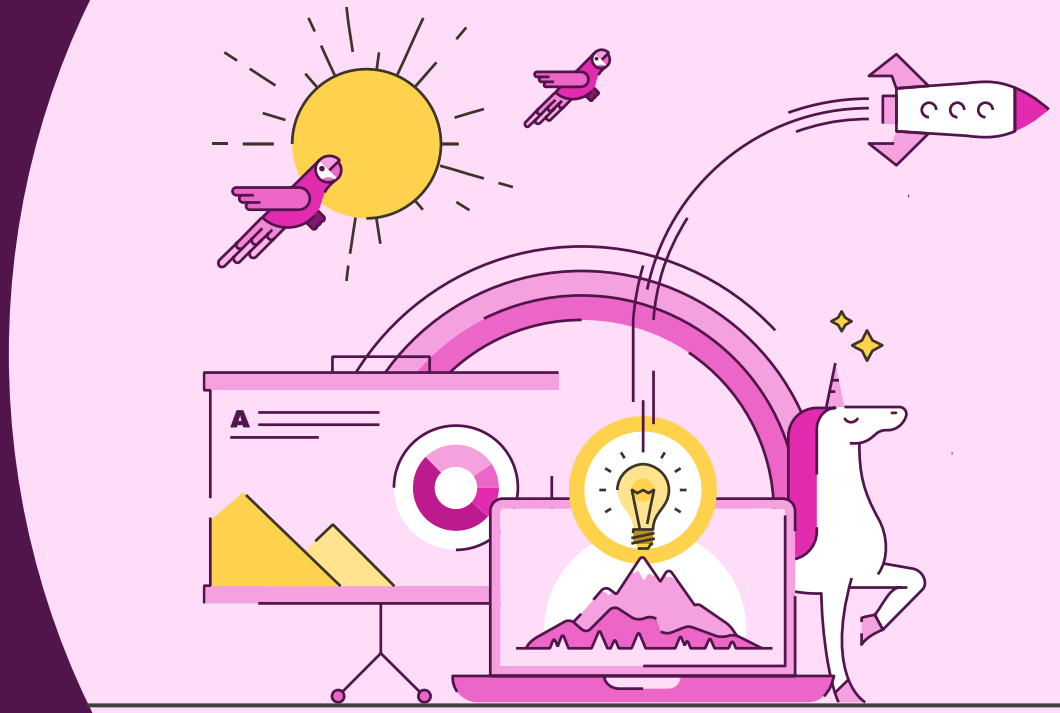
BrightCarbon

Visual conversations,
visible results



Using AI & add-ins to transform PowerPoint's capabilities

www.brightcarbon.com

AI in PowerPoint

AI is clearly the new hotness at the moment, and it's being applied to everything. Something old, something new, something borrowed, something generated from a large language model. PowerPoint is the something old. A tool that we all use so much, it's pretty much like breathing at this point. The advantage of PowerPoint is that everyone uses it and it's easy to share with a common format, so incorporating AI into PowerPoint is clearly a sensible approach. At least, unless and until something completely mind-blowing comes along.

The issue is that AI in PowerPoint itself is still relatively new and very immature. There are some things you can do now, but I'd encourage you to consider the right tool for the job, and that may mean expanding into a few other tools – certainly for now.

To me, generative AI tools are often best – at general scale – for text generation and comprehension, image creation, and very soon video production.

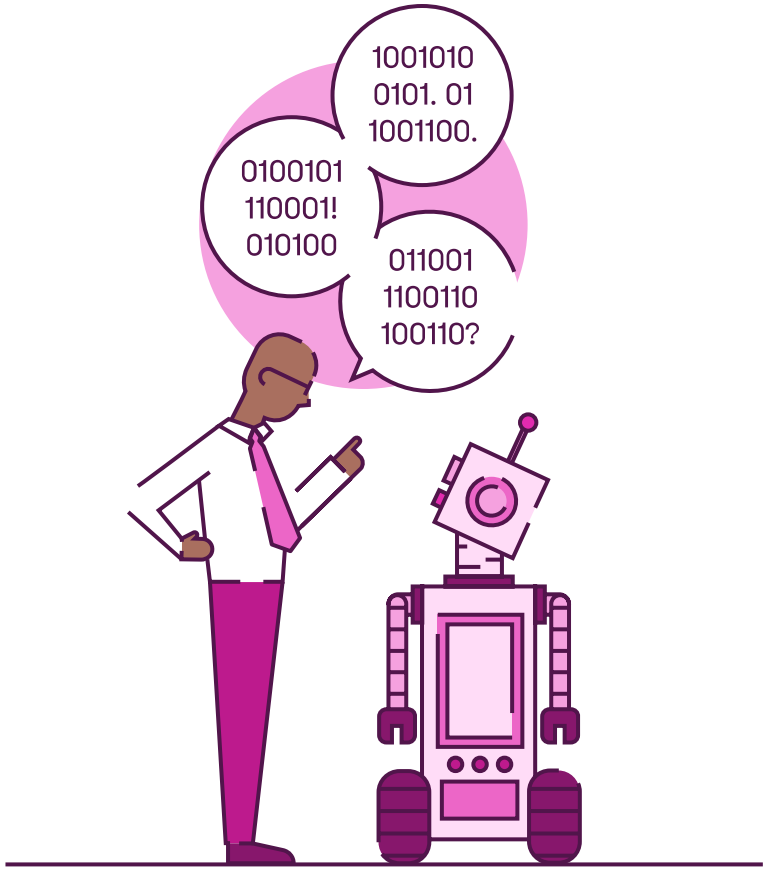
Text content | use tools like ChatGPT, Copilot, and Gemini to play through ideas, refine content, and interrogate the end result to see if it's relevant for the audience.

Image generation | custom images that allow you convey a precise idea from Dall-E, Midjourney, Stable Diffusion, and Adobe Firefly.

Video | check out Sora from OpenAI for the concept. Try Dream Machine for five second clips (perfect for GIFs). And then more current tools like Descript, Peech, and Colossyan for simpler generation and easy editing capabilities.

However, effective presentations typically need so much more than this, with visual storytelling requiring meaningful visuals, diagrams, and animated sequences that convey the ideas clearly, in a form that allows you to present to multiple people simultaneously and/or respond to the audience in front of you.

And so far, I've not seen compelling evidence that AI delivers this in the one-click experience we're all expecting. That means we will all have jobs for a while, and that you need to find AI tools to help you get there, but you'll still be doing a lot of the work.



Copilot & Designer

ChatGPT for PowerPoint

BrandIn

Noun Project

Pexels

Build-a-Graphic

BrightSlide

Slidewise

Vectorizer.AI

Translate & subtitles

Presenter Coach

Cameo video

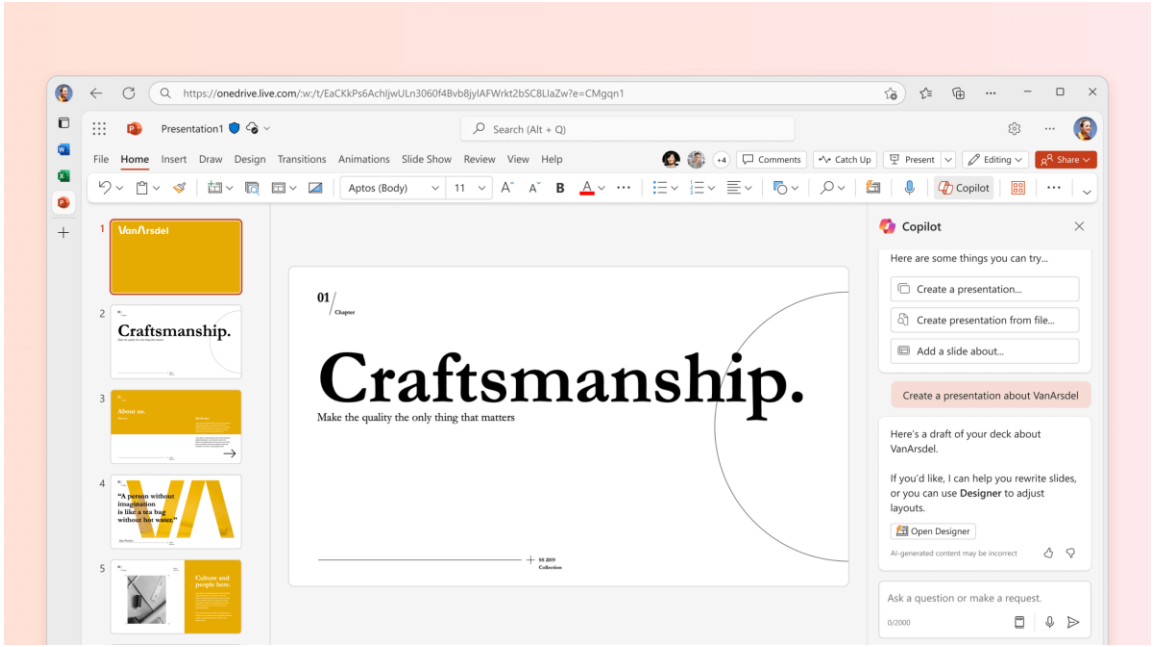
Click any of the thumbnails to get to the relevant section

BrightCarbon

Copilot

Copilot & Designer

Copilot & Designer

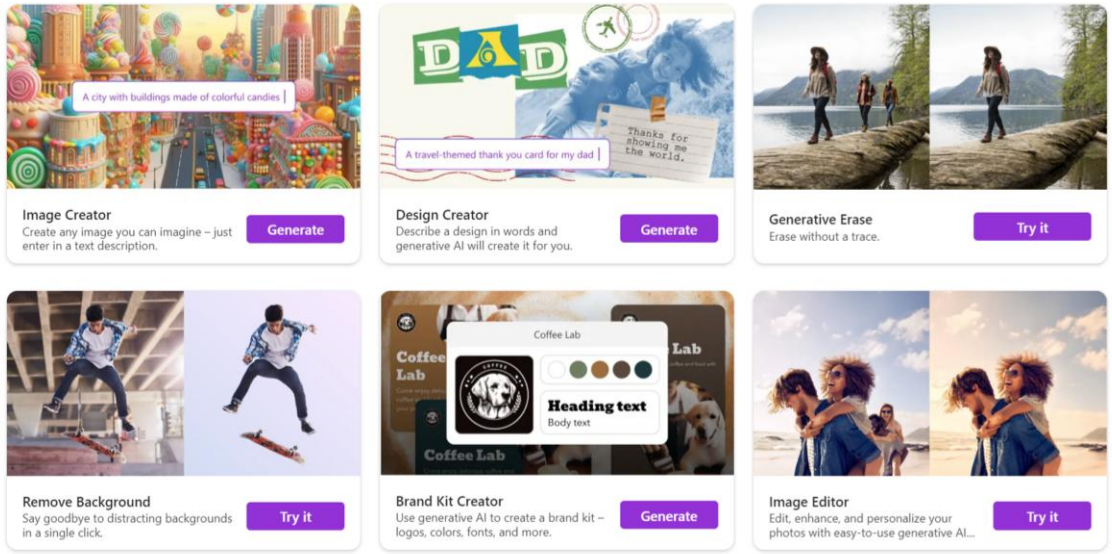


Copilot

Microsoft's big push in AI for Office 365 comes in the form of Copilot. It appears as a chat pane on the right-hand side of your slide and allows you to use natural language to create, edit, and refine your presentations. Copilot for Office 365 is a subscription service, with options available for individuals, small businesses, and enterprise. It's great in text-based applications like Word and Outlook, but it seems to be early stages in graphical PowerPoint decks. Use it as a tool to help you get there, rather than seeing it as something that does it all for you.

Introducing Microsoft 365 Copilot – your copilot for work

Copilot in PowerPoint help & learning



Designer

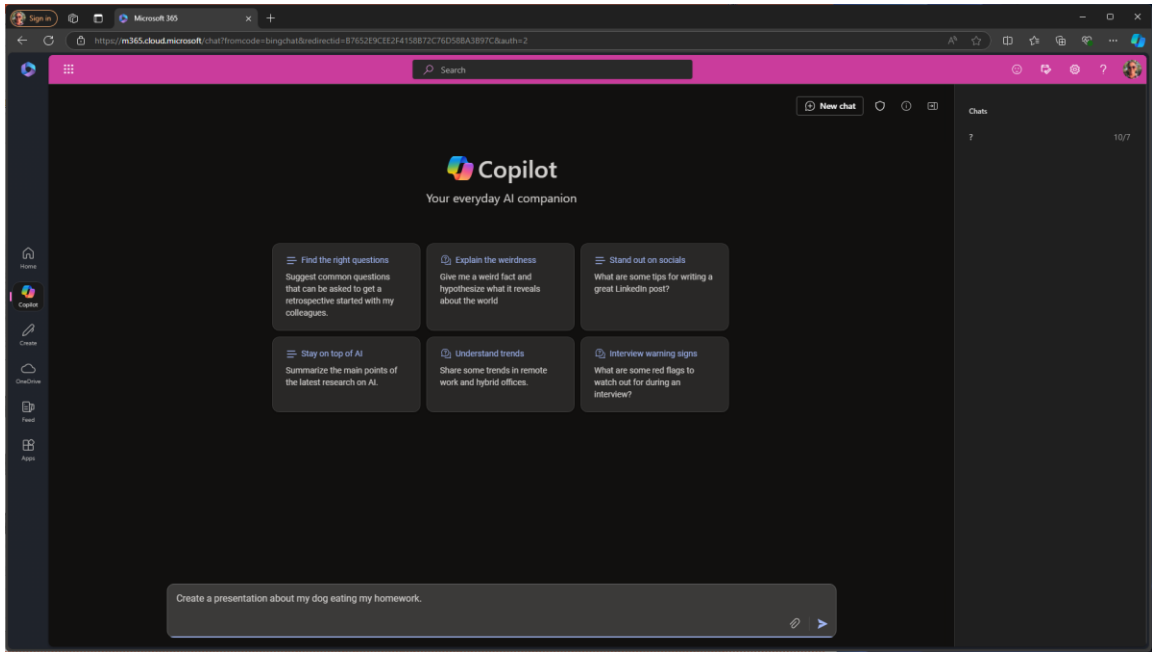
While Copilot currently lacks design sense, Designer, unsurprisingly, has loads of it. Currently available as a free tool online, Designer allows you to do all sorts of creative tasks using generative AI. Creating custom images, removing backgrounds,, editing images, and, perhaps most usefully of all, creating layouts and designs for all manner of content. You can't, currently, push it straight into PowerPoint, but it gives you a JPG, PNG, PDF, or MP4 file output that could be incorporated into your slide deck.

Microsoft Designer - Stunning designs in a flash

BrightCarbon

ChatGPT for PowerPoint

ChatGPT for PowerPoint



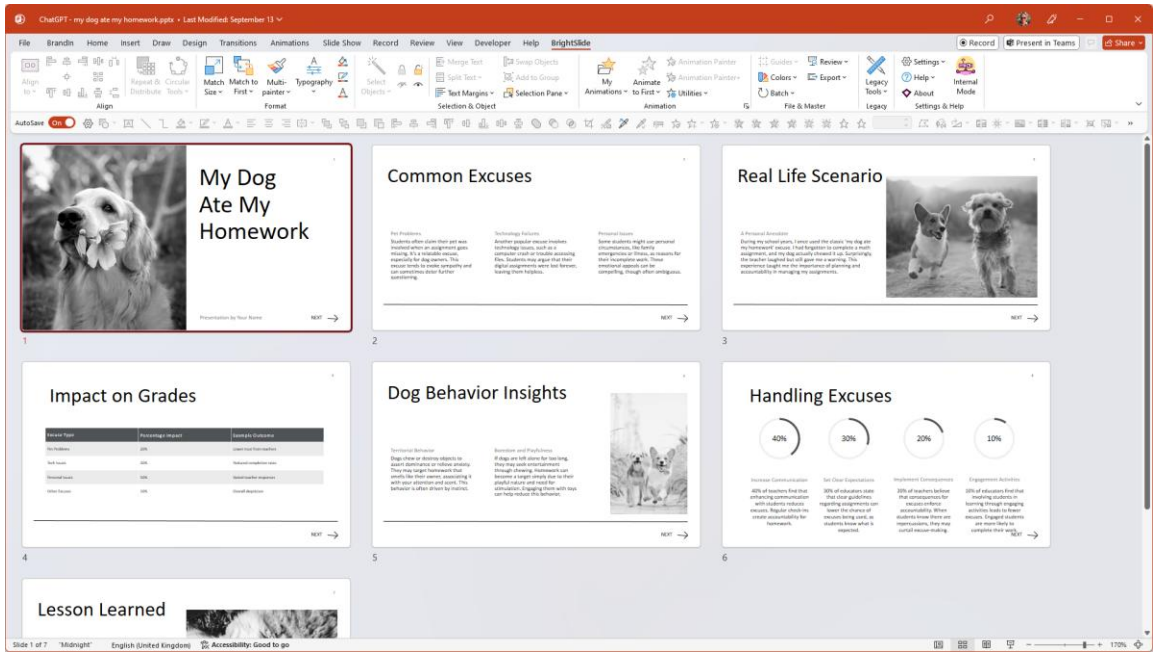
ChatGPT & Copilot in a browser

You can create a free account and head over to OpenAI or simply open Copilot on a browser or use the Bing app on your phone.

From there, you can ask it to create text and images for you, although separately. That could form the basis of some of your presentation content, but it won't help you design your slides or pace your story with animations.

ChatGPT on OpenAI

Copilot | Bing



ChatGPT for PowerPoint

If you don't have access to Copilot for any number of reasons and you want to try our generative presentation creation, head over to the Home tab in PowerPoint.

From there you can click the Add-ins tab and search for ChatGPT. There are a few templates to choose from and options to create decks from several sources, including a simple prompt. There's a free trial after which you can choose to subscribe at $8.99/month.

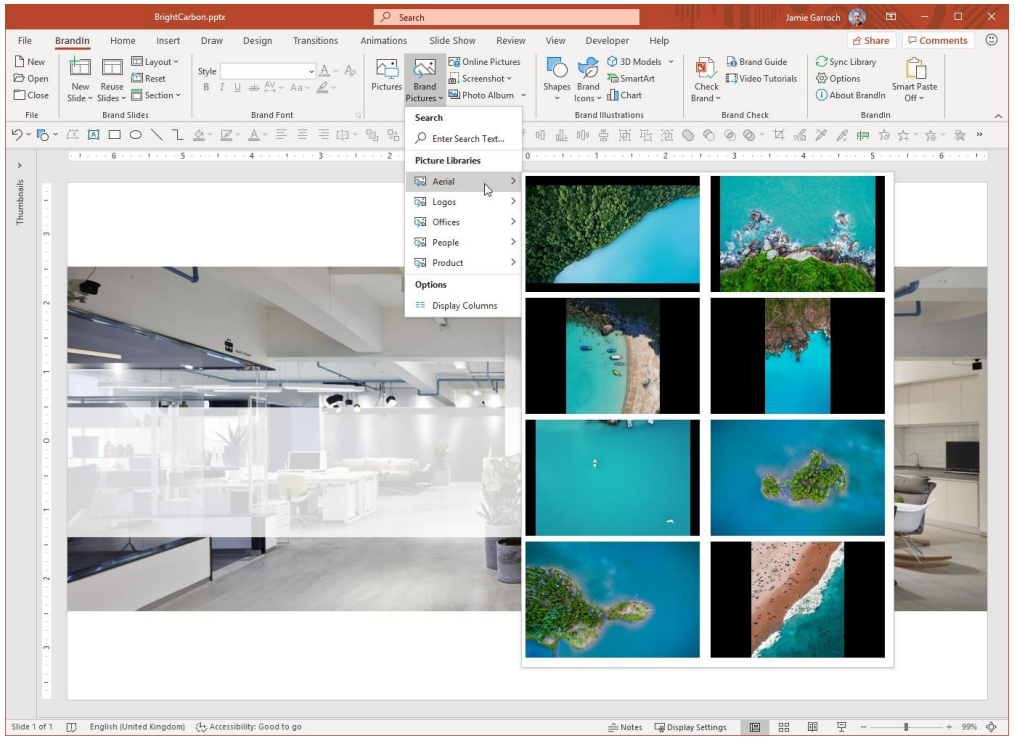
ChatGPT for PowerPoint

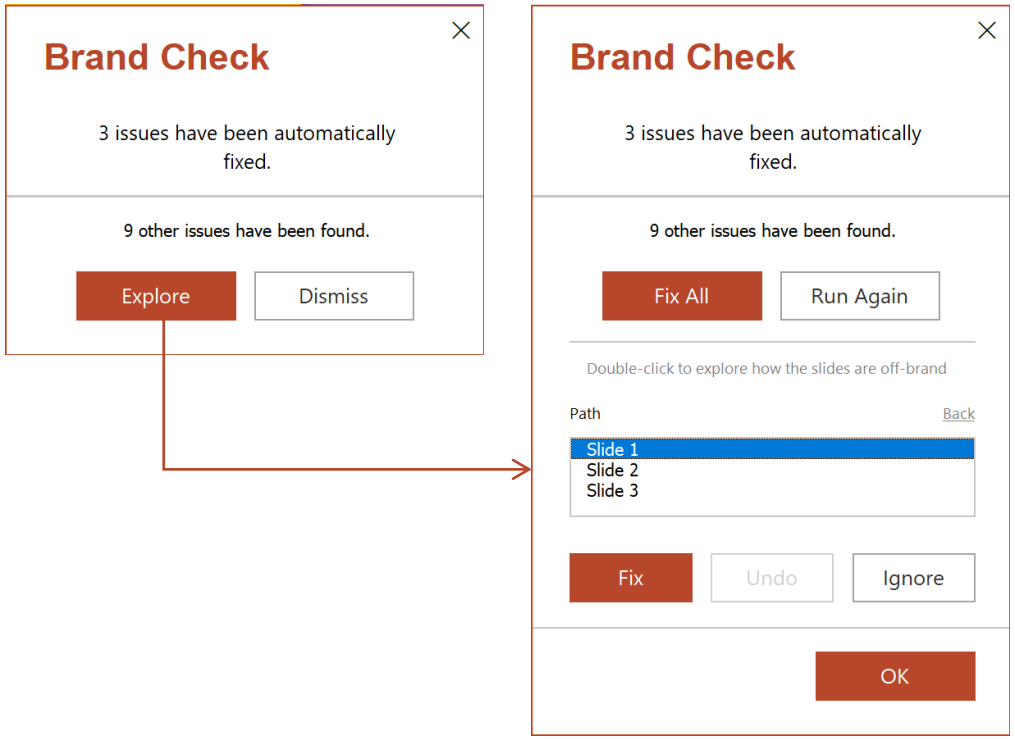
BrightCarbon

BrandIn

www.brightcarbon.com
info@brightcarbon.com

BrandIn





Some of the biggest problems people facing when creating presentations in a corporate environment is finding the right content and ensuring that it's consistent and on-brand. BrandIn provides a content library for templates, slides, and groupings of slides, images, icons, diagrams, graphs, charts, tables, and any other component you would use to make a slide, so that people can quickly and easily create content using appropriate material.

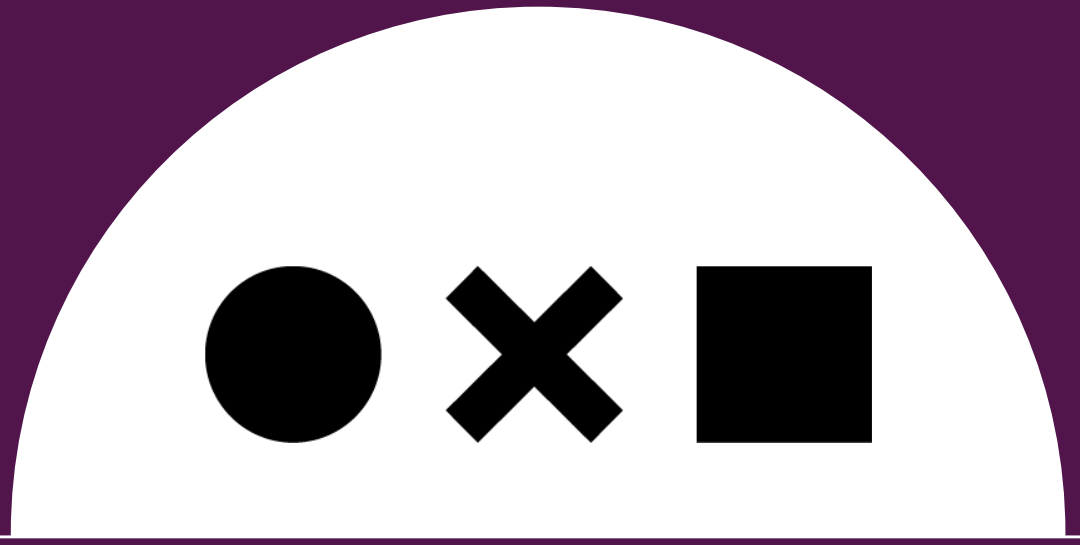
Included is Brand Check – like a spell checker for your brand – applying various rules and AI tools to bring any custom content in line with the rest of the deck.

BrandIn is a paid service designed for enterprises. We're hoping one day to release a version that cater better to small teams.

This short three-minute video gives you a sense of what BrandIn is, why it's useful, and how it works, along with a short demo of the tool in the final minute. A demo version of BrandIn with dummy content is also available.

Watch the video

BrightCarbon



Noun Project

Noun Project

What's better than five million icons? Five million icons directly in PowerPoint. The Noun Project is a fabulous resource of every icon you could ever want and the add-in brings all of those icons into PowerPoint. It's very simple and that's all it needs to be really.

Actually, you can do a little more, with the ability to change the colour of the icons before you insert it into PowerPoint, but as the icon is inserted as an SVG, which you can modify in PowerPoint, this may not be that useful.

Noun Project has a free version, with only a small selection of icons available. To unlock all of them required a subscription of $40 per year, which many agree is excellent value.

Noun Project

Noun Project in the Office Store

BrightCarbon

Pexels

Pexels

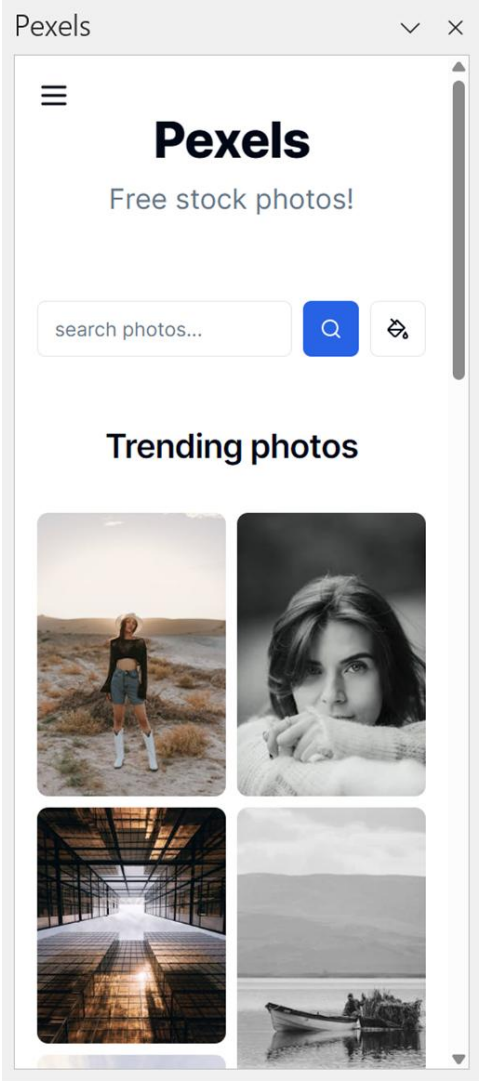
Pexels is one of the best free stock photo sites out there and all of those beautiful, high-quality images are available to you directly in PowerPoint through the Pexels add-in.

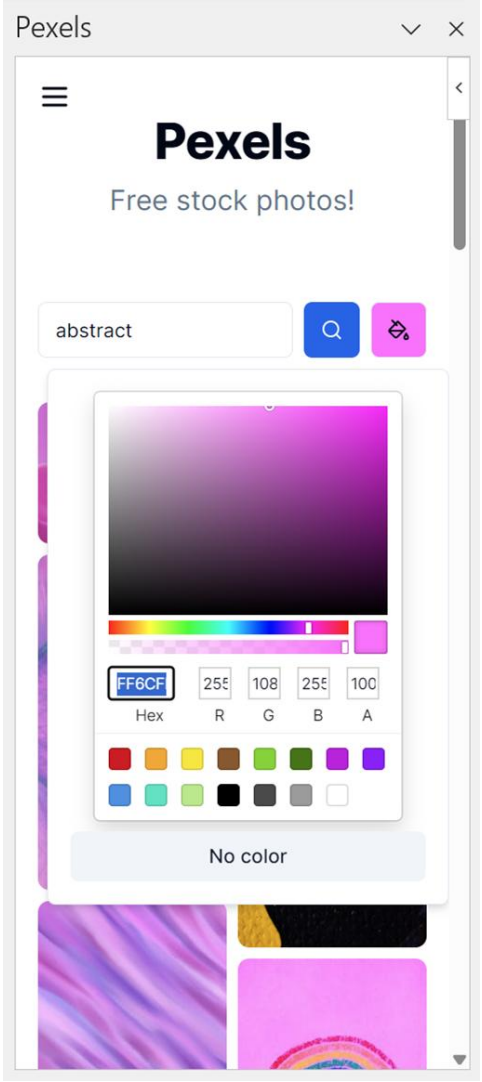
It's pretty simple. The add-in gives you a pane on the right-hand side of PowerPoint with a search bar for images. Click the image you like, select the small, medium, or large size, and it will appear on the slide.

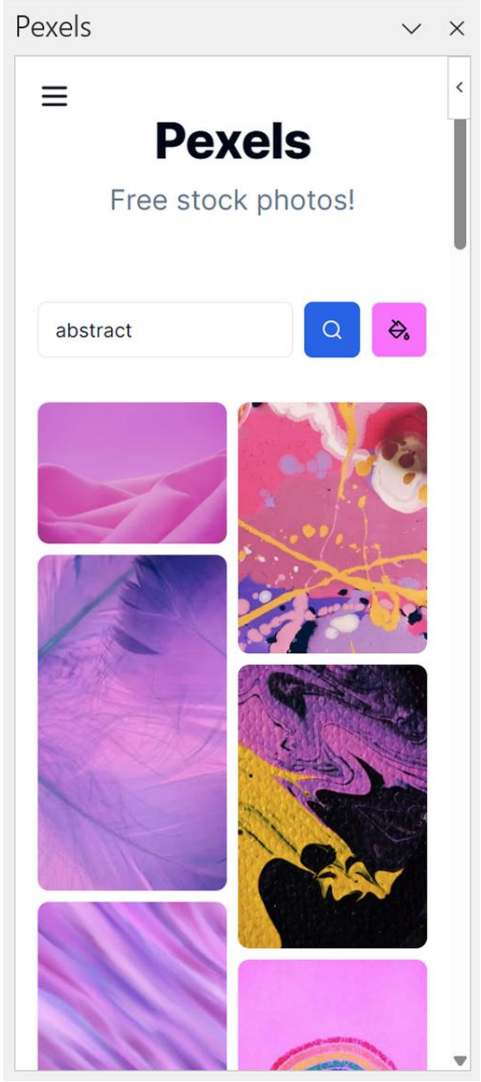
What's quite neat is there is also a colour picker that allows you to filter by images with specific colours in. You'll get better or worse results depending on the image type, but if you want a nicely corporate pink-based image, you can select the colour and then see the options available.

Pexels

Pexels in the Office Store







BrightCarbon

Build-a-Graphic

Build-a-Graphic

Build-a-Graphic is an add-in for PowerPoint that has all the graphics you could probably ever want – over 10,000 at current count.

What makes it unique compared to standard graphics libraries is that it helps you to actually build a graphic for a presentation, report, or infographic.

If you have a text-based slide, you can use a keyword search to come up with a suitable graphic that you can copy/paste text-based content into. Often the graphics include icons that you can also customize. And as it's all vector-based you can modify all the other elements to make it your own.

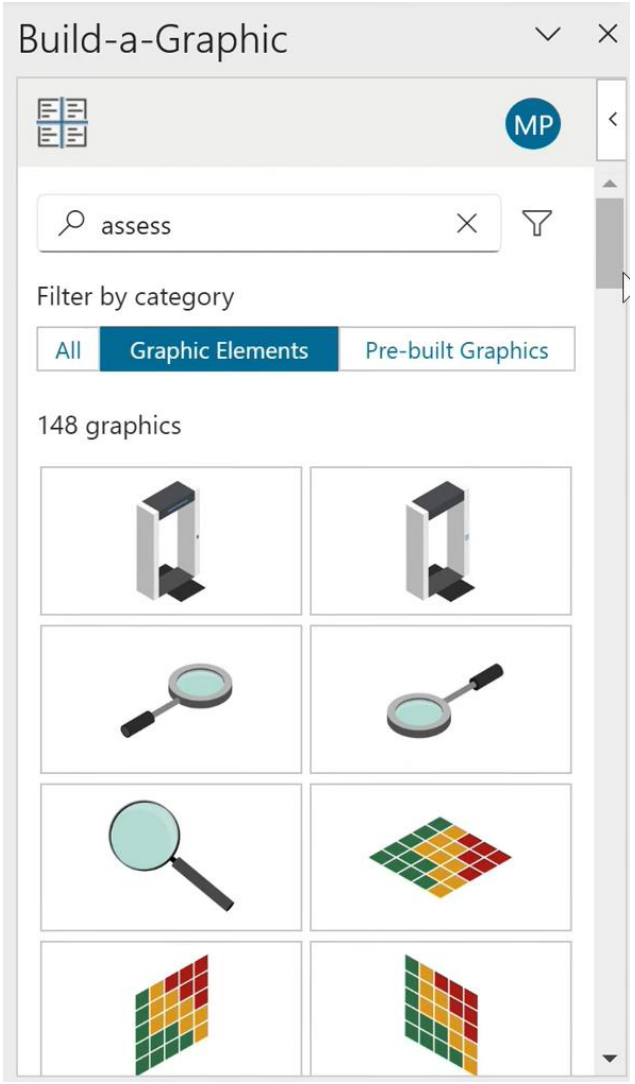
You can also browse or search the library for individual elements to build your own custom graphic. This means you aren't forced to fit your story into a pre-defined graphic, but can ensure it does precisely what you need to.

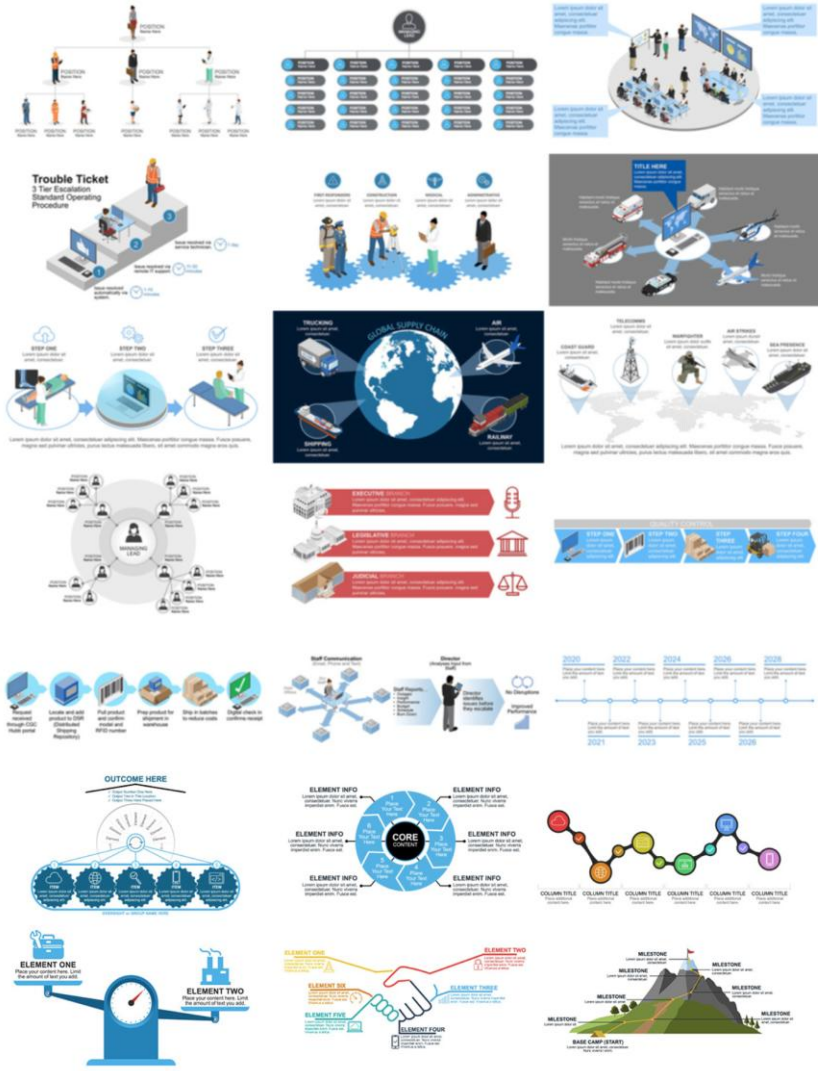
The graphics are all vector-based, so they scale to whatever size you like, don't have a huge impact on file size, and you can break them apart and customize.

Build-a-Graphic is available as a subscription product at $199 per year.

[Build-a-Graphic PowerPoint Add-In]

20% discount code: **Bright20**





BrightCarbon

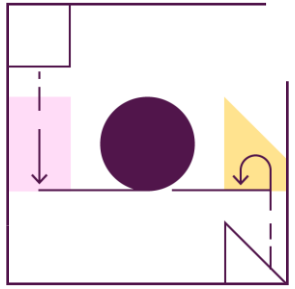
BrightSlide

BrightSlide

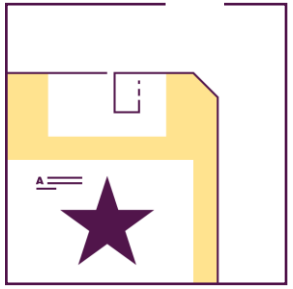
Download here

Created by PowerPoint experts at BrightCarbon, the BrightSlide add-in will help you create, polish, and edit presentations at speed. It draws on industry-standard shortcuts to boost your workflow and provides amazing, extra functionality PowerPoint users have only dreamed of.

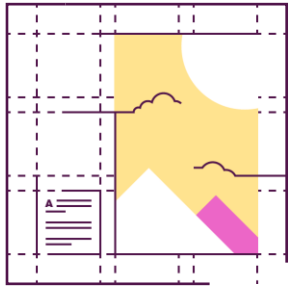
We developed BrightSlide as the ultimate productivity add-in to tackle the pitfalls of PowerPoint. And, because we love the presentation community almost as much as we love PowerPoint, we share BrightSlide with you for free!



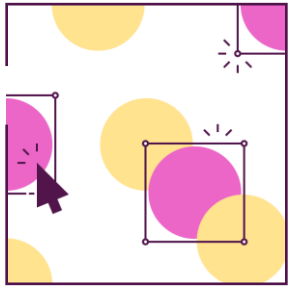
Align with precision



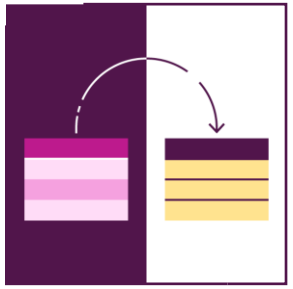
Save animation combinations



Easy custom grids

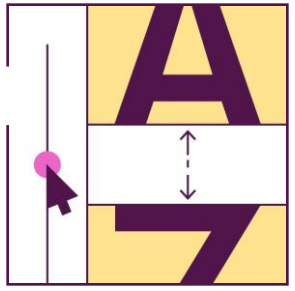


Update slides in seconds

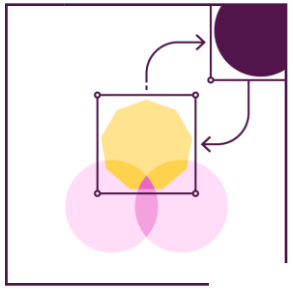


Tidy and tame tables

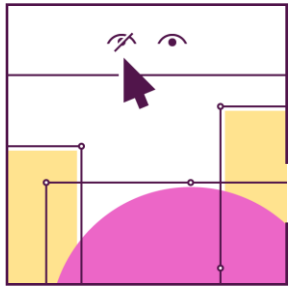
Download here



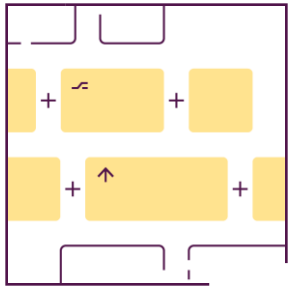
Advanced typography



Swap objects with ease



'So long' to the Selection Pane



Super shortcuts

BrightSlide | Match Tools

Download here

The Format group has a collection of tools that help you save time by making editing multiple objects at once, or copying complex formatting, super simple.

Multi-painter allow you to copy size, position, formatting, adjustments, and animations from any object to any other object.

These tools work like any other painter in PowerPoint, except we've made them sticky by default so you can copy properties across slides and presentations.

If nothing is selected, you can pick up properties from the slide itself — like size and position. This is great for filling the entire slide with an image.

The painter can be used in Batch Mode or Solo Mode. Batch Mode turns the tool into a customisable Multi-painter, which allows you to paint multiple properties in one go. Using the painter in Solo Mode will separate the five settings into individual Painters which you can add to your Quick Access Toolbar.

Size Painter and **Position Painter** make use of the reference point setting for added flexibility. This sets the point where your objects get resized from, and how they get aligned. When painting size, having the reference point set to centre will resize all objects from their centrepoints. When painting position, the central reference point setting will reposition all of your target objects so that their centrepoints perfectly overlap.

Paint Format and **Format Painter+** do a number of different things depending on what you use it on. At its core, it acts exactly like the Format Painter you know from PowerPoint. But you can also use it on charts and tables, easily allowing you to copy a table's or chart's formatting to another table or chart.

Adjustment Painter copies adjustment settings from one object to another. This is great for ensuring all of your rounded rectangles are using a consistent corner radius throughout your content, or making sure that your chevrons all look the same.

BrightSlide | Match Tools

Download here

The Format group has a collection of tools that help you save time by making editing multiple objects at once, or copying complex formatting, super simple.

Match Tools allow you to copy size, position, format, adjustments, and animations from any object to any other object.

These tools match your selection to the reference object. The Set Reference Object setting can be found by clicking Settings in the BrightSlide tab.

If a single object is selected, the slide itself will become the reference object — this is great for filling the entire slide with an image.

The tool can be used in Batch Mode or Solo Mode. Batch Mode turns the tool into a customisable Match Tool, which allows you to match multiple properties in one click. For example, turning on size, adjustments, and format will match those three properties in one click. Using the tool in solo mode will separate the five settings into individual Match Tools which you can add to your Quick Access Toolbar.

Match Size and **Match Position** make use of the reference point setting for added flexibility. When using Match Size, having the reference point set to centre will resize all objects from their centrepoints. When using Match Position, the central reference point setting will reposition all of your target objects so that their centrepoints perfectly overlap.

Match Format does a number of different things depending on what you use it on. At its core, it acts exactly like the Format Painter you know from PowerPoint. But you can also use it on charts and tables, easily allowing you to paste a table's or chart's formatting.

Match Adjustments copies adjustment settings from one object to another. This is great for ensuring all of your rounded rectangles are using a consistent corner radius throughout your content, or making sure that your chevrons all look the same.

BrightSlide | Animation Tools

Download here

BrightSlide's suite of animation tools make complex animations a breeze to create.

My Animations | We designed the animation library for our designers, but it was too good not to share! Our designers are amazing animators, but were tired of having to repeatedly recreate the same sequences or copy and paste animations from one presentation to another. My Animations is a library of animation sequences that you can add to any object with just one click to give a consistent, professional, and polished feel to your content. You can add your own custom sequences, including timings and settings, so your favorite animations are always close at hand. We've pre-stocked your animation library with a few lovely sequences to get you started.

1. Select object to be animated
2. Click My Animations
3. Select sequence

Animate to Reference Object (Animate to Last | Animate to First) | Automatically add animations that match the position, scale, rotation, fill color, outline color, and text color of the reference object. Please select two or more objects to use.

Depending on your setting in BrightSlide, the reference object can either be the last selected, or the first selected object — the name of the feature will reflect what setting you currently have active. The Set Reference Object setting can be found by clicking Settings in the BrightSlide tab.

The options window allows you to exclude certain types of animations from being added. You can also toggle reverse animations on and off — reverse animations animate all shapes back to their original properties.

BrightSlide | Animation Tools

Download here

BrightSlide's suite of animation tools make complex animations a breeze to create.

Waterfall Delay | Add a cascading waterfall delay to all animations applied to selected objects. Before BrightSlide this would have taken forever, but our handy add-in can automatically stagger your animations for a smooth, professional look.

Settings give you control over timings and which animations the tool applies to. You can add a delay to every object or every animation on every object.

1. Select the objects that have the animations you wish to stagger (selecting animations in the Animation Pane is not supported)
2. Click Waterfall Delay
3. Choose your settings and click OK

Waterfall Delay can be found by clicking **Utilities** in the Animation group.

Paste as Motion Path | Easily create motion paths from freeform shapes. Simply copy* a shape you wish to use as a motion path, select the target object, and apply this feature.

By default, the target object will be kept in its initial position. By shift-clicking, you can keep the motion path in its initial position and move the target object there.

*Windows only. On macOS, use the Copy as Motion Path button to copy your freeform shape as a motion path.

Motion Path Tools can be found by clicking **Utilities** in the Animation group.

BrightCarbon

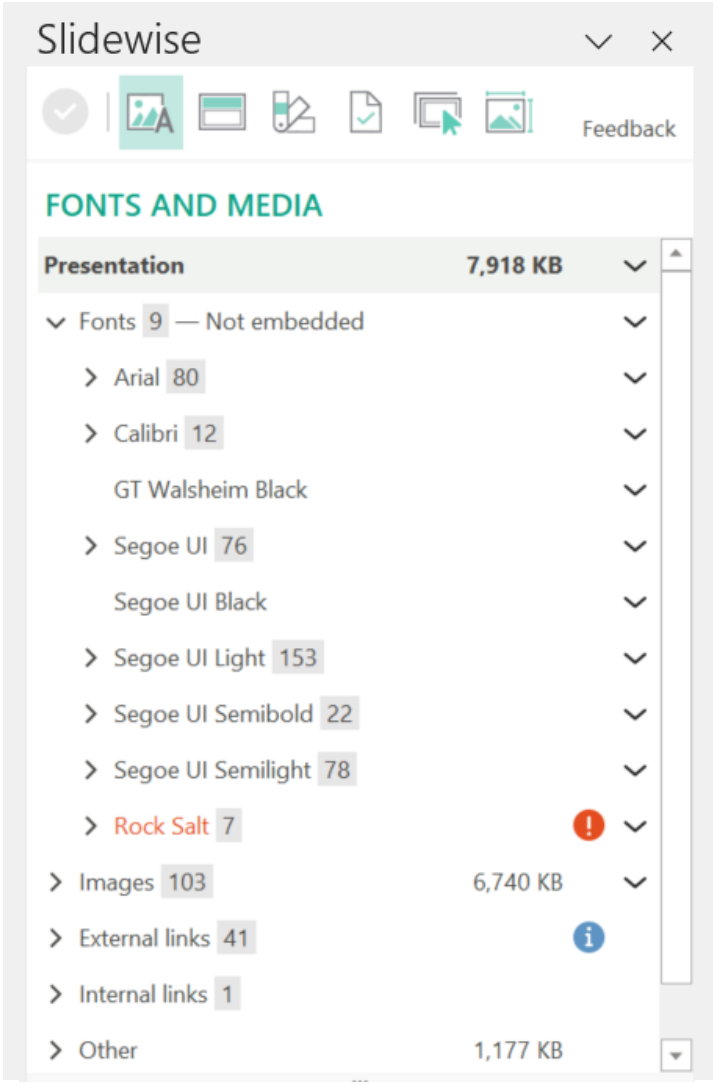
Slidewise

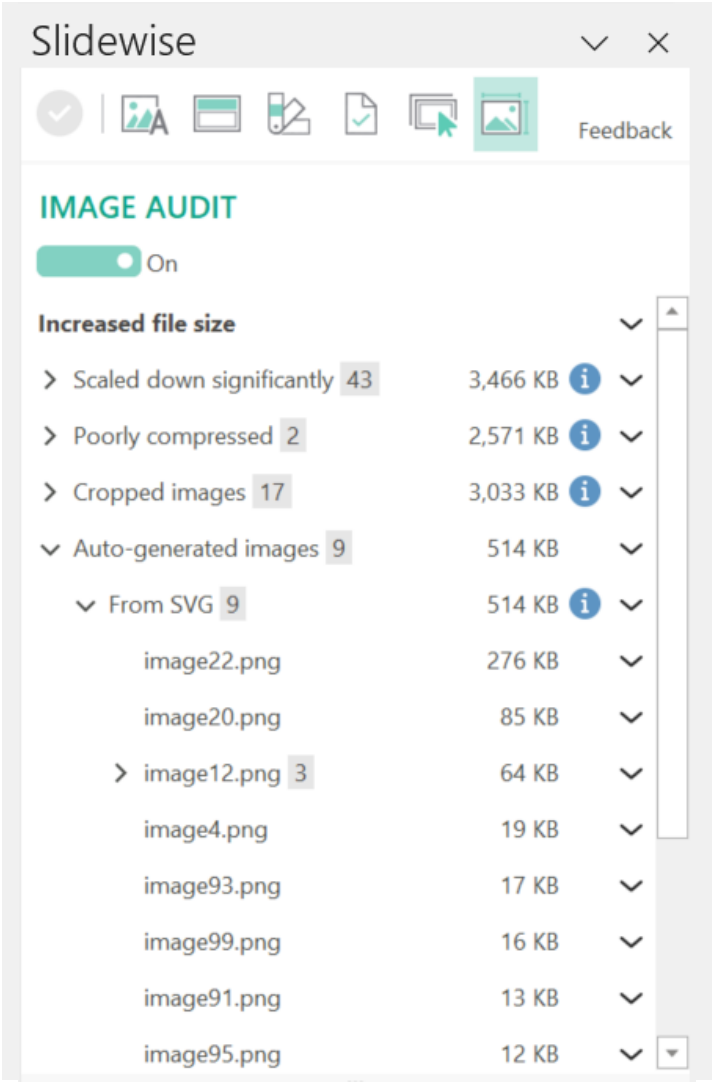
Slidewise

Slidewise is a fabulous add-in that allows you to analyze all the details of your file. It helps you to find, control, and replace, unwanted fonts, large image/media files, and broken links. It can highlight colours that are wrong or if you have too many slide masters.

The full version is a subscription product that costs $79 per user per year. There is also a free version that shows you the fonts used, large images, and an overview of the file size – but it's worth noting you can't automatically fix these issues.

[Slidewise PowerPoint Add-in]





BrightCarbon

Vectorizer.AI

Vectorizer.AI

Very simply, Vectorizer.ai turns images into vectors. JPG, PNG, and other raster graphics often don't scale well as the pixels are fixed, and so just get larger. File size can also potentially be an issue are larger image sizes. And trying to edit the image requires Photoshop wizardry.

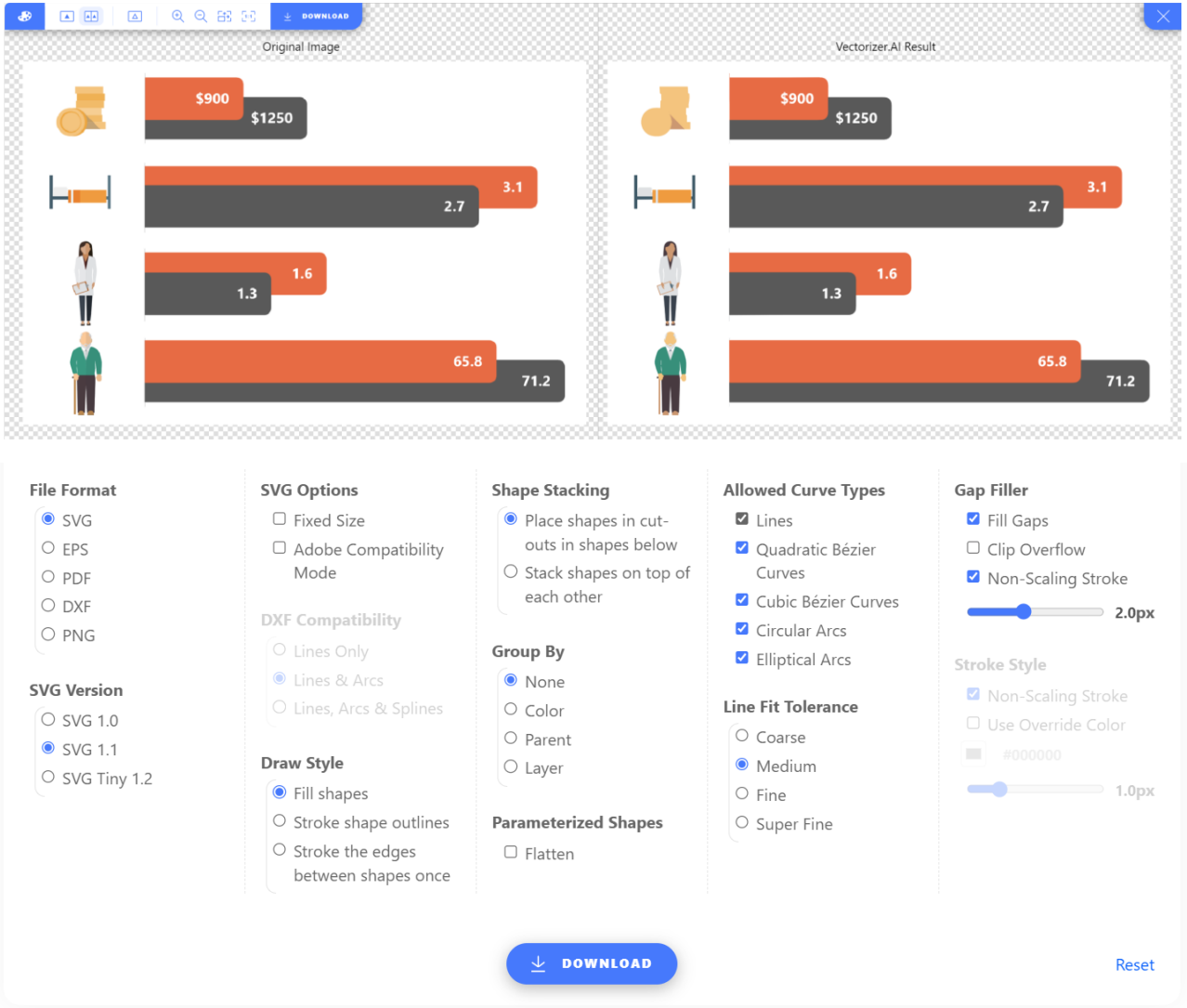
Vectorizer.ai turns the image into a vector file that will scale beautifully, generally be of lower file size, and give you more flexibility to modify the graphic.

You could potentially use it on actual photos, but you usually get a very stylized image that's unlikely to be useful. But to recreate diagrams and charts that you can then modify, it's a fabulously useful tool in presentations, allowing you to update, resize, and recolour complex diagrams and charts fairly easily.

Vectorizer.ai is currently free to preview, but to download content is either $10 per month through the web, or you can buy a package of credits for an API to use through add-ins for various graphics packages.

BrightCarbon is currently working on an add-in to use Vectorizer directly within PowerPoint, but Vectorizer still need to finalizer a few things before this can be launched. Hopefully soon. For now, use it on the web.

[Web direct | Vectorizer.AI]



BrightCarbon

Translate & subtitles

Translate & subtitles

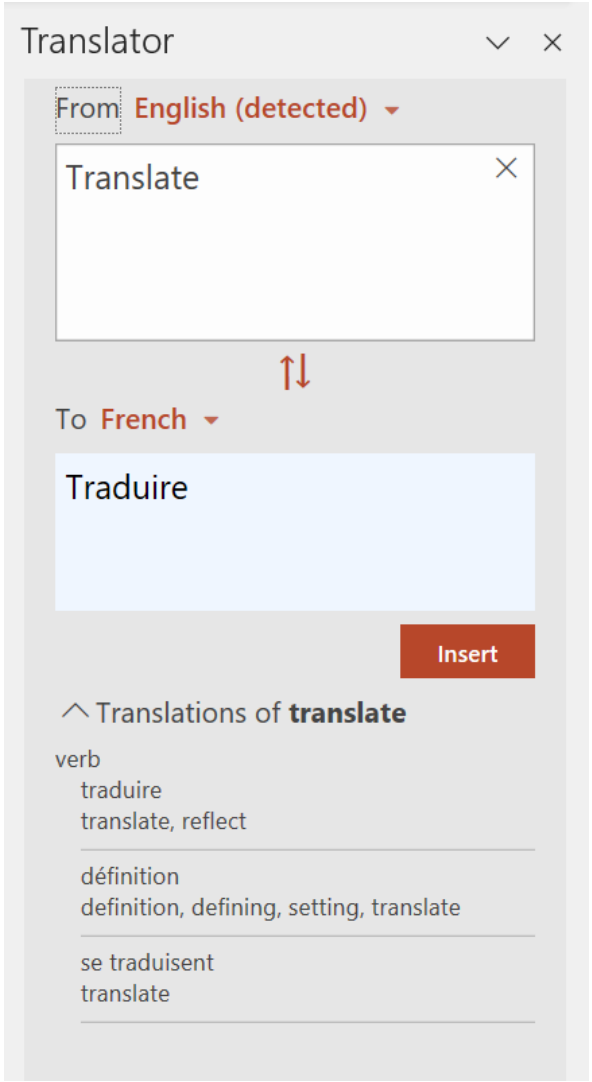
Translate is a feature that's been in Office applications for a long while. You can find it on the **Review** tab in the ribbon, and then **Translate**.

You can select any object, choose from one of 62 different languages, and then translate that object, or modify the automatic translation before you change the object on the slide.

[Translate text into a different language - Microsoft Support]

There are quite a few related elements for translation, including in the Subtitling functions in PowerPoint. In fact, there is a dedicated Presentation Translator app that you can download from Microsoft and find out more about their efforts in general.

[Presentation Translator for PowerPoint - Microsoft Translator]

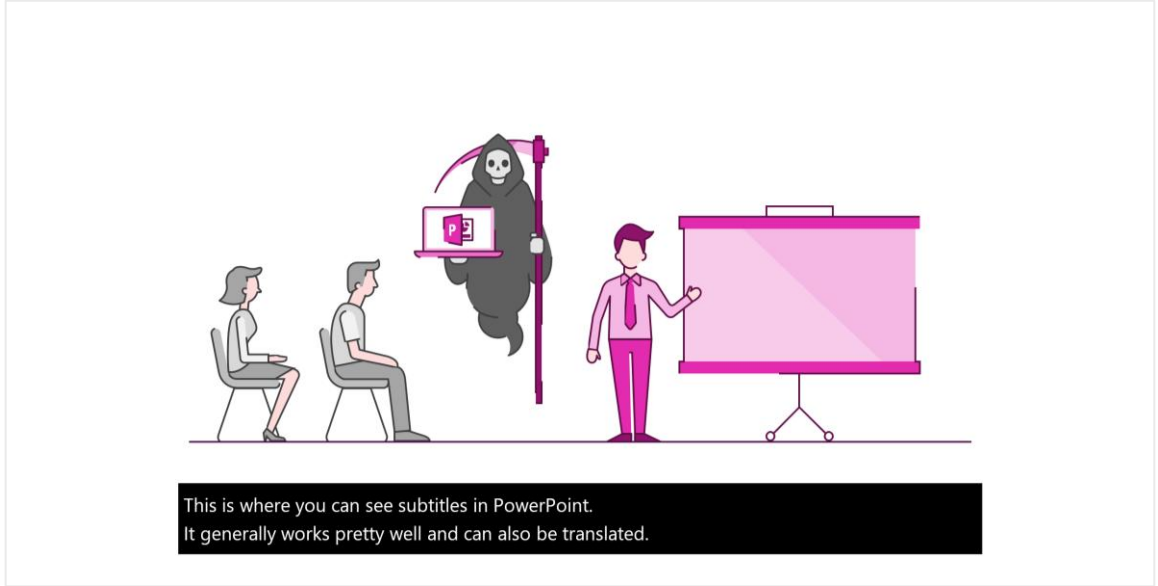


Real-time subtitling in PowerPoint allows you to capture what you're saying and either overlay, or create a windowed area for the subtitles to appear. You can turn these on mid-slide show using the option buttons in the bottom left of the slide show window, from the presenter view screen, or through the **Slide Show** tab and the **Always Use Subtitles** check box. In the settings you can also choose to change the language to one of 62 different options.

[Present with real-time, automatic captions or subtitles in PowerPoint]

Related to this is Live Presentations, that allows you to share your slides with people, but they can also see a live transcription of what you're saying, and then choose their own translation language for a more personalized experience.

[Present Live: Engage your audience with Live Presentations]



BrightCarbon

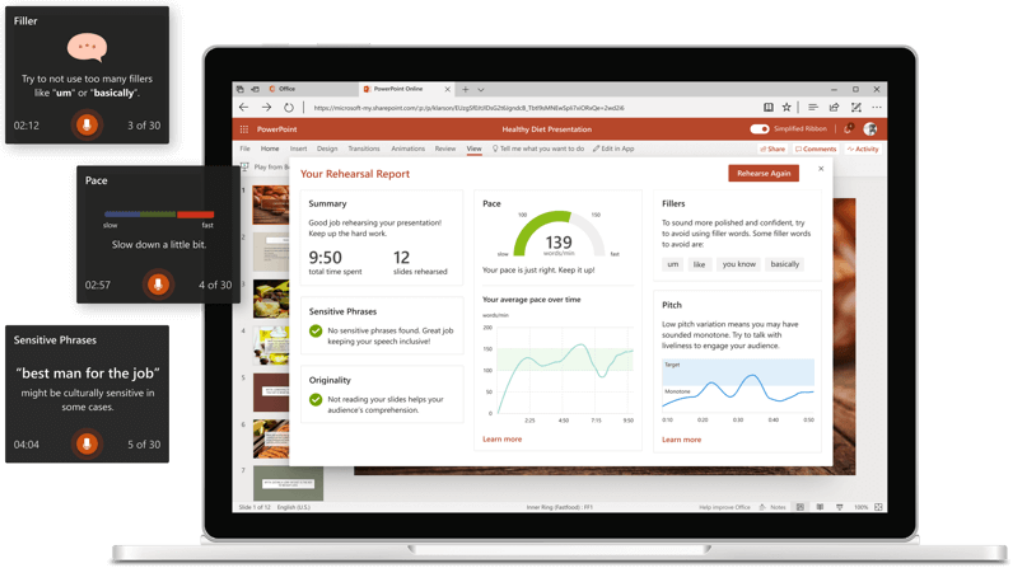
Presenter Coach

Presenter Coach

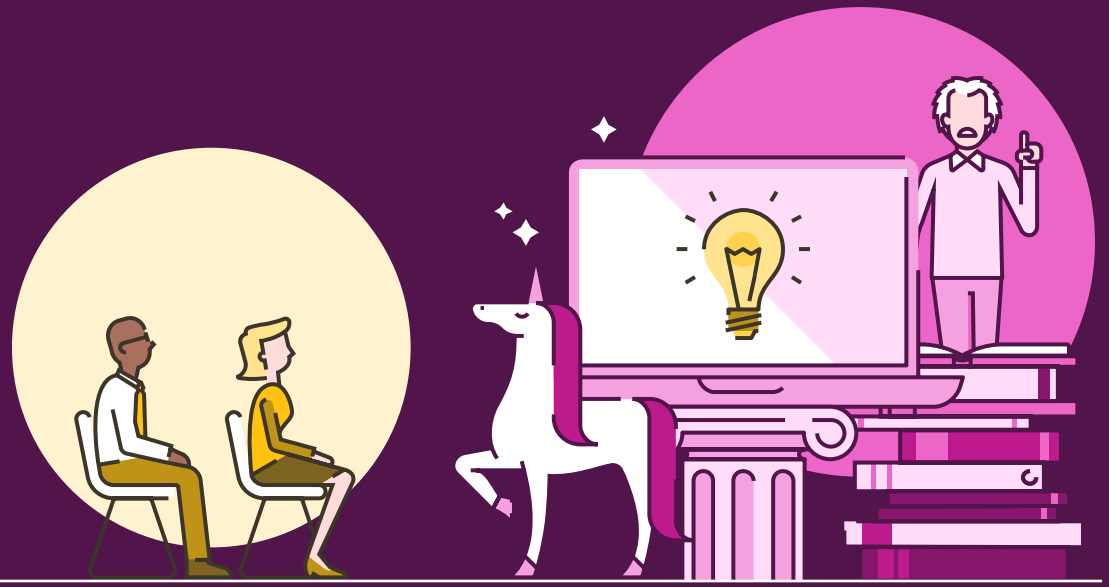
Being able to rehearse the delivery of your presentations, with feedback and suggestions is a great use of AI – probably balanced with feedback from real people if you can.

Access it on the **Slide Show** tab on the ribbon, and then **Research with Coach**. Ideally present for at least a minute to give it enough material to work with, and then, once you've finished, review the report it generates to see what it thinks and how you might improve.

[Rehearse your slide show with Speaker Coach]



BrightCarbon



Cameo video

www.brightcarbon.com
info@brightcarbon.com

Cameo video

Incorporate a live webcam feed into your presentations with Cameo video to connect better with your audience and be part of the presentation.

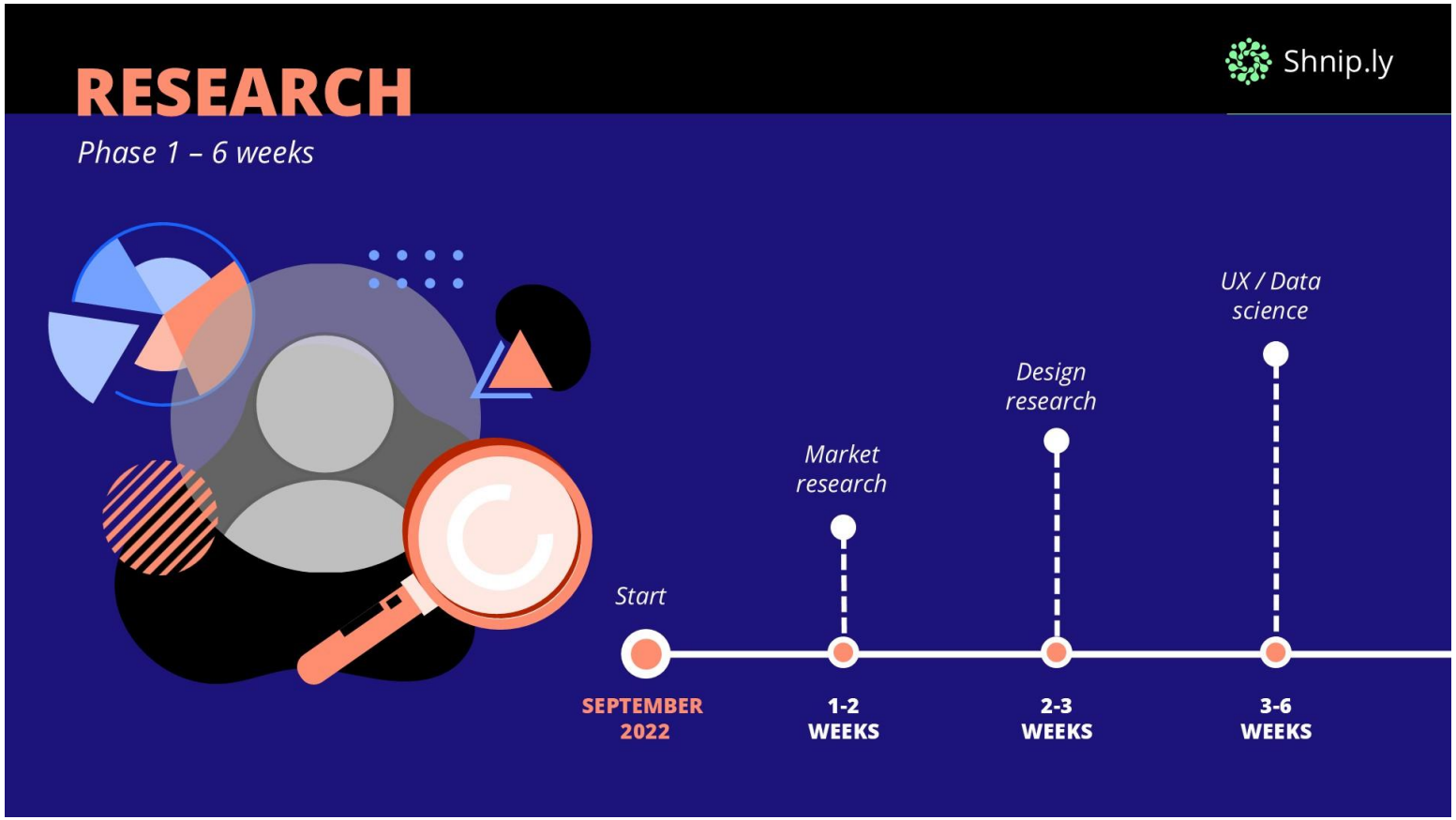
Incorporate a live webcam feed into your presentations with Cameo video to connect better with your audience and be part of the presentation.

Insert > Cameo

The Cameo placeholder can be positioned anywhere on the slide and have graphics incorporated behind and in front of it to integrate it better into the slide.

Ensure that it doesn't block any useful content, but if you would like to appear behind content, for an augmented reality style presentation, ensure that there is sufficient contrast between your video feed and the content.

It's also possible to fill the slide with a Cameo video so that you appear full screen, which may be suitable for discussion, Q&A, or when there isn't any relevant slide content to show. Consider having a full screen slide somewhere hidden in your deck, so that if you need it, you can type the slide number and enter to jump to that slide for full screen video.

The Cameo video works with the Morph transition, so you can move seamlessly between slides.

The camera turns on during slide show, but will not take over from a video feed in Teams or Zoom, so be sure to turn off your video first.