I. History

1. Development

Group Table was created by three college students from the University of Central Florida, David Brim, Scott Wall, and Carl Henderson. All three men were business majors at the university and had the idea to create an online student networking and document-sharing site to help students with class projects just like this one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Why</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Brim, Scott Wall, and Carl Henderson</td>
<td>Invented Group Table</td>
<td>University of Central Florida</td>
<td>February of 2008</td>
<td>Invented for the purpose of help students complete group projects easier and faster.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Their idea of Group Table began to develop in July of 2007, but the first version of the web site was released in February of 2008. These men entered their idea of Group Table into a business plan competition and were finalists in that competition, which springboarded their idea to new heights. It was created with the purpose of making group projects easier for the busy, varying schedules of college students.

Below is a video from Group Table co-creator David Brim explaining the development of the site.

Group Table is a web site that students can use to complete group projects without ever having to meet in person or send multiple emails back and forth. Users can upload documents right to the web site and share them with other group members. Each group member can collaborate and make changes to the document. Group Table automatically saves these changes in one document, eliminating the confusion of emailing multiple drafts.

2. How Do You Use Group Table?

Home Page: When you first log on to grouptable.com, you will be brought to the home page, also known as the “Getting Started” page. This page has three main headings, and you can also access other links while on this page. If you ever want to return to this home page, just click on “Getting Started” under the Resources Tab on the right side of the page.
Create and Edit a profile: Once you create a Group Table account, you are automatically given a profile. To edit your profile, simply click on “Profile” located on the green bar running across the top of the page. It will take you to a new page where you can edit your school, major, classes, groups, even an “About me” section and a profile picture. You can also edit contact information like your email and phone number, change your email preferences, and change your password.

Enter Classes: Add a new class to make yourself easy to find for your peers. By clicking “Add new class” under the Classes tab on the left side of your screen, you can create your own class where you can connect to your classmates! Under your own class link, you can contact your classmates, participate in class discussions, and see other groups within your class.

Joining/Creating Groups: Group Table does not have to be used for the classroom alone. You can create or join groups with your friends to keep in contact with each other. You can discuss business, and easily access each other’s documents using the “Binder” application. Creating a group gives you a plethora of ways to communicate and organize. To create a group, simply click on “+Add new group” under the Top Groups tab on the left side of the screen.

Also located on the green tab is a link to “Privacy.” This tab simply explains frequently asked questions about the privacy of your information on this page. Have other questions about the website? Located under the Resources tab, you can find a link to “Frequently Asked Questions.” This new page answers many questions that users frequently ask about the website policy and how to use it.
Other neat features include the “Binder.” You can find a link to this tab on the very top bar of Group Table. By adding binders, you can easily share information or links with other group members. It is very useful when sharing files from another source or when you need others to edit your information electronically.

Located on the top bar is a link to your “Groups,” as well as “Mail.” By clicking “Mail,” you can view your mailbox. This application is very much like an email account, only using Group Table to communicate. You can send private messages to one person, a couple of people, or even a group.

Group Table also has two very accommodating features. The “Chat” and “Discussion” links are located under your “Groups” tab. Using “Chat,” you can instant message anyone online. Much like the AIM feature, it allows you to change font styles and colors, add certain emoticons, and insert codes, quotes, URLs, and images. It is also very convenient for groups. When a member of your group signs on, he or she is automatically included in your group chat.

The “Discussion” feature is very similar to email. You and your group members can send ideas back and forth almost instantly. You can post a topic and your ideas, have other group members read it, and then you can all give feedback about certain ideas.

One last interesting feature includes the “Find a Textbook” link under the “Text Books” tab. By using this application, you can search for textbooks from amazon.com. There are almost 500,000 books to choose from and buy.
Plans and Pricing:

```
Only $8 per month
Save nearly 50%
$25 for 6 months
Save over 60%
$35 per year
```

We also have a free plan that enables you to participate in group discussions, view tasks and download files.

GroupTable is trusted by thousands of educators and students at major educational institutions and organizations around the world.

Testimonials:

“This is a great way to introduce your students to effective collaboration, communication, and 21st century literacy skills. It is essential that students learn how to collaborate on projects using web 2.0 technologies and Group Table provides the perfect space to practice.” -- iLearnTechnology.com

“As an instructor, the value I see in GroupTable is that I can still be involved in the student's projects. I can review their discussions through the program and provide guidance, clarification, direction, and even answer questions—all remotely. I can literally be in many places at the same time. I am looking forward to using this in my senior capstone class next semester.” -- Joan McCain, Instructor, Nicholson School of Communication

“Everyone was excited to use GroupTable and we all agreed that it would be essential to our group's success... little did we know that it would probably save the project.” -- Student, Bentley University

“We're all linked in one place; sharing documents, questions, & thoughts at our own convenience. It's pretty neat!” -- Roy Wolgamuth, Barry Law School

“I live an hour away from campus & work part time. Getting together for group projects used to be really tough... Not any more. Thanks GroupTable!” -- Matt Christian, University of Central Florida

“GroupTable cut out all the annoying emails and unnecessary meetings my groups typically have without sacrificing our grade.” -- Nathan Myers, Nova South Eastern University

“...deadlines can be assigned for different aspects of the workload to ensure that everyone is doing their part. All of the files and folders are stored in one location, which allows all members of the group to stay organized.” -- Central Florida Future

II. How Group Table Relates to Other Applications
1. Background Information

Group Table helps group project teams, study groups and student organizations improve document management, communication, and project learning. Group Table is a Web 2.0 application and a web-based software and success network that operates just like many other similar web applications. These applications may help students communicate with one another through blogging or various forms of messaging and can help the students to engage and explore the subject in new ways.

Group Table relates to several other applications in the sense that they all aim to help groups of people collaborate with each other in any possible way. From setting up live videos, managing data and other information, or publishing courses online, these web applications provide an easy system for enhancing learning or teaching opportunities.

2. Competitors

Group Table is comparable to several other Web 2.0 Applications. Some good examples of similar applications include SchoolRack and even the commonly known and widely-used program at Purdue University, Blackboard.

SchoolRack is a program that helps students, teachers, and parents all stay informed while outside the classroom. Some of what SchoolRack has to offer include sharing information, documents and files and holding discussions online and outside the classroom. Also, SchoolRack allows the report of grades online to students or their parents and people can stay in touch with private messaging.

Website: http://www.schoolrack.com/

Blackboard is a program designed for students and teachers to keep track of grades, documentation and other files. Students are able to hold discussions with other classmates and teachers online. Blackboard is available to keep track of notes and various assignments as well as provide announcements and assessments.

Website http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/blackboard/index.cfm
III. Educational Application

1. Elementary Lesson Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Grade:</th>
<th>Overview:</th>
<th>Files:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Food Pyramid</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>A lesson in which the students will learn about the 6 different food groups and what foods are healthy for them and which foods are not as healthy.</td>
<td>Word PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Disasters</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Lesson in which students will learn about different types of natural disasters, and what to do should they encounter one. The lesson plan includes the students taking a quiz that was developed using Group Table.</td>
<td>Word PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adding, Subtracting, &amp; Multiplying Fractions</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>STEM-based lesson in which students will access fraction worksheets through Group Table for additional practice.</td>
<td>Word PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phases of the Moon</td>
<td>Earth/Space Science</td>
<td>STEM-based lesson in which students will collaborate with group members to create a presentation on the phases of the moon.</td>
<td>Word PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Internet &amp; Creating Web Accounts</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>STEM-based lesson in which students will learn how to navigate the Internet and how to sign up for a Group Table account and use the application.</td>
<td>Word PDF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## 2. Secondary Lesson Plans

### Planets of the Solar System

**Subject:** Earth/Space Science  
**Grade Level:** 7th  
**Overview:** STEM-based lesson in which students will collaborate with group members through Group Table to research and design a presentation on a planet in our solar system.  
**Files:** Word PDF

### Writing Short Stories

**Subject:** Language Arts- Writing Skills  
**Grade Level:** 8th  
**Overview:** Students will work with a partner via Group Table to write a fictional short story.  
**Files:** Word PDF

### Chemistry Lab Reports

**Subject:** Chemistry I  
**Grade Level:** 10th-11th  
**Overview:** STEM-based lesson in which students will communicate with a lab partner via Group Table in order to complete a lab report.  
**Files:** Word PDF

### Historical Events in United States History Since 1900

**Subject:** United States History  
**Grade Level:** 10th-11th  
**Overview:** Students will collaborate and communicate with group members via Group Table to complete research and create a presentation on a significant historical event in U.S. history.  
**Files:** Word PDF

### Solving Multi-step Equations: The Party Method

**Subject:** Algebra  
**Grade Level:** 9th-10th  
**Overview:** In this lesson the equation is labeled as a 'party'. Group Table will be used for the collaboration of the class as well as taking quizzes as the teacher sees fit.  
**Files:** Word PDF

## 3. Post-Secondary Lesson Plans

### Persuasive Public Speaking

**Subject:** Communications- Public Speaking  
**Grade Level:** Introductory college course  
**Overview:** Students will use Group Table to collaborate with group members on a persuasive group speech about a problem facing university students and/or faculty and staff, and their solution to this problem.  
**Files:** Word PDF

### Elementary Education Lesson and Instructional Materials Development

**Subject:** Elementary Education- Classroom Development
IV. Demonstration of Educational Value

Group Table is a fantastic tool for students of all ages. Often times, group projects are difficult for students because they each have different schedules and find it difficult to make time for all members to meet and collaborate. This can cause confusion, as well as preventing some work from being accomplished. Group Table solves these problems by providing a collaborative space for people to post their ideas and documents, communicate with others, and schedule their time.

The site is not exclusive to group projects. It can be used to organize study groups or student organizations. Groups of students can post notes and other information that may be useful to their classmates. The chat room feature can be used to answer questions about material. The calendar feature enables groups to see the schedule of events.

Teachers might find Group Table helpful in interacting with students. Technology is constantly evolving, and since most students today are practically plugged in to the computers themselves, it is important for teachers to find ways to integrate technological tools into their classrooms. Teachers could create groups on Group Table for their classes, and spend some time getting their students signed up. Actively using this tool in the classroom might encourage students to use Group Table outside of the class.

Below is a video describing the various uses of Group Table.

V. How is Group Table Used Internationally?

Group Table is still a fairly new application. Although the majority of Group Table's users are from the United States, the application is used in a similar fashion in other countries. Below is a screen shot captured by site developer David Brim that shows the number of page views from specific countries in the month of October 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>106</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
VI. References

- http://blog.grouptable.com/about/
- http://www.grouptable.com/about
- http://www.grouptable.com/faq
- http://issuu.com/ucfbusiness/docs/intheknow_issue1
- http://davidbrim.org/
- http://news.ucf.edu/UCFnews/index?page=article&id=0024004105ac8aa2d011919d38efe00715f
- http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xstitiPXDLtA
- http://blog.grouptable.com/tips-to-help-your-student-group-project/
- http://blog.grouptable.com/
- http://twitter.com/#!/GroupTable

Pages

Group Table Research Page

Group Table Group Member Introduction Page