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Technology Tip

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Poll Everywhere

In a recent search for a tool to replace those infamous "clicker systems" that I'm sure many of us have invested in over the past few years, a colleague suggested I take a look at "Poll Everywhere". Poll Everywhere is an audience response tool that works through "text messaging" or the "web" depending on the type of question you wish to ask.

The Poll Everywhere software works as an "add-in" to Microsoft Power Point and there is a free version that you can try with no commitment. You can find the Power Point, Keynote or Google Slides versions of the software "add-in" here: https://www.polleverywhere.com/app

There is also a Poll Everywhere app for your smartphone. To get started you will need to create an account. Remember there is a free version.

Then you can download the version that works for you. Be sure to close your slide show program (Power Point, Keynote or Google Slides) prior to downloading and installing. Poll Everywhere will give you a reminder if you forget.

After software is downloaded and installation is complete you can open your slide show program (Power Point, Keynote or Google Slides). You should have an additional menu item on your header ribbon called "Poll Everywhere"

You are now ready to get started. The system is very simple to use. Just click on the "Poll Everywhere" button on the top ribbon. A drop down menu will be displayed. You can create a "new poll" or "insert an existing poll". There are several options on the type of poll you want to create (e.g. Multiple Choice, Word Cloud, Q&A, Rank Order, Clickable Image, Survey or Open Ended). You can also insert images and other items to help make your slides more visually engaging. The data you collect can be downloaded in your favorite spreadsheet format.

In summary, I think "Poll Everywhere" is an especially helpful tool to help gather instant audience response. I would definitely recommend giving it a try!