

How do I mind map on a computer?

Mind Mapping is a widely used and effective technique that can be used to visually represent complex information in some kind of hierarchical structure. It is a strategy generally performed with paper and pen, but doing it on a computer can bring a host of additional benefits for students, researchers and academics. There are countless programmes and apps available for computer, tablet, smartphone and the web, which all approach mind mapping in a different way. This worksheet will talk through the basic pros and cons of mind mapping on a computer and introduce you to the University provided software called MindGenius.

Analogue Vs Digital

Making mind maps with paper and pen is quick and easy. People often find that they like the simple tactile experience of getting their ideas down on paper ready. In addition to this, you don't need to wait for the paper to boot or deal with your pens running out of batteries. However, mapping on a computer provides a host of additional functions that may make losing some of the benefits of paper and pen worthwhile.

Pen & Paper Mind Mapping

- Quick and Easy
- 'Feels' better - tactile connection to information
- More scope to be creative
- Convenient

Computer Mind Mapping

- Unlimited Size
- Editable
- Import files, images, videos
- Keep track of resources and references
- Export options (especially MS Word)
- Easy to be neat

Some people like to make their maps on paper first, then transfer the results to a computer later, when they want to develop the map further. This is the obvious "best of both worlds" solution.

For more information about using mind mapping in general as part of your academic skill set, I'd encourage you to speak to the Student Learning Service, whose details you can find at the end of this worksheet.

Introducing MindGenius

MindGenius is a Mind Mapping tool that the University of Aberdeen licenses for use by its staff and students. It can be found on all of the classroom and staff computers and is available for download by staff and registered students on a single personal machine. It is a flexible tool, available for Windows and Mac, that can be used for anything from basic mind maps to project and research management. It is widely used in the private sector so knowledge of using it can be beneficial beyond your studies.

For more information about MindGenius in general, please go to mindgenius.com

Accessing MindGenius

Classroom Computer

MindGenius can be found on the desktop of all standard classroom machines on campus. You can find it on the desktop, inside the folder named 'Assistive Technology'.

Staff Computer

MindGenius is not installed by default on staff machines but can be installed via the [Software Center](#).

Personal Machine

Staff and Students can download MindGenius on their own personal machine from the [Software Download Service](#) so long as they are a registered student or employed by the University (contact IT Services if you have any questions about this).

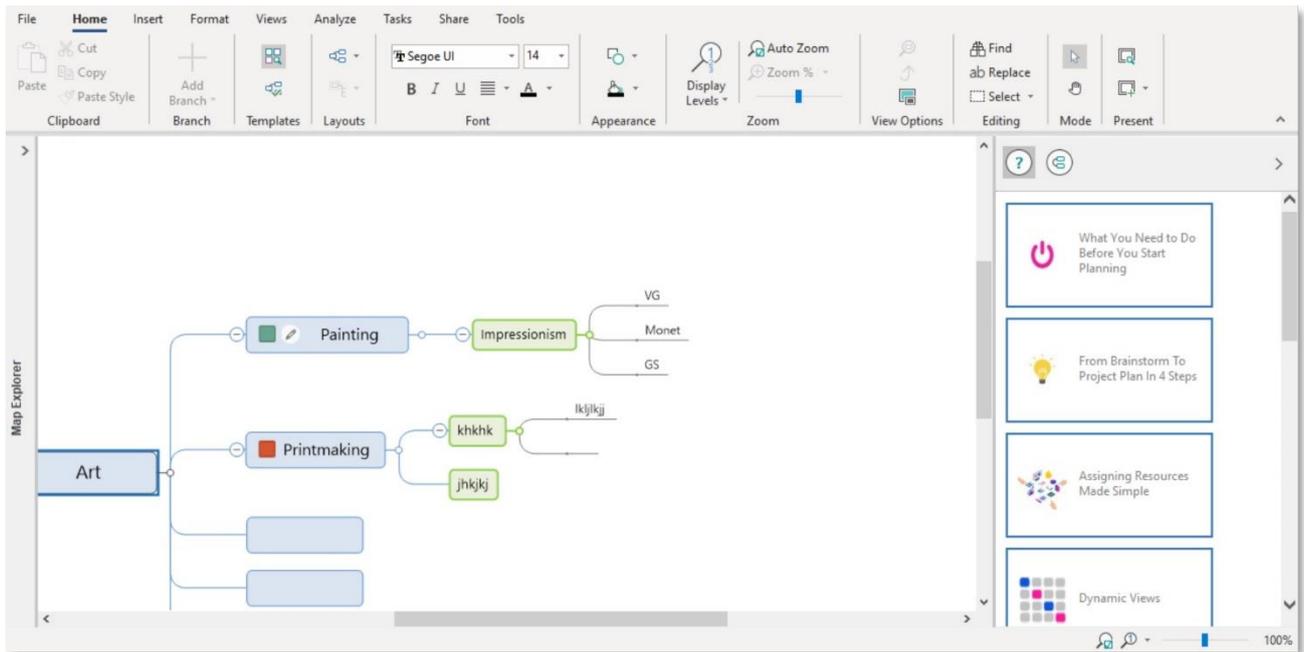
To download and install:

1. Open your web browser and go to www.abdn.ac.uk/local/download/
2. Enter your username and password when prompted just as you would when logging into a university computer.
3. Click on the MindGenius folder to open it.
4. Download the Windows or Mac installer as required.
5. Save the Windows or Mac instructional pdf as appropriate.
6. Work through the instructions. You will find the license key required in the instructional pdf.

Making Your First Map

The best way to get started with MindGenius is to follow the steps presented in the right hand menu when you open the software. The menu has advice and videos on the following topics:

- What you need to do before you start planning
- From brainstorm to project plan in 4 steps
- Assigning resources made simple
- Dynamic views
- A quick look at project status
- MindGenius online
- Hints and tips
- Getting started PDF
- Online resources
- Support contacts
- Product help



The best way to get to know any software is to simply use it, so follow the guidance and have a go yourself. After that, have a look at some of the other MindGenius resources available in Toolkit.

Links and Resources

- Student Learning Service: abdn.ac.uk/sls
- MindGenius: mindgenius.com
- IT Service Desk: myit.abdn.ac.uk