Amy Hissom Tool Analysis

Name of Tool	Cacoo
Where and how can you obtain the tool?	http://www.cacoo.com
What does the tool cost?	Three level of pricing for team plans (Unlimited Features): • Basic - Up to 10 users for \$24.50 a month • Premium - Up to 30 users for \$49 a month • Max - Up to 100 users for \$99 a month Single User Plan (Unlimited Features): • \$4.95 a month or • \$49 a year Free (Limited Features)
What does the tool do? How do you use it?	"Cacoo is a user friendly online drawing tool that allows you to create a variety of diagrams such as site maps, wire frames, UML and network charts. Cacoo can be used free of charge. Cacoo covers all the basic drawing functionalities. A huge number of stencils, aligning functionality, background sheet, freehand options, and many more assist you to draw nice diagrams efficiently. All you need for Cacoo is a Web browser. No troublesome installation is required. With a computer and access to the internet, anyone can sign in Cacoo and edit diagrams. Start drawing diagrams at home, at work or at hotels while you travel." (Cacoo)
What is the tool used for? What kind of products can be created with the tool?	Attractive diagrams, such as wire frames, mind maps, network charts, and site maps.
What are the characteristics of the tool that make it a good tool for learning?	"Multiple users can share and edit one diagram simultaneously. Changes are shown on the sharers screen in real time. Collaboration will be more creative and productive as team members can plan and review cooperatively. Chatting while you are editing the diagram will help you to communicate with others." (Cacoo)
Provide at least one example of how the tool could be used in a classroom or for a project	Cacoo can be used by students learning the basics of Website design to construct visual sitemaps, wireframes and mockups. This is a great tool for creating these types of visuals for deliverables that can be shared with clients that the student may someday create a website for. Because of its collaboration feature, students can work on a project together. The collaboration feature also allows for students to peer review each other's individual projects. This is also a great feature for clients

	to use as a way of communicating with the designer right on the actual diagram.
Identify any characteristics of the tool that help make it usable for multiple purposes and/or multiple content areas.	"Cacoo provides teachers with a variety of stencils, shapes, freehand options, and character designs that allow efficient creation of diagrams and charts. Multiple users, such as a classroom of students, can share and edit one diagram at the same time. Like Google Docs, edits take place in real time. These features can help students (or teachers co-planning curriculum) to be creative, productive, and more efficient as they work in cooperation. As a tool for group activities, Cacoo's functionality and simplicity allow teachers to spend less time teaching technology and more time applying it to instruction. For curriculum planning, Cacoo can also help teachers construct specific graphic organizers for lessons and units. Because modifications appear instantly, Cacoo can make graphic organizers move beyond paper worksheets to visual displays on a class website, wiki, or blog." (Cacoo Teachinghistory.org)
What areas of the 21st Century Skills framework can be addressed through the use of the tool?	I feel that all areas of the 21 st Century Skills framework are supported by this tool. ✓ Learning and Innovation Skills ✓ Digital Literacy ✓ Career and Life (Welcome to Route 21)
Why do you think this tool can help students achieve 21st century skills?	I think this tool can help students achieve 21 st century learning skills because it promotes higher order thinking through critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, and creativity and innovation. This tool also engages students more so than the traditional paper and pencil form of drawing flowcharts, mind maps, wireframes, and so on. The use of this tool for group projects promotes the ability t.o work effectively and creatively with team members and classmates

Bibliography

Cacoo | Teachinghistory.org. Retrieved Feb. 9, 2012, from Web site: http://teachinghistory.org/digital-classroom/tech-for-teachers/25304

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Welcome to Route 21. Retrieved Feb. 11, 2012, from Web site: http://route21.p21.org/