

An OPCUG Product Review

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Slidewise—an update

by Chris Taylor

In January 2024, I wrote a review of the PowerPoint add-in Slidewise 2.0 from neuxpower (<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2401NEWS.pdf>) and in March of that year, I wrote an update for version 2.1 (<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2403NEWS.pdf>) when they introduced a *freemium* version.

For anyone like me, who does a lot of work in PowerPoint, Slidewise is a godsend!

What attracted me most to Slidewise was its ability to expose what fonts (another obsession of mine) are used in a presentation, where they are used and easily replace fonts throughout a presentation. Slidewise can also let you know when fonts have been embedded, missing and substituted. This is most helpful when you have input from multiple PowerPoint users and the combined presentation is a hodgepodge of inconsistency. Slidewise goes well beyond font prowess: analysing graphics usage; finding non-theme colours; controlling slide masters and layouts; finding external links to content; exposing hidden content; and more.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft PowerPoint application window. The title bar indicates the file is 'Q&A.pptx'. The ribbon at the top includes 'File', 'Home', 'Insert', 'Draw', 'Design', 'Transitions', 'Animations', 'Slide Show', 'Record', 'Review', 'View', 'Developer', 'Help', 'Slidewise', and a 'Slidewise' button. The 'Slidewise' pane is open on the right, showing a 'Fonts and Media' section. Under 'PRESENTATION', it lists '9,210 KB' and 'Fully embedded' fonts totaling '1,195 KB'. The fonts listed are: 'Comic Sans MS' (1, 459 KB), 'TeX Gyre Pagella' (107, 449 KB), 'Book Antiqua' (2, 287 KB), 'Arial' (16), 'DejaVu Sans' (1, 7,843 KB), and 'Slide 48: CustomShape 5' (7,807 KB). Under 'INSPECTOR', it says 'Select a shape in PowerPoint to view its properties here.' A 'Font substituted' dialog box is open over the text 'Alan Ger...' on the slide, stating: 'This font has been substituted, as it is not installed on your system or embedded in the presentation. What can I do about this?'. The main slide content includes a 'Q&A' logo, the OPCUG logo, and text: 'Alan Ger...', 'Ottawa PC Users Group', and 'September 30, 2026'.

Finding inconsistencies in fonts

Neuxpower has continued to refine Slidewise, which now stands at version 3.1, with features including;

- much faster font replacement and much improved font handling capabilities;
- improved handling of masters and layouts;
- replace selected instances of a repeated image instead of replacing every occurrence;
- find broken links to external web content;
- review and delete empty placeholders;
- export selected slides as images or a standalone PowerPoint file;
- export selected original images;
- bulk set *Autofit* settings across boxes, shapes, & placeholders to *Do not Autofit, Shrink, or Resize*;
- finer control over colours used in the presentation.

In short, Slidewise is a powerful tool, especially for those who must clean up inherited PowerPoint presentations.

When you install Slidewise, you get the full set of features for 30 days, after which it switches to Slidewise Free. Even if your use of PowerPoint is limited, Slidewise Free brings some really nice capabilities to the table, in particular its ability to ferret out font inconsistencies in your presentations.

For details about Slidewise Free features, see

<https://support.neuxpower.com/hc/en-us/articles/21741589503377-What-can-I-do-with-Slidewise-Free>

Bottom line:

Slidewise PowerPoint add-in

<https://neuxpower.com/Slidewise-powerpoint-add-in>

Price: US\$79 per year

System requirements:

Windows 8.1 or greater

32-bit or 64-bit Office 2016 or greater, or installed (not web) Office/Microsoft 365

XML versions of PowerPoint data files (e.g. pptx and potx)

(see reviews of Slidewise 2.0 and 2.1 in PDF here: <https://opcug.ca/Reviews/SlidewisePlusUpdate.pdf>)

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