Introduction

Notely.net is an organizational website that is dedicated for student use. Created by British student Tom Whitson, Notely.net helps students of all ages benefit in their educational lives by getting organized. Notely.net has numerous helpful organizational features. Some of these features include: calendar, to do list, notes, schedule, and whiteboard. Through Notely.net’s features, students who have problems organizing their school work and personal lives have an online solution to their problems. Here is a simple introductional video on how to use Notely.net. Take the time to check it out and see if notely.net is right for you.

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I. History

Notely.net was created by Tom Whitson. Whitson is a British college graduate who received his degree at Imperial College. Whitson felt he needed a tool to help him organize his workload and schedule. After observing the potential of online organizational tools, Whitson started brainstorming Notely.net. Whitson continuously searches for improvements to his creation; therefore, he often takes suggestions and input from Notely.net users. Notely.net is a very user friendly educational tool. Whitson’s main goals and objectives were to help the students that were dependent on the internet to use his organization tools. Furthermore, Whitson has aspirations of globalization on his mind; in fact, the creator envisions Notely.net having an international impact and reaching organizational users across the globe.

http://uk.linkedin.com/in/tomwhitson

II. Purpose

Today’s students are more digitally inclined. There are many new advances that either leaves the students in the dust or forces the students to learn more. Notely makes note-taking easy and helps students organize this information in a cycle. Through Notely, students can capture, organize and share these notes. This increases learning and retention. Notely is also a web application that is designed and updated by students. Students have control over what they believe is more helpful. One thing that is exceptional is that Notely is extremely easy to use! “From meetings to appointments to writing in class, Notely has you covered all the way.”

To start your organization now, go to this website...it's COMPLETELY FREE! http://notely.net

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III. Features


Here are several features that Notely excels with and unique ways to use this application:

- Calendar
- Schedule
- Uploads
- Journals
- Links
- To-Dos
- Task
- Notes
- Courses
- Tools
- Whiteboard
- Settings
- Friends
- Contacts
- Grades

1. CALENDAR

The Calendar feature has numerous unique features that help users stick to a tight schedule. When a user clicks on the “Calendar” button, the calendar appears in the default setting “Month View.” However, users can view events by time slots within each day by simply clicking on the “Day View” button. If a user wanted to view events by a time slot during the week, then users would be able to access that information by selecting the “Week View” option. Notely.net users may also add events, edit previous events, and add comments on events by simply clicking on the “Add Event” button which can be found on the toolbar. Within the “Add Event” feature, users can do the following: create a title for the event, list the date of the event, post a starting time for the event, the duration of the event, and create a pop up reminder that gives users advance notice of specific events. Located within the toolbar found at the bottom of the computer screen, Notely.net gives Macintosh users the opportunity to download the Notely.net calendar to their iCalendar. In addition, Notely.net users can also select the “Backup” button to download and save the calendar information to Microsoft Excel. The feature also has a viewing toolbar that allows users to scroll back and forth between months on the calendar to quickly search for events.

This video is a great way to learn how to use the Calendar section of Notely.

2. SCHEDULE

The “Schedule” feature of the Notely.net toolbar seems to be an unnecessary duplicate of the “Calendar” feature. The “Schedule” feature includes several pre-made labels which users can stick onto the appropriate time slots available on the schedule. Students can change the time listed on the schedule by clicking on the time itself and then typing the new changed time. In addition, students can add or delete slots of time by clicking on the “Add New Row” or “Remove Last Row” buttons. These buttons can be found on the bottom of the computer screen. Another strange aspect regarding the “Schedule” feature is that the labels cannot be changed; therefore, users are stuck with the labels that already exist.

If you take a look at this video, it will show you how easy it is to use the Calendar on Notely.

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3. TO-DOS

"To-Dos" is another handy feature that Notely.net offers users. The "To-Dos" feature allows users to keep track of upcoming tasks that may occur. Within the "To-Dos" section, users can successfully add events. Users can add events by clicking the "add to-do" button found on the toolbar. When adding an event in the "To-Dos" sections, users can do the following: create a title to the task, provide the due date for the task, provide what time the task is due, prioritize the task, customize the code for the task, and leave a note regarding the task. Once the task is submitted, the task appears on the "To-Dos" menu. Once the task is listed on the menu, users have the options to edit, delete, or indicate that the task has been completed. Users may also view their tasks by clicking on the "Browse Your To-dos" button within the toolbar. The "To-Dos" feature has a similar characteristic to the "Calendar" feature. If a Notely.net user is using a Macintosh computer, the "To-Dos" list can be downloaded to the iCalendar. Notely.net users still have the same ability to backup their "To-Dos" list to Microsoft Excel, and they also have access to RSS (Really Simple Syndication). RSS allows users to view the latest news feeds from their favorite blogs, news services and other websites. This is especially helpful because it saves the user from having to regularly visit those sites for updates.

Check out this video to see how simple it is to use the To-Do part of Notely.

4. TASK

The "Task" feature in Notely.net is a fantastic tool for student use when organizing assignments, quizzes, and exams. The "Task" feature allows users to organize their classroom responsibilities by course, task, due date, and the time when the task is to be completed. Also, students are allowed to write notes to themselves through this feature. Students can write any particular information that may be needed in order to complete a school task. This video is about the Task part of Notely.

5. NOTES

The "Notes" feature is an amazing way for students to keep track for their class findings. The "Notes" feature allows students to organize their classroom notes in a variety of ways. Users have to ability to arrange their notes by: class, date, title, and number. The "Notes" feature allows students the ability to reproduce their notes in a legible and organized method. Instead of carrying six different notebooks, through Notely.net, students can have all their course notes in the convenience of one website. Also, Notely.net provides students with many options when producing notes. Notely.net allows students to turn their notes into Word Documents, PDF files, and Textual Documents. The "Notes" feature is a tool that would be of great value to enhance organization while also helping students with legibility issues in their note taking process.

Writing Notes on Notely is very simple, Look!

Exporting notes on Notely is also simple, as this video will demonstrate.

6. COURSES

The "Courses" feature is a valuable tool to help students keep track of their current courses. Through the "Courses" feature, students can see in which courses they are enrolled, where the class meets, the educator that teaches the course, and the start and end dates for the course. Also, through the "Courses" feature, students can view notes that have been taken from the class. Although this feature seems to be covered in the schedule and notes features, the "Courses" feature does provide students with concrete information regarding their current courses. Although this feature seems to be an unnecessary tool, the feature does provide students with concrete organization regarding their course times and meetings.
7. WHITEBOARD

The "Whiteboard" feature serves as a basic word processing tool on Notely.net. Although this feature can be found on pretty much every computer system, the feature is still useful. The "Whiteboard" feature allows students to brainstorm, draft, and create effective pieces of writing. The "Whiteboard" feature is a place where students can plan any type of assignment, paper, or creative piece of writing. The "Whiteboard" feature is an excellent tool for student planning.

8. LINKS

Another unique aspect to Notely.net is the "Links" feature. Through the "Links" feature, students can add links to access different locations on the internet. This feature can be very beneficial to helping students become organized. Also, this feature provides an easier way for students to access the internet. Notely.net users can access this feature by scrolling down to the bottom of the page and simply clicking the add link/picture button. After the add button is clicked, students can enter the particular link and title. In addition, students can edit and delete options to any previous added link. All of the links stored on the Notely.net account are available directly from the word-link toolbar. Users can click the link or picture button to access notes. If you have any other questions, check out this website: http://www.notely.net/support/faq.php.

9. UPLOADS

The "Uploads" feature is a great way for students to make their Notely.net pages look nice and professional. The "Uploads" feature is used to enhance the look and feel of a Notely.net user's page. Students can upload the following items to their notes: pictures, documents, media resources, and video. Students can learn more effectively through various types of instructional media, such as audio and video resources. Students may add uploads to their notes by simply clicking on the link or picture button. After uploading the items through the browse window, which is similar to the word-like toolbar, students can embed the image, audio, video, or document files into the lecture or link. Currently, Notely.net users can upload an unlimited amount of information to their notes. Through uploading materials, students are using e-learning to help themselves and others learn effectively. To see how the "Uploads" feature works, click on the link below.


10. JOURNALS

The "Journal" feature on Notely.net is used to help students manage their thoughts, ideas, and organizational skills. Although journal writing can be easily accomplished by writing in a notebook, students would benefit greatly by uploading their writings to their Notely.net page. By uploading journal writing to the Notely.net webpage, students will always have all their writing in one spot without risk out of losing any assignments. To access the "Journal" feature within Notely.net, click the journal entries button found on the left hand column under Menu. To add an entry to your journal, simply click the add entry button. This interface is similar to the "Notes" feature. Students can type in their information and add all the formatting, images, or links that are necessary. If users already have their writing somewhere else on their computer, it would be just as easy to upload the writing as a separate link. Once students have finished typing or uploading their entries, students should then click submit and the entry will automatically be saved. It is that simple. By entering journals through Notely.net, students will be more prepared because they can access their journal entries anywhere, anytime. If you would like to try out the "Journals" feature, click on the link below and go under the demo student. Once you have access to Notely.net, you may write a journal entry and save your writing. Have fun and explore.

http://www.notely.net/demo.php

11. TOOLS

The "Tools" feature has a variety of functions. The creator of Notely.net has put together many useful tools including: a scientific calculator, a converter used to compute standard units into metric units, a translator of 23 languages, and a dictionary. The "Tools" feature is a one stop shop for everything a student needs in courses such as English, Math, Science, and/or Foreign Languages.

How to use translator in "tools":

Unknown macro: [center]

How to use converter in "tools":

Unknown macro: [center]
How to use calculator in "tools":

Here is a short and helpful video that shows an example of the dictionary in "tools":

12. SETTINGS

The “Settings” feature is very unique. In this feature, the student specifies their id (email address), name, gender, birth year, country, and school, all while displaying a creative avatar. For security reasons, the student doesn’t have to enter information they do not wish be displayed. Within this feature, the student can also set a date format, either UK style (dd/mm/yy) or USA style (mm/dd/yy), a time format, either 12 hour or 24 hour, and a specific time zone. The “Settings” feature also has a calendar in which a user can set to-do lists, reminders, and alarms all in the language of the student’s choice. The last option under “Settings” is the ability to edit the menu to the student’s preferences.

13. FRIENDS

Through the “Friends” feature, users can invite their friends to join Notely.net. By providing friends’ e-mail addresses, Notely.net will send those friends an invitation to join the website. This procedure is similar to adding friends onto Facebook.

14. CONTACTS

Using the “Contacts” feature, users keep their contact list in an easy to read manner. Notely.net users may consider this feature similar to an online PDA. If a user wanted to look up someone’s e-mail address or phone number, Notely.net can retrieve that information easily.

15. GRADES

The “Grades” feature allows students to keep their grades organized. Much like having a class schedule organized for viewing, students can add their grades as they are recorded. Through this process, a student would be able to easily keep track of his or her own grades.

In case there is something that we missed, here is a link to a site that may be able to further explain any other queries that you may have about specific features of notely. Check it out.

http://www.youtube.com/user/NotelyTour

IV. Business

A full-time student cannot make it to every lecture or study session. When students need a friend to fill them in, they can turn to Notely.net. Signing up for this free social network gives students access to a website that can only be described as Facebook for academic achievers. Students can upload and download class notes in Word format or PDF and share them with classmates that are Notely.net “friends.” Notely.net builds upon the type of socialization that occurs in the college climate. Users can send internal messages to one another or use the virtual Whiteboard to write notes, viewable only to designated friends (like the universal dorm room accessory: the dry-erase board). Other features include: the ability store and track students grades, help to create and save thoughts in mindmap form, and post stumpers on the Notely.net community board that other students can answer. Lastly, if Notely.net had a list of nearby parties and late-night diners, Notely.net would be the center of the digital campus. There are several different applications that are similar and related.

Tips and Tools to Take Better Notes

1. PhatNotes 5.3
2. Notely.net
3. Google Docs
4. InfoScan TS Elite
5. LifeScribe Pulse smartpen
6. HP Pavilion tx2500z
7. Dell XT

V. Applications

Elementary Lesson Plans

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VI. Limitations

Although Notely.net is a helpful organizational tool, the website does have limitations. Notely.net does not clearly specify how much storage space is available on the website. Also, the “Calendar” and “Scheduling” sections could possibly be the weakest part. First, both features are very similar and could easily be combined. Secondly, the clock is formatted in military time. The user’s courses and meetings can be listed but Notely.net would recognize the appropriate time. There are other suitable options such as Google and Outlooks calendars. Students can also use their own word document or notebook to take notes. Notely.net seems to have numerous redundant features.

VII. Summary
Notely.net is an organizational website that benefits students. Through our extensive group research, we have analyzed Notely.net’s history, purpose, features, applications, and limitations. Our research has proved that Notely.net is an organizational tool that helps students organize their hectic educational lives while also serving as a place where students can gather class materials as well. Through Notely.net, students have the ability to organize and schedule their classes, record and take notes, brainstorm and create assignments, and upload and access school documents.

VIII. References

Lesson Plans derived from:
http://www.lessonplanspage.com/LessonTemplate.htm
http://www.lessonplanspage.com/printables/PSSHolocaustFullPlanHS.htm
http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/odyssey/


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