirty years of precipitation data to determine the average impact that a particular land use change or set of changes will have on both the annual runoff and the average amount of several non-point source pollutants.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Web Soil Survey

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app>

Developer: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Description: Access soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. Web Soil Survey also has planning functions.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

Window to my Environment

<http://earth1.epa.gov/enviro/wme>

Developer: US EPA

Description: Map the location of regulated facilities, monitoring sites, water bodies, population

density, perspective topographic views. provides selected geographic statistics about your area of interest, including estimated population, county/urban area designations, local watersheds/waterbodies, etc. Link to information from federal, state, and local partners on environmental issues like air and water quality, watershed health, Superfund sites, fish advisories, impaired waters, as well as local services working to protect the environment in your area. Window to my Environment also has planning functions.

Accessibility: Web-based program

Price: Free

World Wind

<http://worldwind.arc.nasa.gov/>

Developer: NASA

Description: World Wind lets you zoom from satellite altitude into any place on Earth. Leveraging Landsat satellite imagery and Shuttle Radar Topography Mission data, World Wind lets you experience Earth terrain in visually rich 3D, just as if you were really there. Virtually visit any place in the world. Look across the Andes, into the Grand Canyon, over the Alps, or along the African Sahara.

Accessibility: Downloadable software

Price: Free

Case Example – Map-based commenting

To capture the things that matter most to people—where they live, work, and play—the Bureau of Land Management developed a map-based commenting tool for the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) process. During the public comment period, people could explore the Draft EIS alternatives on the landscape, flag locations, and give input to BLM tied to a particular spot on the map. The map-based commenting tool was developed by the University of Colorado and Daylight Decisions (<http://www.daylightdecisions.com/ddweb/>)

KNOWLEDGE/CONCEPT MAPPING

Cmap tools

<http://cmap.ihmc.us/>

Developer: IHMC

Description: Software empowers users to construct, navigate, share, and criticize knowledge models presented as concept maps. It allows users to, among many other features, construct their Cmaps in their personal computer, share them on servers (CmapServers) anywhere on the Internet, link their Cmaps to other Cmaps on servers, automatically create web pages of their concept maps on servers, edit their maps synchronously (at the same time) with other users on the Internet, and search the web for information relevant to a concept map.

Accessibility: Downloadable software

Price: Free for educational institutions, federal employees working for the US Government, and for individual use (non commercial), and at this time the software is being offered free as a beta test version to other users.

Visio

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/visio/default.aspx>

Developer: Microsoft

Description: Visualize, explore, and communicate complex information. Go from complicated text and tables that are hard to understand to Visio diagrams that communicate information at a glance. Use the wide variety of diagrams in Office Visio 2007 to understand, act on, and share information about organizational systems, resources, and processes throughout your enterprise. Office Visio 2007 is available in two stand-alone editions: Office Visio Professional and Office Visio Standard.

Accessibility: CD based software

Price:

Standard Full Product - \$259.95; Same basic functionality as Visio Professional 2007 and includes a subset of its features and templates.

Professional Full Product - \$559.95; Offers advanced functionality, such as data connectivity and visualization features, that Office Visio Standard 2007 does not.

MULTI-CRITERIA DECISION ANALYSIS

Criterion DecisionPlus

<http://www.infoharvest.com/ihroot/infoharv/products.asp>

Developer: InfoHarvest

Description: Manage the entire decision process. Applying a structured methodology to decision making, Criterion DecisionPlus helps you make precise, thoughtful, and completely supportable decisions quickly and efficiently. Strengths are in supporting: A structured decision-making framework that is totally transparent (the basic algorithms can be displayed on a spreadsheet); Immediate, graphic feedback from what-if analysis; Easy evaluation of sensitivities of the rankings of alternatives to weights/trade-offs to help groups focus on key issues; Ability to incorporate uncertainties in performance scores (and thereby defuse potentially extensive arguments among experts); Graphic portrayal of sensitivities of rankings to uncertainties in performance scores and support of value of information analyses; Consensus building; Minimizing the time and cost of reaching closure on major decisions; Full verbal and graphic documentation of all input to the decision process.

Accessibility: CD based software

Price: \$895.00

Case example - Criterion DecisionPlus

InfoHarvest developed a decision survey for Water Environment Services of Clackamas County, Oregon. The survey provides a framework for people to relay their values related to strategic wastewater planning. People are never asked about their positions (build a new wastewater plant or don't build a new wastewater plant). Instead the survey guides people through thinking through their interests, and then provides a best-fit based on their inputs and the data about the alternatives. They are also invited to dig deeper into why they ended up with a particular best-fit. To take the survey, visit

<http://www.decisioncafe.com/ccwes/ww/df.asp?qsht=P831LNAU142851329820059...> (Put in any value for step 2: your neighborhood.)

CONTENT ANALYSIS

CommentWorks

<http://www.icfi.com/services/enterprise-solutions/commentworks/overview.asp>

Developer: ICF International, Inc.

Description: ICF International's e-Government, Web-based public participation system. With it, government agencies and their consultants efficiently manage public comments on controversial initiatives. The public can submit comments and view comments and other materials through the Web. [Note: this is a standard, top of the line, official resource for government agencies to deal with public comment]

Accessibility: CD based software

Price: ICF International typically licenses the use of CommentWorksSM on a monthly or longer-term basis. The price also depends on the number of users you would like authorized to have access to the software. For specific pricing information or to arrange a demonstration of CommentWorksSM, contact Gary Light at 703.934.3928.

Concordance

<http://www.concordancesoftware.co.uk/>

Developer:

Description: for anyone who needs to study texts closely or analyze language in depth. Make indexes and word lists, count word frequencies, compare different usages of a word, analyze keywords, find phrases and idioms, and publish to the web.

Accessibility: Downloadable software.

Price: \$99; Second and subsequent editions - \$40.

NVivo

<http://www.qsrinternational.com/>

Developer: QSR International Pty Ltd.

Description: It removes many of the manual tasks associated with analysis, like classifying, sorting and arranging information, so you have more time to explore trends, build and test theories and ultimately arrive at answers to questions.

Accessibility: CD based software

Price: Education sector - \$595; Government - \$1,040; Commercial sector - \$2,085.

Each full license allows you to install our NVivo 8 software on one computer and use it indefinitely.

GEOVISUALIZATION AND SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT/TESTING

Case example – St. Croix River Crossing

Visual simulations were developed by construction engineers to help participants understand and discuss options for different bridge locations and types in this highly contentious and long running dispute in Minnesota-Wisconsin.

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/visualanim.html>

Case example - Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project

Visual simulations were developed to give people a sense of what a new light rail line would look like as it runs through existing neighborhoods. As a part of the environmental analysis

phase of the project, the simulations depict a new bridge across the Willamette River, the rail line elevated and at-grade, and the rail line with stations. Appendix D: Visual Simulations at <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=27496>

Vensim

<http://www.vensim.com>

Developer: Ventana Systems, Inc.

Description: Constructs models of business, scientific, environmental, and social systems. For developing, analyzing, and packaging high quality dynamic feedback models. Models are constructed graphically or in a text editor. Features include dynamic functions, subscripting (arrays), Monte Carlo sensitivity analysis, optimization, data handling, application interfaces, and more.

Accessibility: Downloadable software

Price: PLE commercial license - \$50/user; PLE Plus commercial license - \$169/user;

Professional commercial license - \$1195/user; DSS commercial license - \$1995/user

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