Ad Creative

Best Practices Guide



Creative Specs

Terminus Recommended Ad Sizes

For complete list of supported ad sizes, please see our **Support Guide for Display Advertising**.

Display

Top 8 Ad Sizes

728x90 320x50

300x250 970x250

160x600 300x50

300x600 320x480

Supported File Size: Smaller than 200KB for static display ads, up to 5MG for animated .GIF ads

Animated ads are restricted to a maximum of 15 seconds of looping, after which point they must remain static.

Supported File Types: HTML5, .GIF, .JPEG, or .PNG

Video/CTV

1920x1080 or 1280x720

File size must be smaller than 10MB.

Dimensions must be at least 400 pixels in height or width.

Minimum duration for video ads is 5 seconds, and maximum duration is 60 seconds, but Terminus recommends creating separate ads under 15/30/45/60 seconds.

The video target bitrate is 2500 kbps. Greater than or less than 2500 kbps is also acceptable if the total file size conforms to the accepted <10MB.

Supported File Type: .MP4

Audio

File size must be smaller than 10MB.

Bitrate is 160kbps. Hosted .MP3 files should have contrast birate.

Spot Length: 15 or 30 seconds.

Supported File Type: .MP3, .M4A, or .WAV

Companion Banner File Type: .JPEG, .JPG, or .PNG

Additional Channels

LinkedIn: 1200x627

Maximum File Size: 2MB Supported File Types: .JPEG or .PNG

Here's a link to all of LinkedIn's current ad specs.

Email: 384x96 and 768x192

Maximum File Size: 400KB Supported File Types: .GIF or .PNG

When designing your GIF, make sure the first frame can stand alone and communicate a clear call-to-action.

Native

Ad Creative Elements

Anatomy of an Ad

Always include these three elements to create high-performing ad creative.



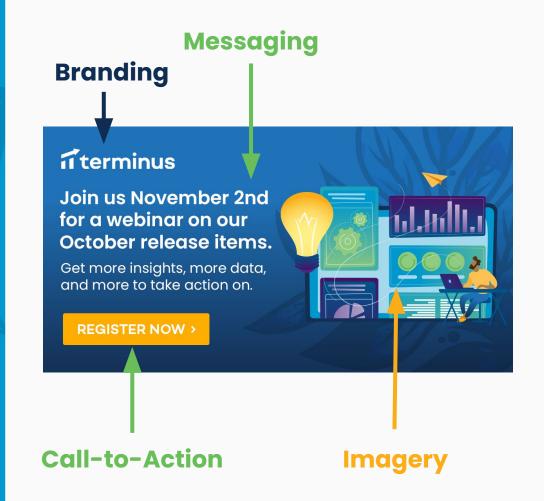
Branding



Messaging & Call-to-Action



Imagery



Branding

Examples of branding include, but are not limited to:



Logo



Font Choice



Brand Colors



Design Motif(s)

*Only if applicable



Logo

Font

Ensure that your ads always align with your brand standards and guidelines in order to maintain consistency across all media channels.

Design Motif

(i.e. any design elements that are specific to your brand)

Brand Guidelines Alignment

Font

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ 1234567890



Colors



Logo



All four brand elements are present in the example ad.

Design Motif

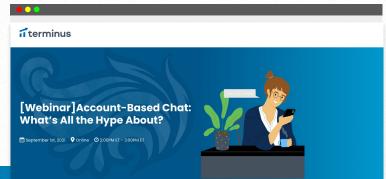




- Display ads should always match your brand guidelines to ensure consistency across all marketing campaigns.
- People trust companies that are consistent and reliable. Consistency creates brand recognition and builds trust.
- Purchasing is an emotional decision more than a practical one. The reader must trust your brand before buying a product or service.

Ad & Landing Page Alignment

Ensure that your ads and landing page are aligned in design, messaging, and brand expression.



[Webinar]
Account-Based Chat:
What's All the Hype About?
Wednesday,
September 1, 2-3 pm ET

GET REGISTERED >



- A seamless design creates a better user experience, leading to higher engagements and conversions.
- Just as display ads should match your brand guidelines, your landing page should as well.
- If your brand changes across different media channels, it will be difficult to create brand awareness and recognition.
- The landing page should answer the CTA. If it is difficult for the reader to get the information they need, you will see lower engagement levels and higher bounce rates.

Landing Pages: Key Points & Best Practices





Landing page url must click through to the website of the same brand used in the ad

02

Landing page must be crawlable by ad bots

03

Landing page link must be to an actual web page

Can't link directly to a file, such as a downloadable PDF

04

Landing page link should be the full declared domain

URL shorteners do work, but aren't considered a best practice

Messaging

Elements that make up an ad's messaging include:



Headline



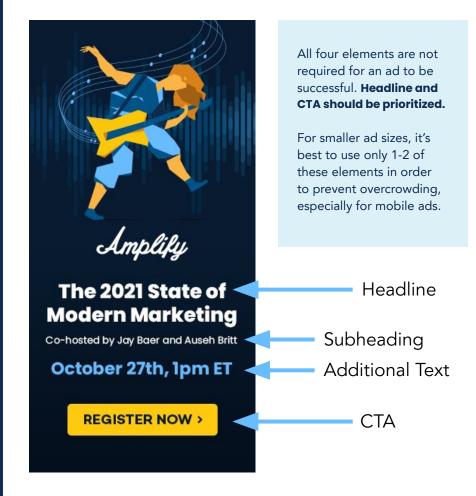
Subheading



Call-to-Action



Additional Text



Messaging: Do's and Don'ts









- **Do** be concise, but effective. Value props & CTAs should be clear without overcrowding the ad.
- Do differentiate your messaging based on audience segmentation for higher engagement.
- Do use stats, customer quotes, and other unique call outs to stand out from your competitors.
- ✓ Do align messaging with your campaign goals.

- Don't overuse industry jargon or acronyms that may not resonate with your audience.
- Don't be too generic. Scale personalization with messaging that aligns to audience segmentation.
- Don't use assertive Call-to-Actions for top of funnel campaigns. Default to Learn More.

Call-To-Action

Step 1: Explain What Action the Reader Should Take

This type of CTA informs the reader what type of content to expect upon visiting the landing page.

Examples: Get Free E-Book, Book a Demo, Read Whitepaper

Step 2: Meet Reader's Expectations

Your reader should not be confused once they act on the call-to-action. The CTA should always align with the landing page the reader is directed to.

Examples: Register Now > Webinar Sign Up Page, Learn More > Informative Page, Article, or Blog Post Book an Appointment > Calendar Page, CTAs work best when limited to 2-3 words (10-15 characters). **Do not use more than four words**; the shorter the better due to size constraints within display ad banners.

Hypertarget the accounts you really care about.

Across web, email, and chat.

Discover the power of Terminus!



Crawl, Walk, Run of Multi-channel ABM December 1st, 1pm ET

Hear from Terminus team members and rockstar customers



iterminus VOLUME III

September Issue

Check out the most creative ad and banner designs in digital advertising today!



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Typography

Headline: The largest and boldest text regardless of ad size.

Subheading: A smaller font size and thinner weight in order to provide contrast from the headline.

CTA: The text should be a contrasting color from the box around it.

Optimal Character Count:

160x600: 90 Characters

300x600: 110 Characters

300x250: 100 Characters

320x50: 75 Characters

728x90: 100 Characters

970x250: 110 Characters







Regular

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcde fghijklmnopgrstuvwxyz1234567890!&?

Demi

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcd efghijklmnopgrstuvwxyz1234567890!&?

Bold

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcd efghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890!&?

Heavy

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ! & ?

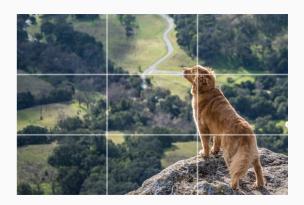
Use weights within 2-3 levels of each other for maximum contrast.

Example: If the headline uses Avenir Heavy, use Avenir Regular for the subheading. Bold or Demi would not provide enough contrast.

Rule of Thirds

- The rule of thirds describes a basic compositional structure of a photograph.
- Taking any image, you can split it into 9 segments by using 3 vertical and 3 horizontal lines.
- The Points of Interest are at areas which two lines intersect. Your key subject matter, or focal points, should be positioned here.
- The Rule of Thirds is a fantastic tool for quickly improving a photo to make it more pleasing to view.

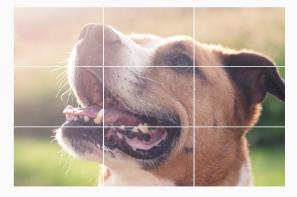
Good Examples





Bad Examples





Illustrations

- Illustrations can provide a new and custom look that stands out from competition.
- Match the illustration style with your brand's personality and tone of voice.
- Illustrations won't resonate with every audience. Keep this in mind when deciding between illustrations and stock photos as stock images of photos tend to perform better.
- When targeting higher seniority, stick with photography.
- Illustrations perform better when animated.







Creative Data & Performance

Benchmarks by Creative Type

Creatives are only as strong as the design, targeting, and messaging

File Type Display/LinkedIn	CTR	СРМ	% of inventory
Static: Typically Easiest to Deliver File types- Jpg, PNG	.0410%	\$10-\$15	75%
Animated : Eye-Catching File types- GIF	.1020% (2-3x Static)	\$12-\$18	Depends on if the publisher supports this format type
HTML5: Better Overall Performance File types- Zip	.2050% (4-5x Static)	\$12-\$18	Depends on if the publisher supports this format type
Video: Engaging Content File types- Mp4	.2040% (4-5x Static)	\$14-\$20	20%



1. Use benchmarks over time to gauge budget efficiency and creative performance 2.Benchmarks vary by industry, dept, function, and creative format/size

Benchmarks by Channel

Benchmarks should not be used to measure success. Success should be measured by the progression toward the business goals. Benchmarks are merely a gauge of browsing behavior

Channel	CTR	СРМ	СРС
Standard Display	.04%30%	\$9 - \$15	\$5 - \$10
IP	.04%25%	\$9 - \$15	\$6 - \$11
Retargeting	.20% - 2.2%	\$12 - \$25	\$3 - \$7
LinkedIn	.50% - 60%	\$20-\$25	\$12-\$15
Email Signature	.50%80%	N/A	N/A



1. Use benchmarks over time to gauge budget efficiency and creative performance 2.Benchmarks vary by industry, dept, function, and creative format/size

Benchmarks by Ad Format

Benchmarks should not be used to measure success. Success should be measured by the progression toward the business goals. Benchmarks are merely a gauge of browsing behavior

Channel	CTR	СРМ
300x250	.06%30%	\$9 - \$15
300x50	.04%25%	\$9 - \$15
300x600	.20% - 2.2%	\$12 - \$25
160x300	.50% - 60%	\$20-\$25
728x90	.50%80%	N/A
970x250	.50% - 60%	\$20-\$25



1. Use benchmarks over time to gauge budget efficiency and creative performance 2.Benchmarks vary by industry, dept, function, and creative format/size

Color	CTR Ranking	Popularity
Blue	1	13%
Black	2	16%
Green	3	16%
Orange	4	2%
Pink	5	3%
Gray	6	14%
Purple	7	12%
Red	8	2%
White	9	22%

^{*}Data based on survey of 5,000 tactics launched by Terminus customers.

Background Color

Most Popular Colors

White, Black, and Green

Top Performing Colors

Blue, Black, and Green

(Bright and Bold colors typically outperform)

Image Type	CTR Ranking	Popularity
People	1	30%
Graphics	2	52%
Photos	3	5%
None	4	13%

People: Photographs of people or one person

Graphics: Illustrations or vector images

Photos: Photographs of places or things that do not include people

None: No imagery present

Types of Imagery

Most Popular Imagery Type used in Terminus Ads
Graphics

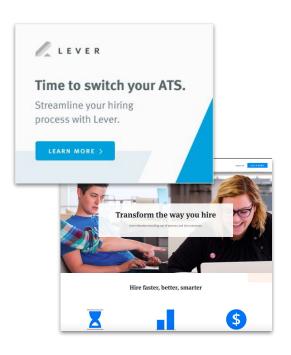
Top Performing Ads by CTR
People

volle. No imagery present

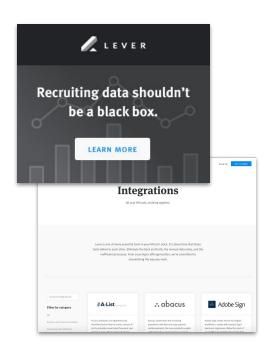
Creatives for Buying Stages

Demand Generation: Persona/Role

Human Resources



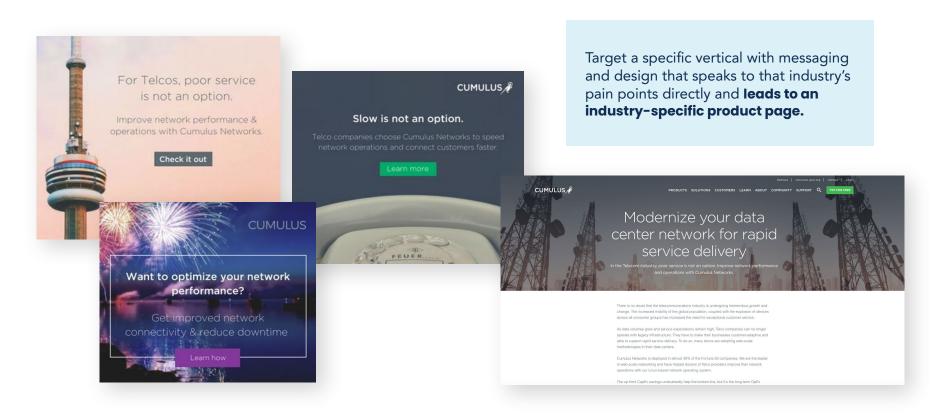
CXO, Finance



IT Operations



Demand Generation: Industry/Vertical



Pipeline Velocity: Pre-Opportunity

ABM Stage: Unaware



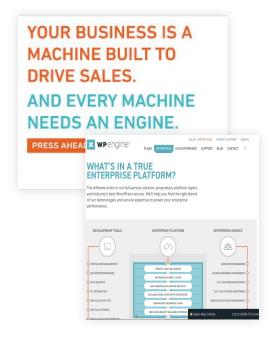
Enterprise Vertical Page

ABM Stage: Aware



Ungated Case Study

ABM Stage: Interested



Detailed Product Page

Pipeline Velocity: Early Funnel Stage

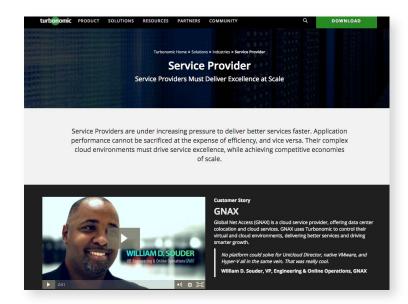






Target accounts in early stage opportunities through segmentation by industry or vertical.

In this example, the ad leads visitors to an industry-specific page with relevant case study.



Pipeline Velocity: Full Funnel

Early Stage: Pretargeting with Brand Awareness



Mid Stage: Adding Value



Late Stage: Affirmation and Funnel Velocity





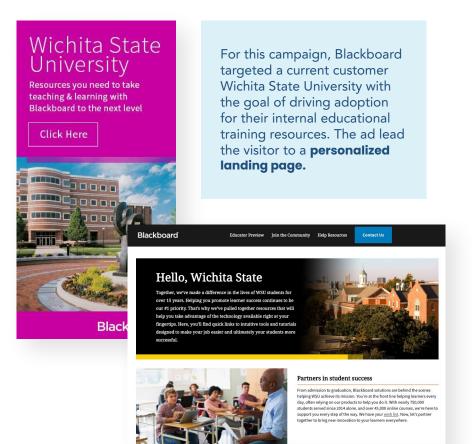
1:1 Campaigns



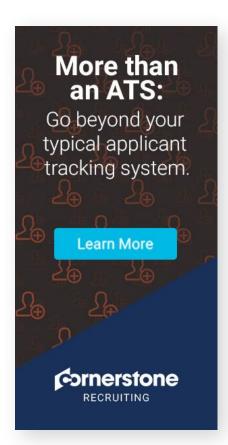
In the example, a personalized ad leads to custom Uberflip landing page.

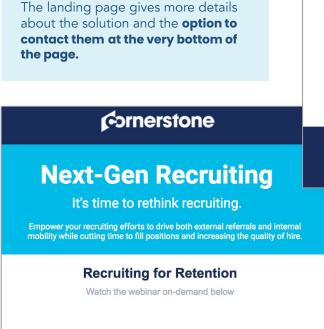
Call out company name in text, but do not use their logo.





Customer Expansion





Using Recruiting in Your Employee Retention Strategy

Consider a



In this example, Cornerstone is targeting customers who currently use their Applicant Tracking System with the goal of upselling them to also use their recruiting solution.

Creatives for Global

General Do's and Don'ts



1 terminus



For more information, please see our guide for Global Targeting with Ad Experiences.

- Do consider the native language when determining the target country. Ads designed with native languages in the messaging, tend to perform better. This is especially true for Germany and France.
- Do Consider your target country when selecting your imagery and try to include images that will resonate
- ✓ Do use messaging that applies to all parties within the decision making unit. Utilize a direct, high-level message with minimal jargon.
- Don't rely on personally identifiable information for IP Targeting.
- Don't forget to ensure that any forms or cookies you carry on your web properties comply with GDPR regulations.
- Don't plan to target in China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, or Syria. Due to regulations, Terminus cannot target accounts in these countries.

Creatives for LinkedIn

LinkedIn Best Practices

Everything you need to know to leverage the power of Terminus + LinkedIn





01

Getting Started

Prerequisites for using the LinkedIn integration with Terminus

02

Targeting

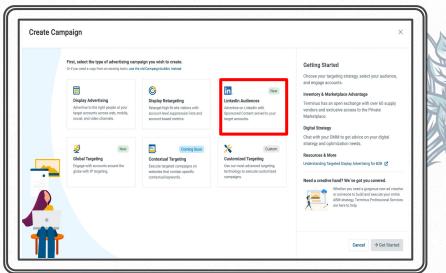
03

Creative

04

Benchmarks

Getting Started





To use Terminus + LinkedIn, you need:

- 1. Terminus Ad Experiences subscription
- 2. An active LinkedIn Advertising account (with an authorized payment method)

Customers can create dynamic LinkedIn audiences based on the CRM accounts from their Terminus Data Studio.

Supports all LinkedIn ad formats including Sponsored Content, video ads, Lead Gen Forms, and more. Leverage the native tools within LinkedIn Campaign Manager using Terminus Account Lists.

Please review our <u>detailed</u> <u>instructions</u> on connecting your accounts to get started.



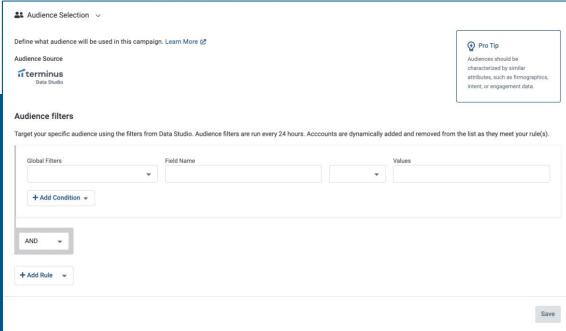
Targeting

It starts with the right audience.

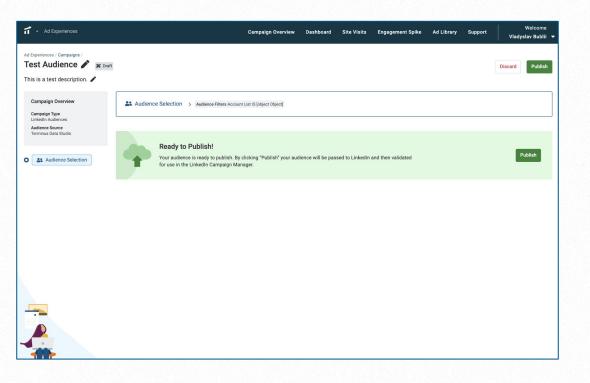
Using Terminus Data Studio, you can:

- Use existing Account Lists
- Create new target audiences with Global Filters
- Use dynamic lists or intent data for effective targeting

Pro Tip: Use additional AND/OR rules to refine your audience in Terminus, but avoid further limiting this audience in LinkedIn's campaign set up.



Publishing your audience



Don't forget to publish your audience.

Once your audience segment has been published, you will be taken to the Campaign Overview page. See a full list of Terminus and LinkedIn audience statuses.

Future edits to audiences can be made from the LinkedIn tab within Terminus Ad Experience by clicking on the Audience name.

Audience Creation & Targeting Best Practices

- For Top of Funnel campaigns, it is best to start with a wide, but defined audience. This can include accounts that fall within your ICP (ideal customer profile).
- Use custom fields within your CRM to create dynamic target lists. An account list can take up to 72 hours to update within a LinkedIn campaign.
- Middle to Bottom of Funnel campaigns can incorporate Bombora data to target accounts with intent. This data can help lower your CPM which is typically higher on this social platform.
- Where possible, A/B test your audiences with variations in targeting criteria so you can see which combinations are more effective
- Tactics with a limited audience can benefit from LinkedIn's Audience Expansion. When enabled, the platform identifies additional users to similar to your target audience.

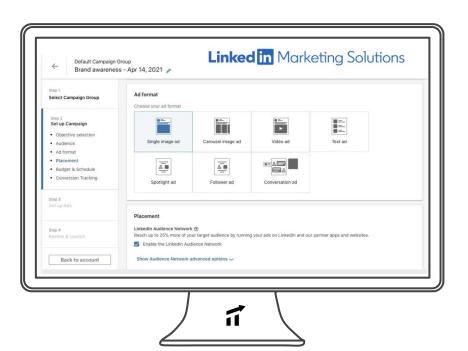
Creative

With Terminus + LinkedIn, your ABM social campaign comes to life with all the available ad types LinkedIn has to offer!

Our integration supports all LinkedIn ad formats including Sponsored Content, Conversation ads, Lead Gen Forms, and more.

Pro Tip: Match your objective to the ad format.

Example: For TOFU/MOFU tactics, use high-impact single image ads, videos or the carousel format to draw attention to whitepapers, free trials, unique benefits, or demos.



Creative Best Practices

STATIC

- Content with larger visuals tend to get up to 38% higher CTR (click-through rates).
- Concise headlines (under 150 characters)
 lead to more engagement
- Clear CTA so your audience knows how to respond

VIDEO/ANIMATED

- Show what you want your audience to see in the first 10 seconds of the video.
- Consider burning subtitles; most LinkedIn users watch video on mute
- Use a mix of graphics, people & text to extend length of views
- Keep videos 30s or less for awareness goals and test longer form videos for demand generation

<u>Pro Tips</u>: A/B Test - compare multiple messages or versions of your ad creative.

Every 1-2 weeks, pause the ad with the lowest engagement and replace it with new ad creative. Over time, this will improve your ad relevance score on the social platform.

Benchmarks

LinkedIn Benchmarks

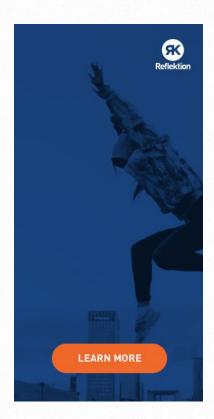
0.44% - 0.65% CTR

\$7.14 CPM \$5.58 CPC

29.5% VTR \$15 - \$350 CPL 3.6%
Message Ad/InMail
CTR

Creative Inspiration Ad Examples- Customer provided Ads

Stage: Awareness











dscout



Check out the 2021 Terminus September Issue

to see the complete collection of outstanding creatives designed by Terminus customers!

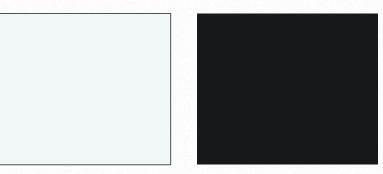
Stage: Opportunity Creation







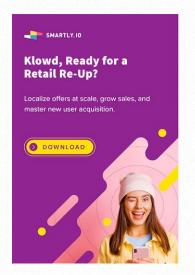




Stage: Pipeline Progression













Stage: Retention and Expansion











Ad Examples-Terminus Creative Services

Terminus Created Static Examples



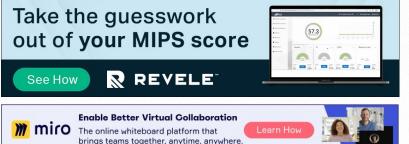












Terminus Created Animated Examples

