

# A Comparison of Four Knowledge Management Tools



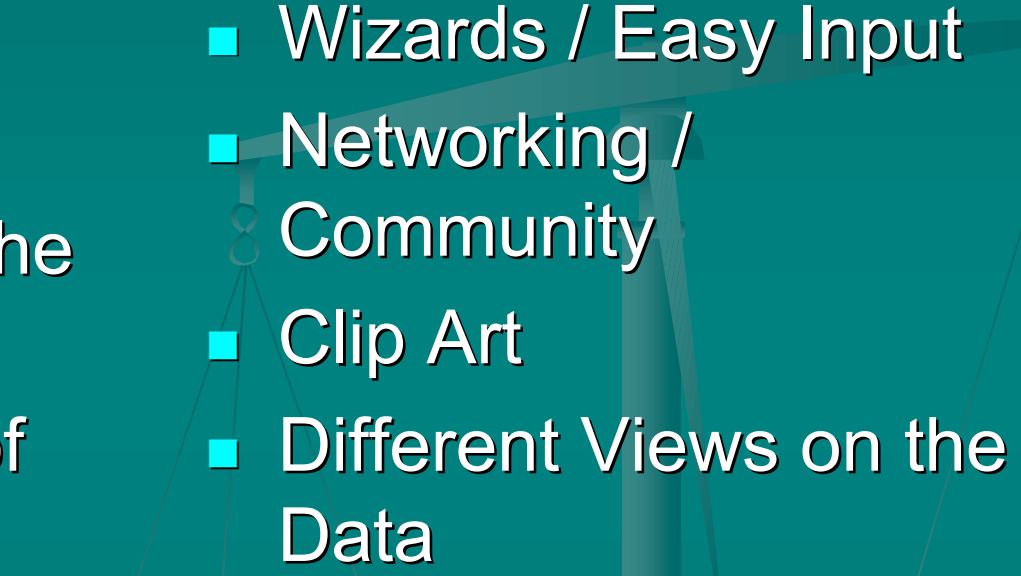
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# Agenda

- Criteria
- Demonstration & Evaluation
  - Smart Draw
  - Personal Brain
  - Inspiration
  - MindManager
- Conclusion



# Evaluation Criteria

- Typical Uses
  - Ease of Use
  - Putting Data into the Program
  - Getting Data out of the Program
  - Wizards / Easy Input
  - Networking / Community
  - Clip Art
  - Different Views on the Data
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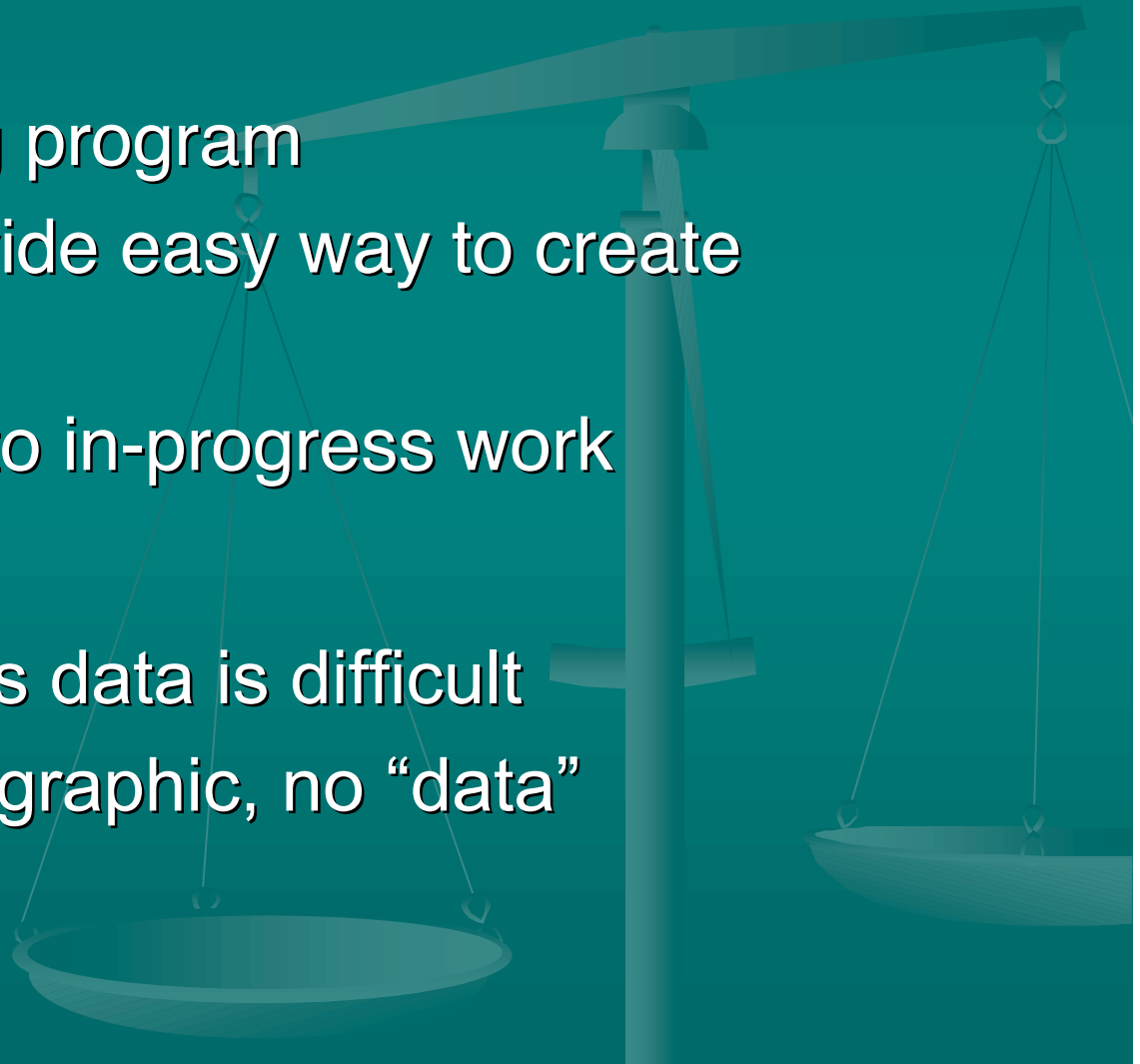
# Smart Draw

- Demonstration



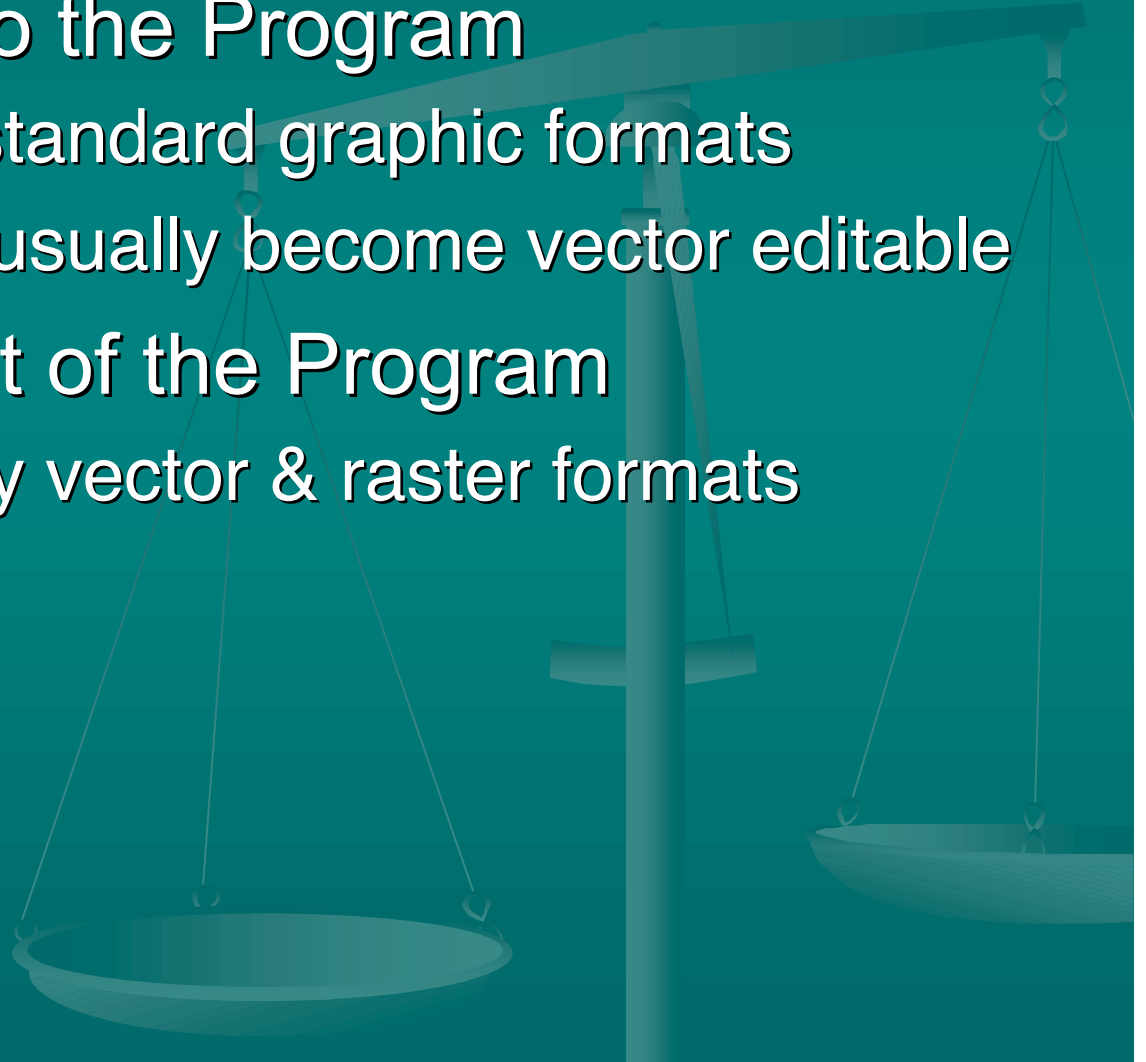
# Smart Draw 2

- Typical Uses
  - Typical drawing program
  - Templates provide easy way to create graphics
  - Not conducive to in-progress work
- Ease of Use
  - Trying to access data is difficult
  - Everything is a graphic, no “data”



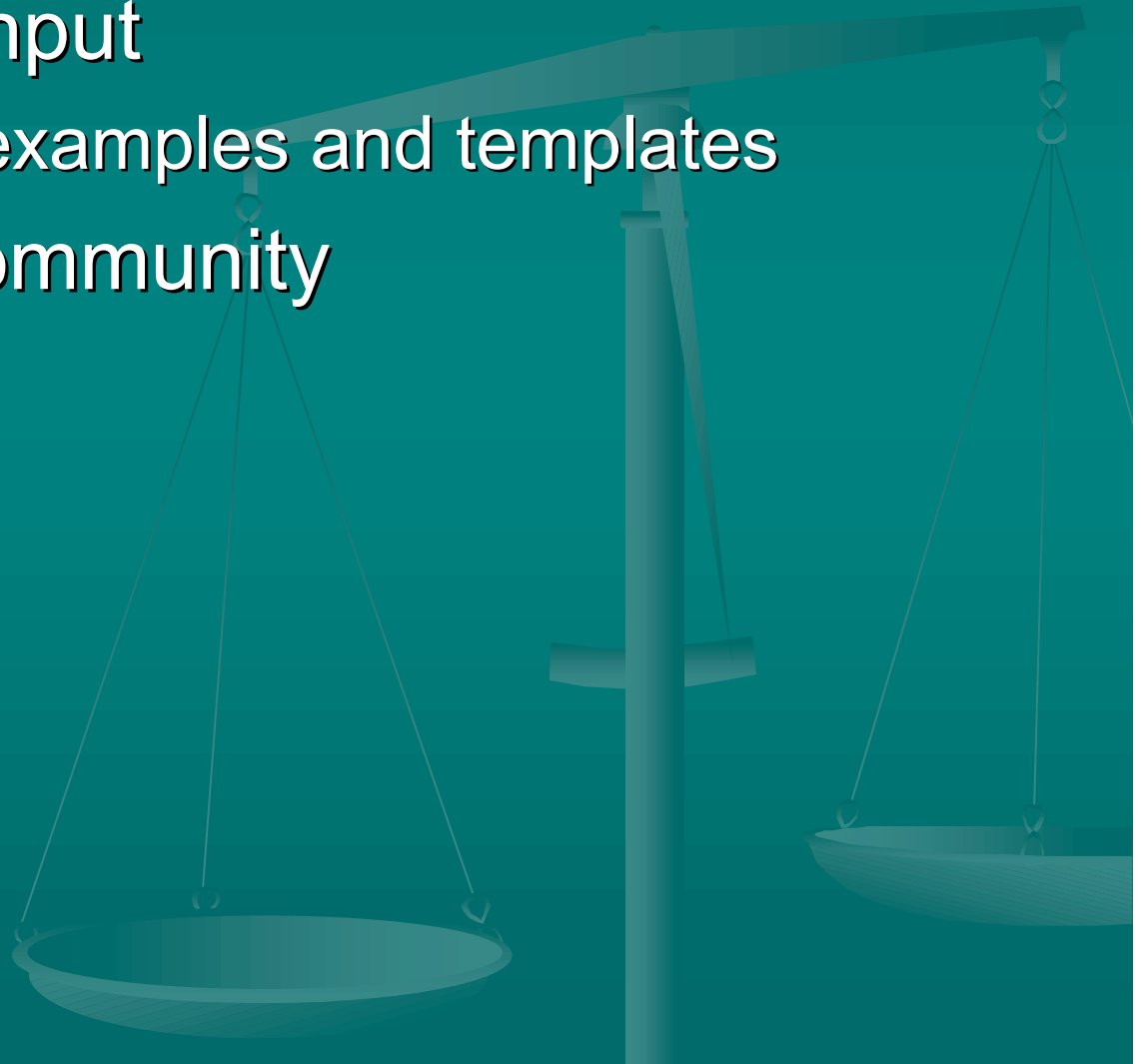
# Smart Draw 3

- Putting Data into the Program
  - Can import all standard graphic formats
  - Vector imports usually become vector editable
- Getting Data out of the Program
  - Exports to many vector & raster formats



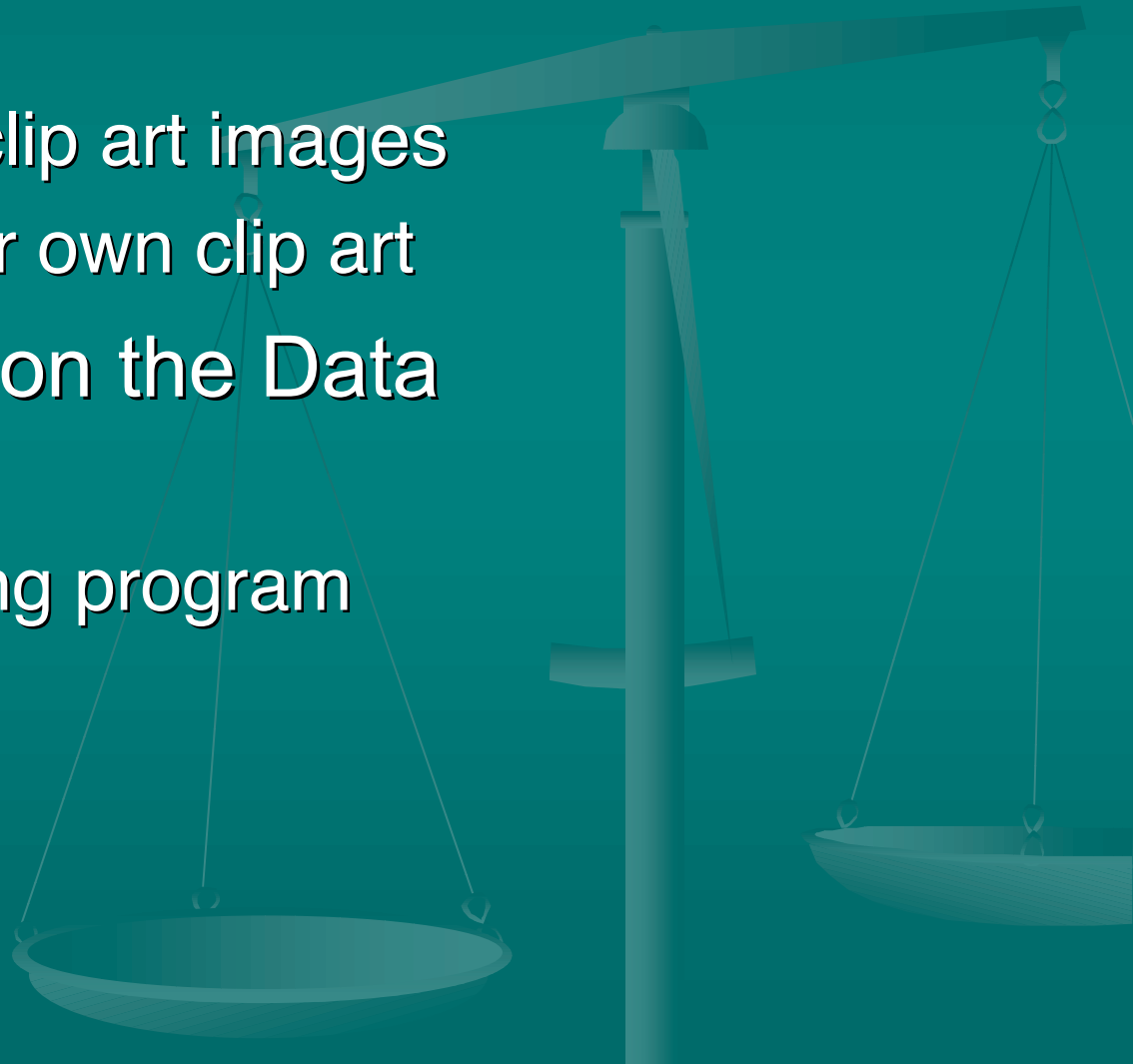
# Smart Draw 4

- Wizard / Easy Input
  - Lots of built-in examples and templates
- Networking / Community
  - None



# Smart Draw 5

- Clip Art
  - “Over 50,000” clip art images
  - Can create your own clip art
- Different Views on the Data
  - No “data”
  - Simply a drawing program



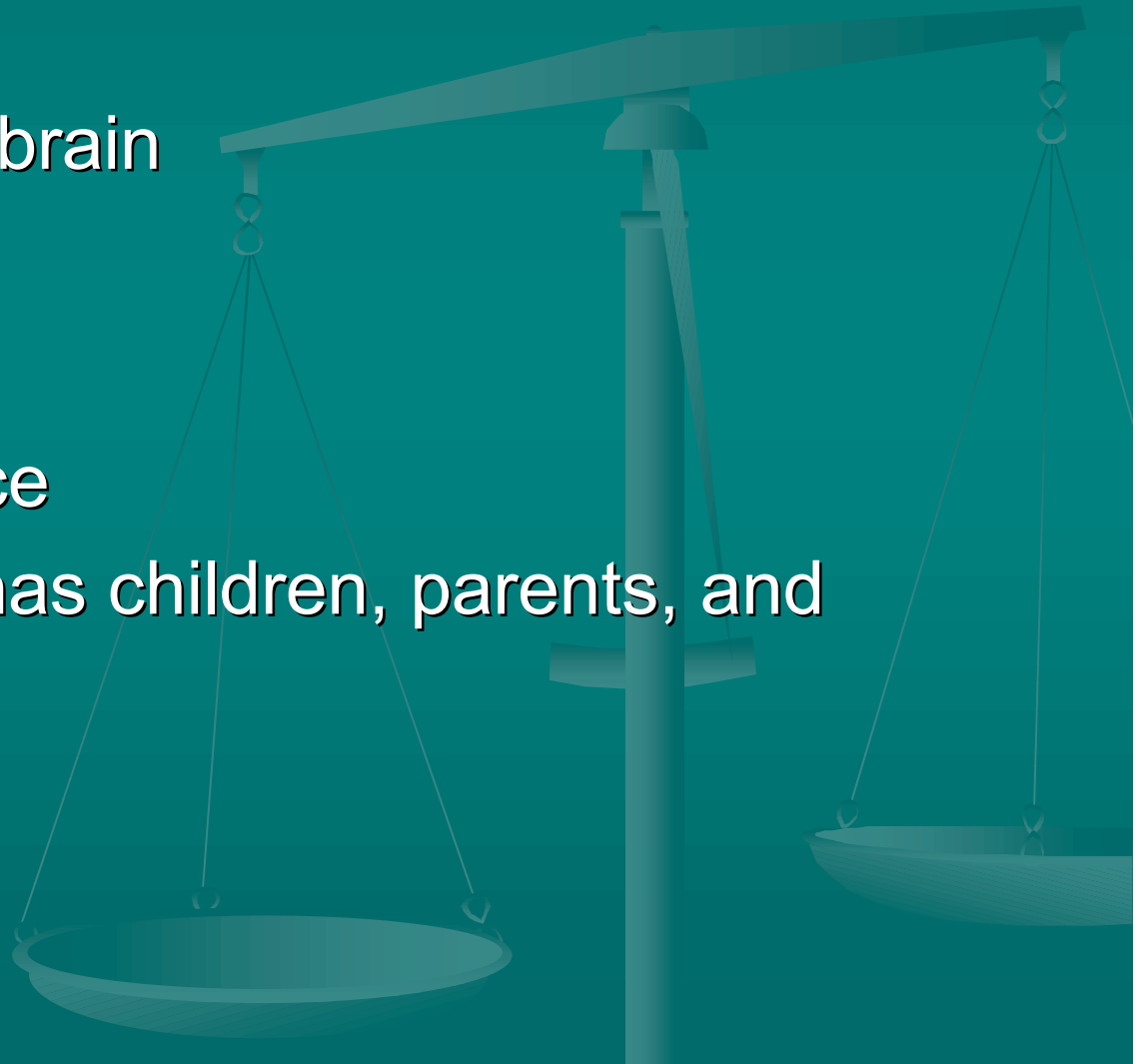
# Personal Brain

- Demonstration



# Personal Brain 2

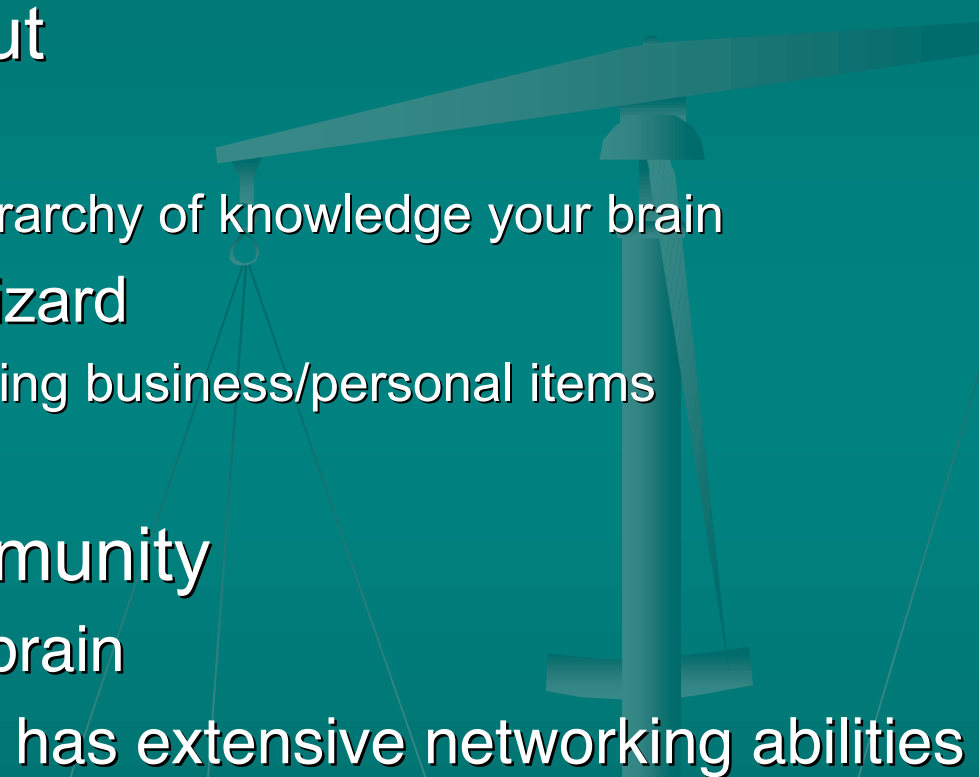
- Typical Uses
  - Use it like your brain
  - All-inclusive
- Ease of Use
  - Intuitive interface
  - Every thought has children, parents, and jumps



# Personal Brain 3

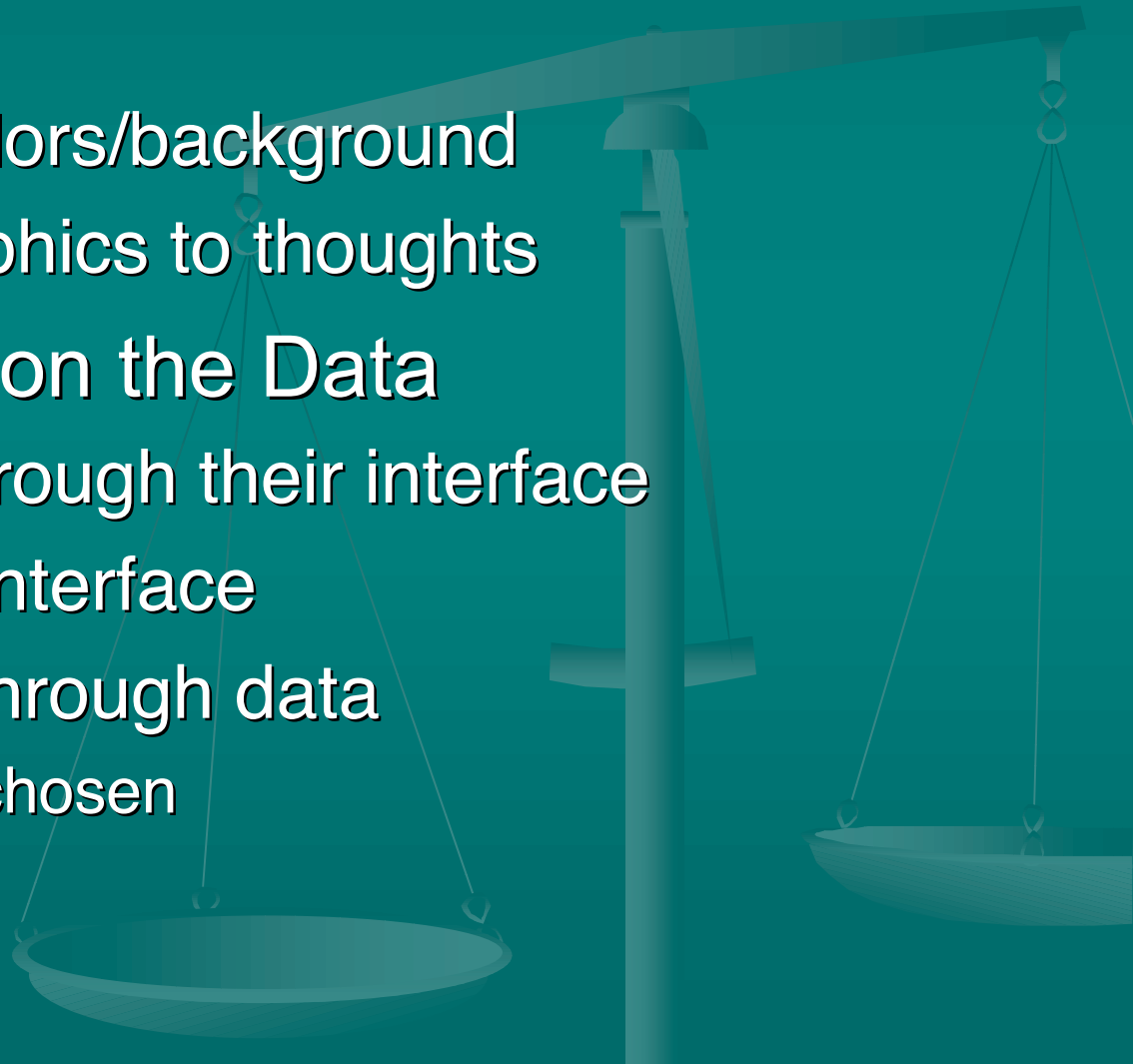
- Putting Data into the Program
  - Can add folders and directory hierarchy will be imported
  - Can drag webpages in as shortcuts
  - Can spider webpages into brain
  - Can create new documents based on templates
  - Every thought can have a file and/or graphic associated
- Getting Data out of the Program
  - No way to get data out
  - Only printing

# Personal Brain 4

- Wizard / Easy Input
    - InstantBrains
      - Adds an entire hierarchy of knowledge your brain
    - Getting Started Wizard
      - Guides you to adding business/personal items
      - Some bugs
  - Networking / Community
    - None in personal brain
    - Enterprise version has extensive networking abilities
- 

# Personal Brain 5

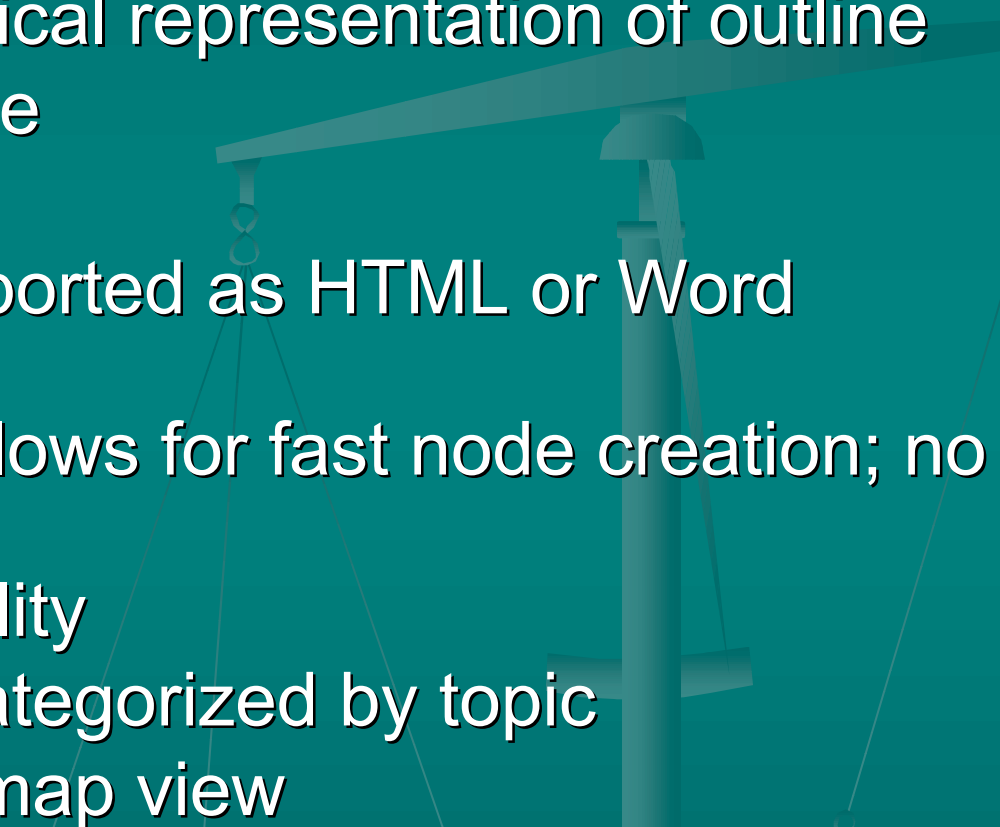
- Clip Art
  - Can change colors/background
  - Can attach graphics to thoughts
- Different Views on the Data
  - All views are through their interface
  - Very patented interface
  - Can "wander" through data
    - Random path chosen



# Inspiration

- Includes templates for creating diagrams.
- Starts with main topic; subtopics branch from there.
- Topics can be represented using included graphics.
- Create in outline mode or diagram mode
- Has algorithms for arranging the diagram

# Inspiration: evaluation

- Mind maps, graphical representation of outline
  - Fairly simple to use
  - No integration
  - Project can be exported as HTML or Word document
  - Rapidfire™ tool allows for fast node creation; no wizard
  - No networking ability
  - Contains clipart categorized by topic
  - Outline view and map view
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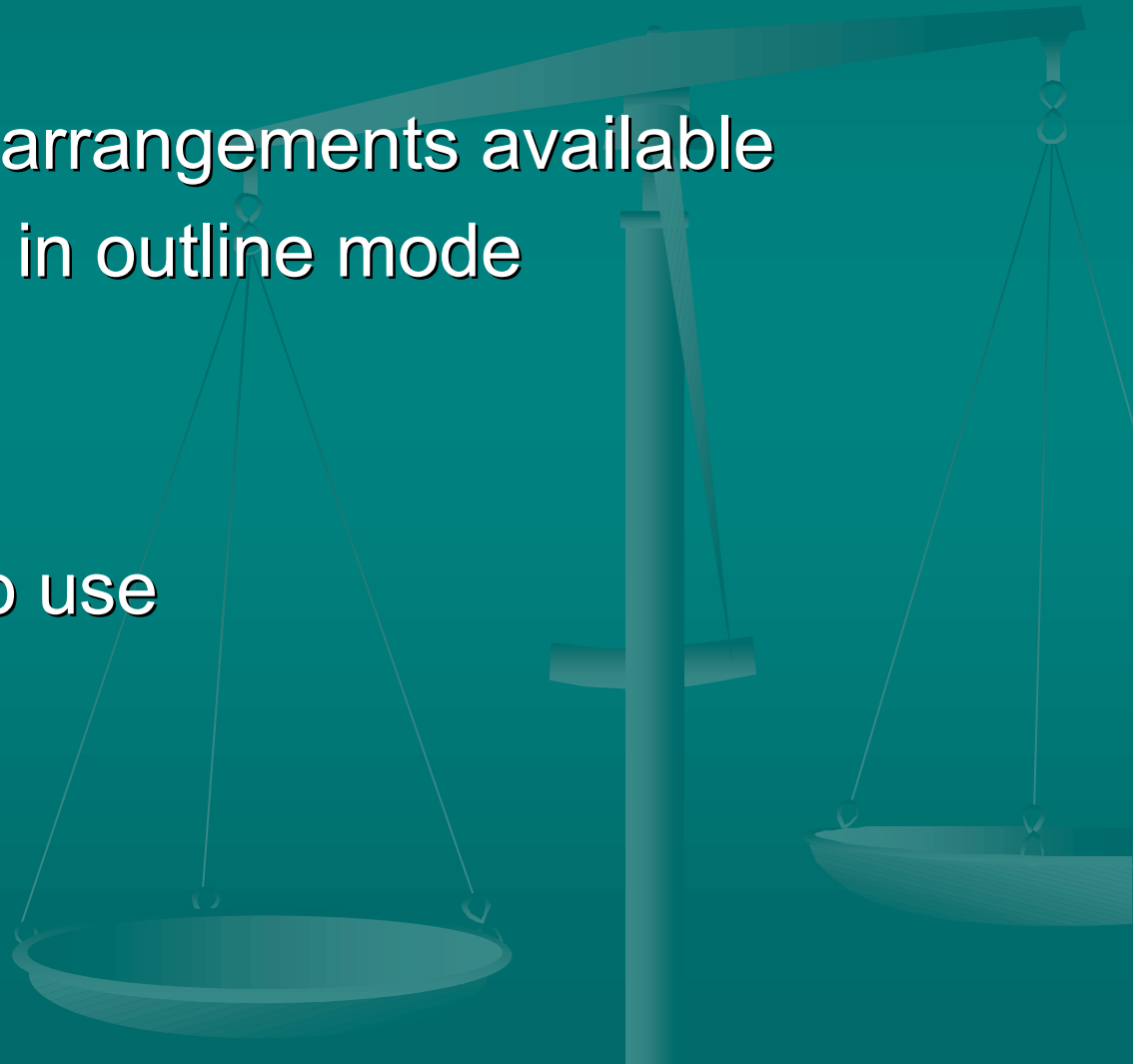
# Inspiration

- Pros

- Different graph arrangements available
- Can be created in outline mode
- Labeled Links

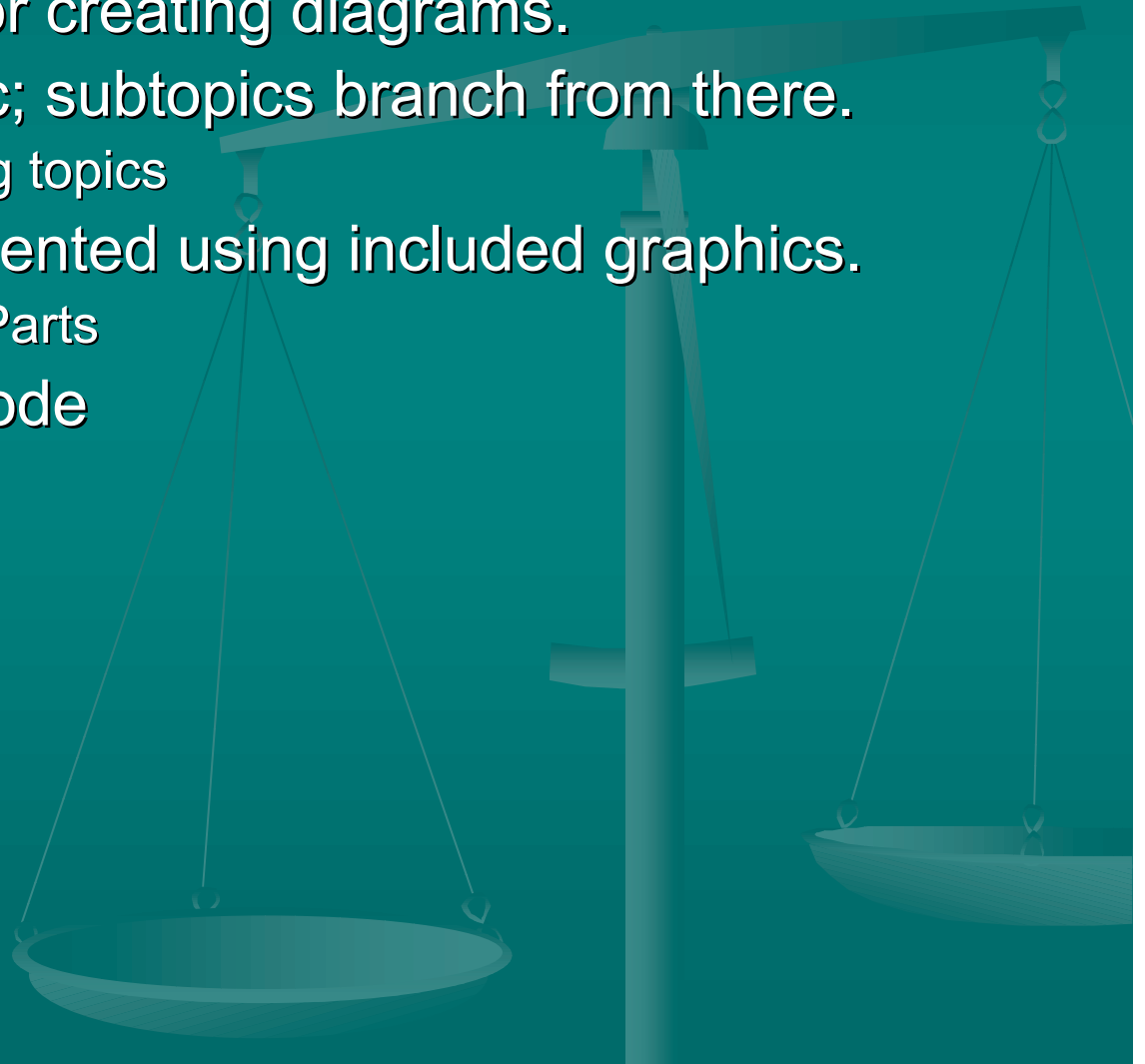
- Cons

- Cumbersome to use
- No integration

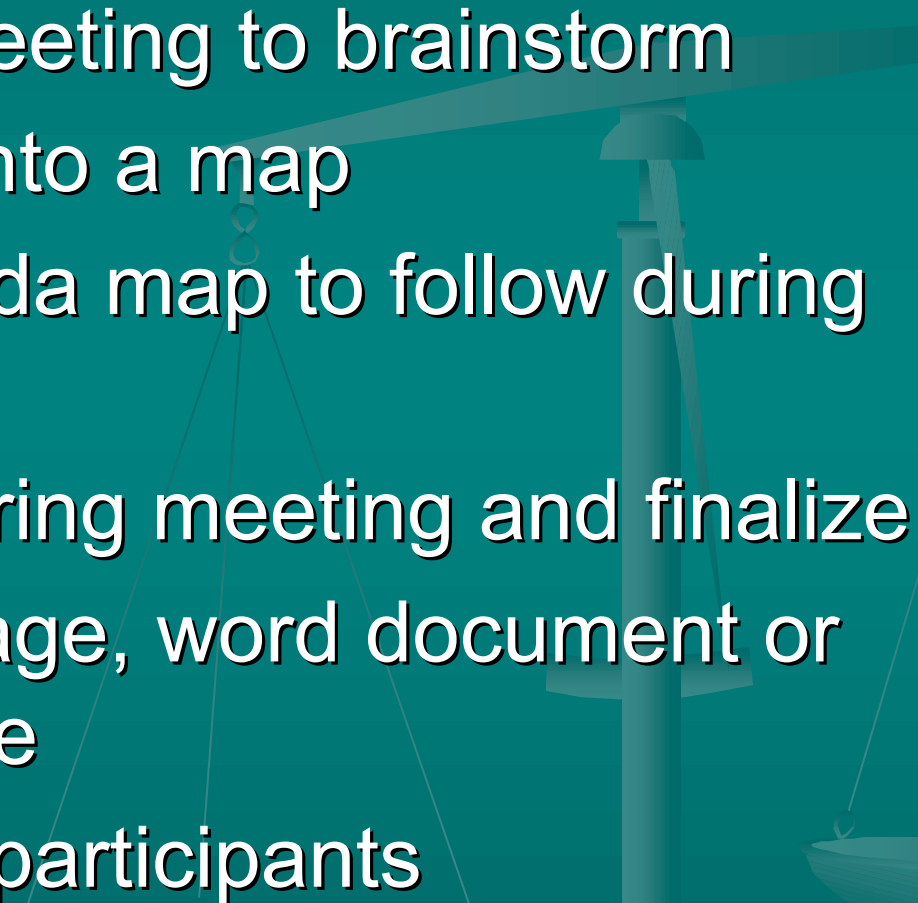


# MindManager

- Includes templates for creating diagrams.
- Starts with main topic; subtopics branch from there.
  - Can also have floating topics
- Topics can be represented using included graphics.
  - Can also insert Map Parts
- Create in diagram mode
  - Brainstorm mode
  - Review mode
  - Presentation mode
- View in outline mode
  - Doesn't allow editing



# MindManager: use

- Use before a meeting to brainstorm
  - Arrange ideas into a map
  - Create an agenda map to follow during meeting
  - Review map during meeting and finalize
  - Export to webpage, word document or power point slide
  - Distribute to all participants
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# MindManager: evaluation

- Business meeting, mind map, project planning
- Fairly simple to use; contains more advanced tasks
- Integrates with Outlook tasks
- Can be exported to Word and Power Point
- Shortcut keys make creating nodes easy; no wizard
- No networking ability
- Contains clipart categorized by topic, and flags
- Outline, map, brainstorm, presentation views

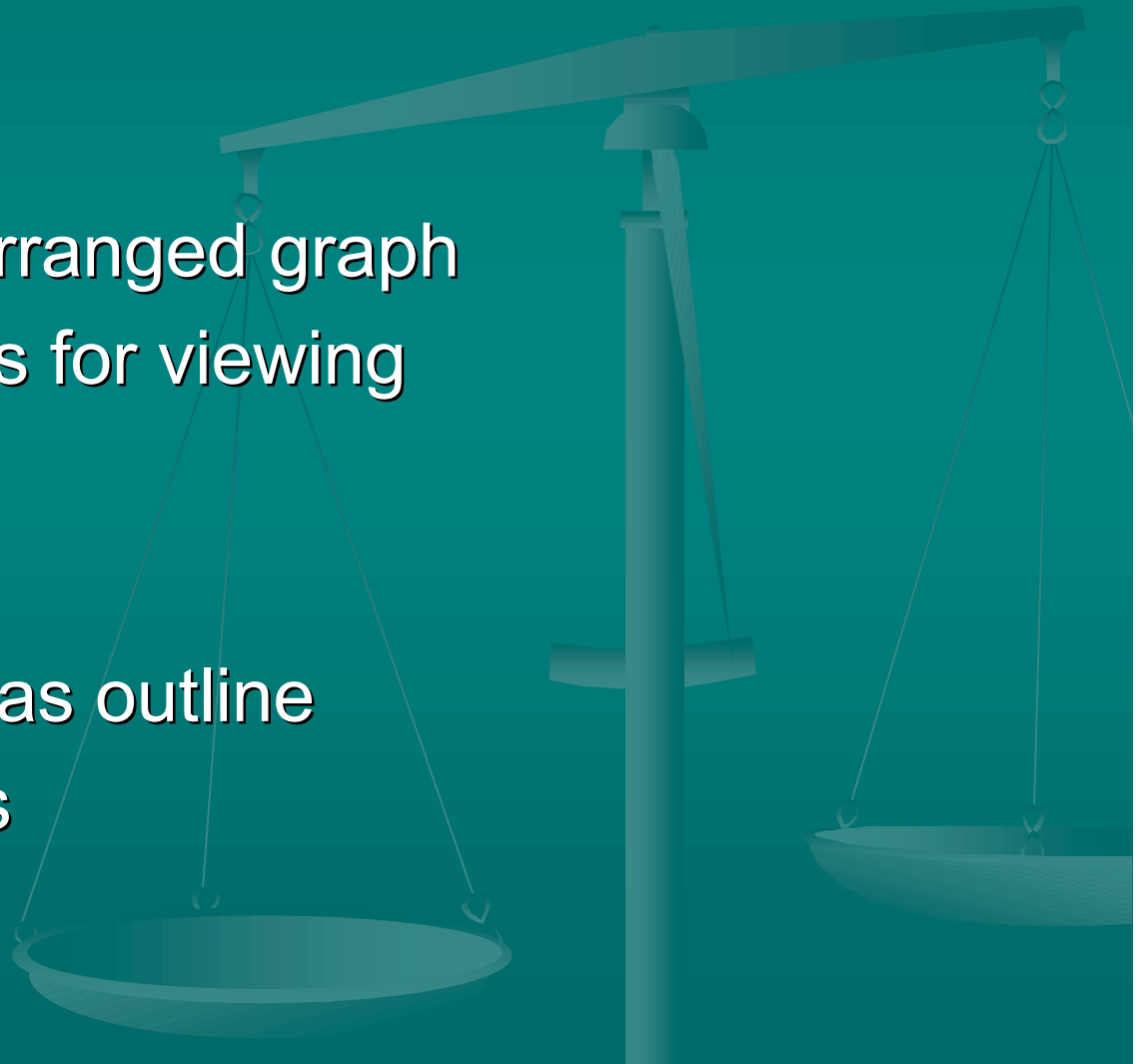
# MindManager

## ■ Pros

- Easy to create
- Automatically arranged graph
- Alternate modes for viewing
- Integration

## ■ Cons

- Can not create as outline
- No labeled links



# Conclusion

- Smart Draw
  - <http://www.smartdraw.com>
- Personal Brain
  - <http://www.thebrain.com>
- Inspiration
  - <http://www.inspiration.com>
- MindManager
  - <http://www.mindjet.com>

