

Mindjet's MindManager 6 Pro: *Computerized Mind Maps*



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the External Expression of Radiant Thinking
A tool for creativity, learning, and file and project management

Introduction

Mindjet MindManager 6 Pro, <http://www.mindjet.com/us/>, is the market leading productivity software for visualizing and managing information, allowing individuals and teams to more effectively think, plan, and collaborate. The educational price is \$149 which is 50% off the commercial price. It is a software version for creating Mind Maps. Mindmapping was developed in the early 1970s by Tony Buzan as a tool to help people take notes more effectively. He later discovered that mindmapping increased his students thinking skills. It employs radiant thinking that maximizes free association and, for many people, increases their efficiency when compared to linear thinking that we've all used in creating outlines or filing systems. It's most basic form is shown in Figure 1.

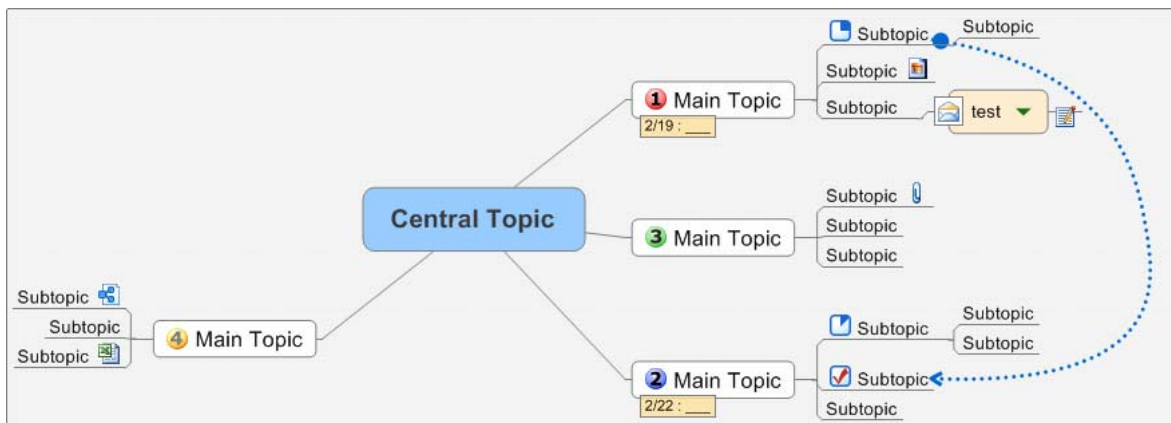


Figure 1. Basic Mind Map

Today mindmapping is used by most of the global fortune 500 companies to capture, organize, and share information. Simple mind maps can be created with paper and pen and for those interested in learning more about mind mapping and radiant thinking in general, I recommend *The Mind Map Book* by Tony and Barry Buzan and *Mindmapping- Your Personal Guide to Exploring Creativity and Problem-Solving* by Joyce Wycoff. The first can be found at amazon.com. The second, not currently at amazon may be at the library. Mindmapping has an almost unlimited number of uses. I use it for writing, project organization, brainstorming, meetings, creating "to do" lists, presentations, and note taking.

Computers & Mindmapping

Mindjet MindManager 6 Pro takes simple mindmapping to a new level by harnessing the speed and power of the computer by interacting with software you already use, smart add-in programs like Gyronix Results Manager 2 and GyroQ Pro (www.gyronix.com/), and by allowing you to create mind maps that link together. It is possible to link files like Word documents, PowerPoint, Excel, database, Acrobat files or graphics to a topic or subtopic in a mind map. MindManager lets you attach links in a mind map to web sites, other mind maps, and even emails too. Think about this for a moment. You can create a single mind map of your current projects and these in turn can have links to all of the associated files, web references, notes or emails. Imagine opening one master mind map on your computer and then with a few clicks quickly manage all your projects or find your files.

Figure 2 shows my master work project navigator mind map. Each project has a link to another mind map with topics and subtopics associated with that project. Note the use of color and shapes which help make a map more organized and readable. Figure 3 is one of the linked maps expanded. It is a simple prioritized "to do" map but with reminders and start and end dates. It also shows the owners of each task. At a glance I can review this simple map and know the status of this particular project. Note also the reminder to update my bibliography. I linked my

annual performance review file to this reminder so when the budget document is published and completed, with one click I'll open and make the revisions to this MS Word file that contains my bibliography.

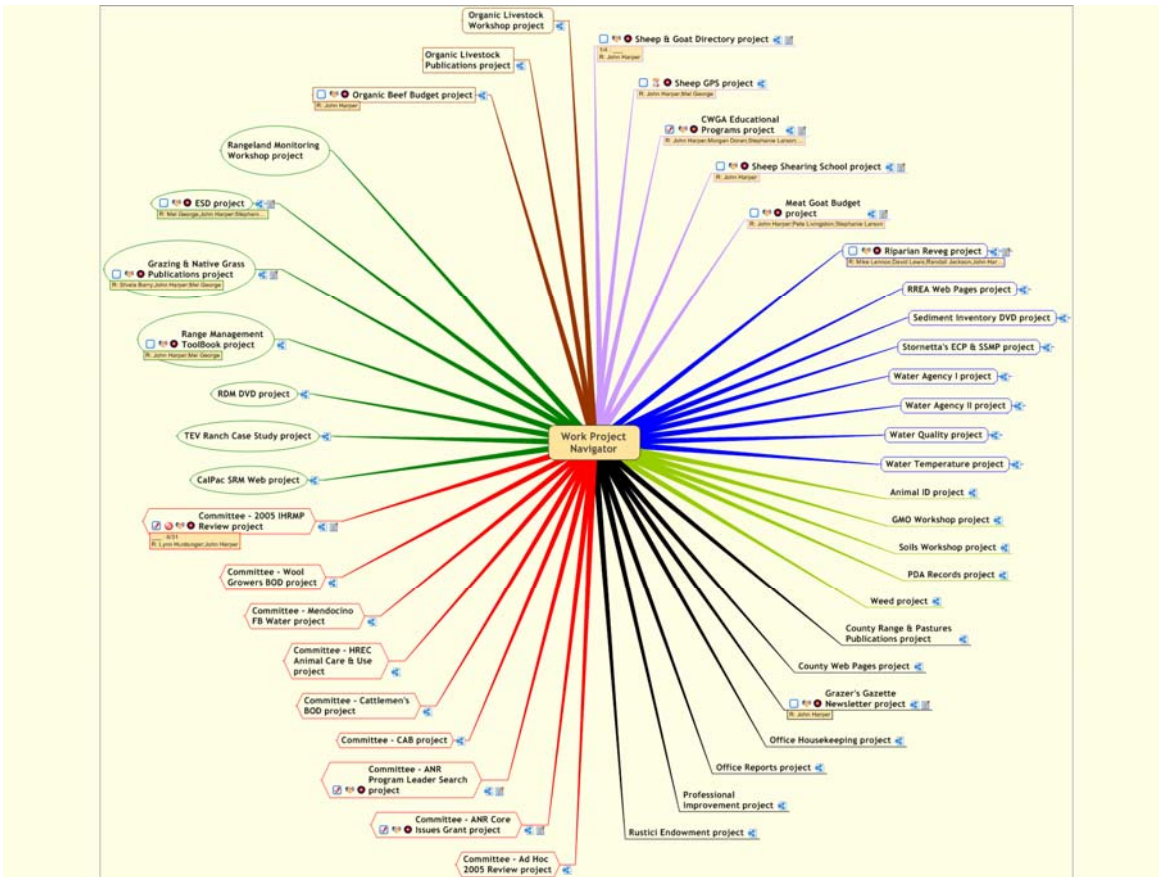


Figure 2. Master Work Project Navigator Map

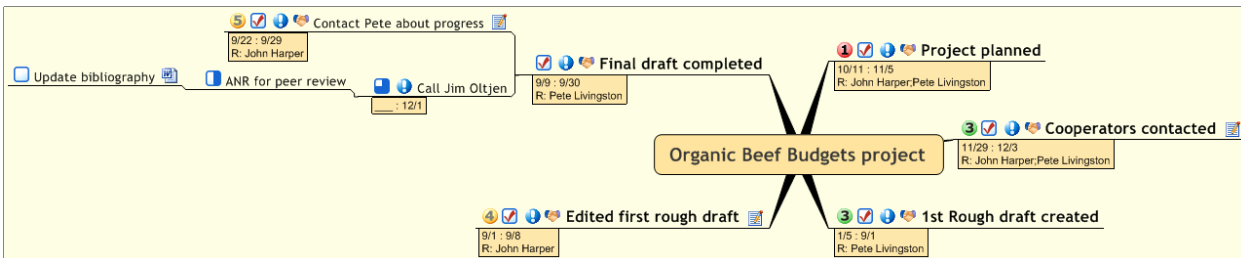


Figure 3. Organic Beef Budget Project

I mentioned two programs by the Gyronix Company earlier, Results Manager Vista Pro and GyroQ Pro. Cost of these two add-ins, which work inside of MindManager, are \$285 and \$55 respectively but they offer 40% discounts for educational institutions making them very reasonable. Both help implement David Allen's Getting Things Done (GTD) methods (see www.davidco.com/). My other handout talks more about GTD.

Using MindManager software for brainstorms, project planning, meeting notes, problem solving or creative thinking is highly productive, very addictive and a lot of fun. I hope you'll think so too.



Contact Information

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