

# Online Application Technology

Making the most of a "bad" situation




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## Online Application Technology

General information about online application technology:

- **Why** is it used?
- What **advantages** does it offer to funders, reviewers and applicants?
- What are some of the **problems** associated with its use?

How online application technology affects grant writers:

- What are the **technical considerations** of which grant writers should be aware?
- Overall, **what do grant writers need to know** to have a successful experience?






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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** Why is it used?

**A:** In short, organizations that *don't* have online applications waste time, money, and resources.

It's **advantageous** to use online applications because they are:

- Practical
- Economical
- Sustainable






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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** What advantages does it offer?

**A:** In addition to saving time, money, and the environment, online applications also **simplify the entire process** for everyone involved.

- 24/7 access
- Single location
- Auto-Save feature



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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** How does it simplify the process for Funders?

**A:** With everything in one place online, Funders can administer programs without the hassle of piles of papers or tons of emails and phone calls.

**Advantages:**

- Automatic reminders
- Hard deadlines
- Follow-up questions
- Electronic reporting



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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** How does it simplify the process for Reviewers?

**A:** Online application technology facilitates the review process by providing helpful tools and keeping the applications organized.

**Advantages:**

- Application scoring and comparison tools
- Voting and funding recommendation submission
- Committee discussion



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## Online Application Technology


**Q:** How does it simplify the process for **Applicants?**

**A:** Online applications allow Applicants to work on their applications anytime, anywhere.

**Advantages:**

- Easy file uploads/attachments
- Auto-save features keep track of progress
- **Submission of higher quality applications with less hassle**






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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** What are the problems with online application technology?

**A:** Well, there are a few...




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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** What are the problems with online application technology?

**A:** Well, there are a few... Okay maybe *quite* a few.

- Inflexible deadlines
- Some *don't* have autosave
- Differing character counts
- Styles not allowed
- Collaboration can be difficult
- Special characters don't work - *commas, quotes, semicolans, apostrophes, periods in file names, etc.*



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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** How can technical issues be minimized?

**A:** Being proactive can mitigate problems later.

- Save, save, save your progress
- Reuse your data
- Utilize spell checkers
- Keep special characters out of names of uploaded files
- Test character counters
- **Finish and submit the application early**



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## Online Application Technology

**Q:** With increasing use of Online Application Technology, what do grant writers need to know to have a successful experience?

**A:** Focus on the **content**.

- Keep it pithy
- Keep it simple
- Keep it real



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