

GrabACoffee.com Reviews  
**iMindmap Review - The Official Mind Map  
Software Endorsed by Tony Buzan**



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## Introduction

I've been waiting for this version of iMindmap to come out for ages, having acquired an earlier version of the software last year.

It had a few small problems with it and was not as feature rich as some of its competitors but I'm delighted to say all this has changed in the new version 3.0.2. The latest version has a plethora of features available and compares very favourably with market leading competitors.

There are 3 versions available for sale, each with different levels of functionality and set at different price points:

- Elements \$99
- Professional \$199
- Ultimate \$299

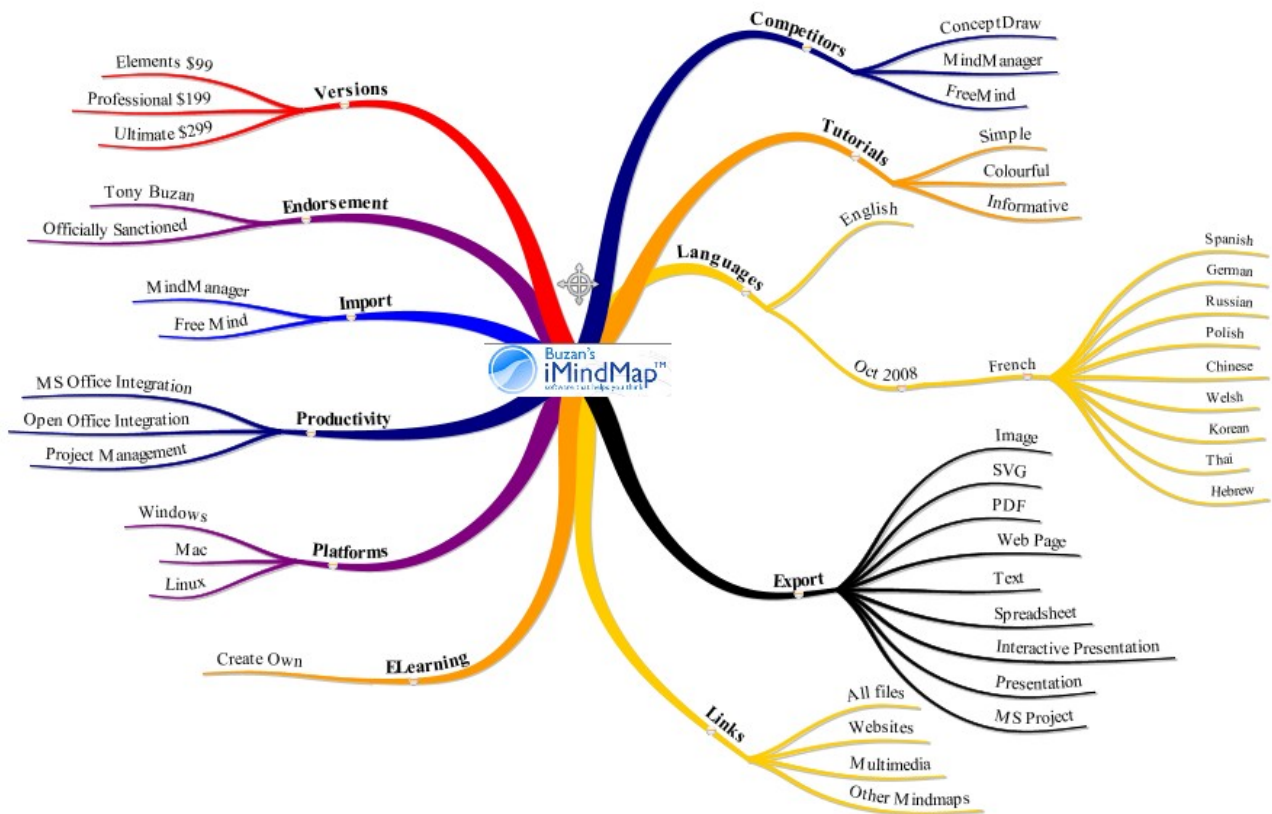
## Tutorials

Nice simple tutorial covering main features very quickly. Narration a bit slow for my tastes but maybe I just had too much coffee today ;-). There are a number of other tutorial videos on the site to get you up and running quickly.

The good news is the software is intuitive and quick to get to grips with so with the addition of the tutorial videos, you'll be mindmapping before you know it.

## Sample Mindmap

Here's a quick look at a simple mindmap I constructed (nothing fancy regarding icons, it took just a few minutes to construct):



## Languages Supported

English to start with but French, Spanish, German, Russian, Polish, Chinese [traditional], Welsh, Korean, Thai and Hebrew due in October 2008 should you need it.

## Fully integrated project management system

Only available in the ultimate version - this is of huge importance to business owners and entrepreneurs in particular. I have been waiting for this and am delighted it's here. Managing projects using Mindmaps is a fast, easy and intuitive way to get to grips with a vast amount of information.

## ELearning Courses

Ability to create and deliver your own Elearning courses in flash and integrate with iMindmap for delivery - very useful when you twin up with Camtasia produced information for example. Note - this functionality is exposed via an API which has not yet been documented/released. Technical support informs me this will be along pretty soon though.

## Competitors

Mindmapping has been around a while now and there are some well established players in the market like:

- MindManager
- Free Mind
- ConceptDraw

## The Competition

### #1 MindManager

I played with this a couple of years back and although it is fully featured and highly recommended, I found the user interface somewhat clinical and austere. Mindmaps are supposed to be more individual/personal/colourful and fun so you assimilate the information contained within for easier learning. This was the main reason which put me off, the other thing was the price. It was more expensive than

competitors and it's still more expensive today.

## **#2 Free Mind**

The great thing about this tool is the price: \$FREE

I have nothing against this tool whatsoever and if you are on a budget, it's a great place to start. For me though, like MindManager I found this a little clinical when I played around with it.

## **#3 Concept Draw**

Like with the previous two, it's been a couple of years since I played with this. I loved it to begin with, very colourful and vibrant user interface (out before iMindMap). Easy to use and a lot of features to boot. Price was an issue with this for me also but the other thing was I had created a humungous mindmap and was saving along as I went (however I was on a weekly backup schedule and I think you know where I'm going with this...) but the program crashed and the file was corrupted with no chance of retrieval just before my weekly backup came around.

I'm sure the software has come on leaps and bounds since then. From my background in software engineering I know there is no such thing as a 100% bug free program so don't let this deter you if you are thinking of it, every tool has issues and limitations, iMindmap being no exception.

## **Interoperability**

You have the ability to import Mind Manager and Free Mind maps so if you've already created your mind maps using these tools, it should be easy enough to import. Having said that, I have not tested this capability. Given the history of import/export operations in other tools, this may not be 100% picture perfect as vendors often protect themselves by keeping their output files difficult to re-engineer by using proprietary and private formats.

If you have a need to import, you will need to enquire with iMindmap directly. There is a 7 day free trial you should use to explore this feature thoroughly though to avoid any unwanted surprises.

## **Platform Independent**

Supports the 3 main computing operating systems: Windows, Linux and Mac so good news there

## **Sketch capability**

You can create your own drawings (if you can draw that is, it's on my to-do list to learn having purchased a book on the subject!) and this will be a great addition for anyone who wants to truly personalise their mindmaps - creating an electronic hybrid.

## **Hyperlinking**

We take hyperlinking for granted but this is a huge benefit. You can hyperlink to pretty much anything you want to, including other iMindmap files. This will enable you to create standalone mindmaps which can be integrated with other mindmaps in a mindmap network or nexus if you will.

## **Exporting**

You can export and share your mindmaps in PDF and image formats for all three versions but only the Ultimate version allows you to create interactive web exports (useful for sharing clickable mindmaps on the net) using scalable vector graphics.

## **Problems/Drawbacks**

Branch dragging/reforming didn't work as expected - this was when I chose the Speed mapping mode (this was down to the autolayout function always on when in speedmapping mode) - not a problem as you can switch modes but it took a couple of mins to figure out.

Copyright: There is mention of copyright for some of the icons. I have enquired with iMindmap and they say to not use any such icons in publicly distributed work (which icons are copyrighted are not known though!). So if you intend to distribute mindmaps publicly, make sure you use icons and graphics you know are royalty free or you own the copyright to.

I'm sure I'll hit some other issues but it's early days and as I said no software in the world is perfect.

### **Affiliate Program**

There is an affiliate program in place too which offers 40% commissions via Paypal, the extra benefit however is this is a two tier program offering an extra 10% per sale on any sales made by affiliates you refer as well.

[To join the affiliate program, click here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page for the affiliate program link.

### **Official Endorsement**

Tony Buzan is the man behind the invention of Mindmaps and iMindmap has his official seal of endorsement. Doesn't get much better than that IMHO.

### **GrabACoffee Recommendation**

If you have zero cash, FreeMind is the way to go. But if you have some cash, iMindmap is the way to go. It comes in at different price-points, all very competitive (better in fact) than the main competitors. If you're an entrepreneur who will want to share interactive mind maps on the web, you will need to get the Ultimate Version.

### **GrabACoffee Rating**

5 Star Cups of Coffee - A must have!



[\*\*iMindmap - Get It Now - Click Here\*\*](#)

### **Resources**

Review Video: [Watch here](#)

Review Podcast: [Listen Here](#)

Mindmaps created using [iMindmap – Click Here](#)

## Ratings System Explained

The reviews will be impartial, and based on a ratings system:



1 Cup = Don't touch with a barge-pole - no real caffeine hit here



2 Cup = Does not represent value for money - still nothing to write home about



3 Cup = Worth the money but could do better - caffeine buzz starting to show



4 Cup = Very good value - now we're talking, the neurons are firing up



5 Cup = Unmissable - ultimate caffeine buzz, your head is on fire with the implications

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