

# Defensive Design

37signals defines defensive design  
as “design for when things go  
wrong.”

In their book, Defensive Design for the Web, they define four ways defensive design supports users and helps them recover.

**Validates** data to  
check for mistakes  
before they frustrate  
the user.

**Expands** available  
options based on the  
user's implied intent.

**Protects** site visitors  
from server errors and  
broken links with  
informative messages.

**Assists** the user before  
mistakes happen.