

Design and Test Report

created for shyft.

Table of Contents

Joining MyCommunitySite.com

- Introduction
- Heuristic Evaluation Findings
- Usability Study Findings
- Design Proposal Introduction
- Designs
- User Testing Findings
- Conclusion

Heuristic Evaluation

Joining MyCommunitySite.com & Dashboard

Objectives:

- To scientifically locate and evaluate issues on the MyCommunitySite onboarding process and back-end interface.
- Suggest solutions to issues that pose significant barriers to a positive user experience and hinder usability.

Methodology

We conducted a heuristic study of the sign up and dashboard components of MyCommunitySite.com was conducted. For more information on heuristics, see <u>Nielsen's 10 Heuristics for UI</u> and <u>Conducting a Heuristic Study</u>

Key:

JOIN - Joining process
BUILD - Website Builder

Rating scale

- 0 = I don't agree that this is a usability problem at all
- 1 = Cosmetic problem only: need not be fixed unless extra time is available on project
- 2 = Minor usability problem: fixing this should be given low priority
- 3 = Major usability problem: important to fix, so should be given high priority
- 4 = Usability catastrophe: imperative to fix this before product can be released

#1: Visibility of system status

The system should always keep users informed about what is going on, through appropriate feedback within reasonable time.

Severity 2

• BUILD Difficult to visualize page edits (e.g. how does "masthead area" display). Did it work the way I wanted it to work?

Possible Solution: On the back-end, show an example of a sample page that highlights the area the user is working on.

- Build Dashboard does not let you know if files have been uploaded.
 Possible Solution: Include a visual confirmation cue, such as a green checkmark layover and the name of the file uploaded.
- **BUILD** Not clear that page edits publish. **Possible Solution:** Include a visual confirmation cue, and a button to view the live page so users can visually confirm changes.
- **BUILD / JOIN** It is confusing to know where you are located in the navigational hierarchy of both the onboarding process and back-end interface.
 - **Possible Solution:** Add a progress bar to the onboarding process and breadcrumbs to the general back-end.

#2: Match between system and the real world

The system should speak the users' language, with words, phrases and concepts familiar to the user, rather than system-oriented terms. Follow real-world conventions, making information appear in a natural and logical order.

Severity 2

• BUILD Unfamiliar UI compared to other products in the market

Possible Solution: Look at popular products for inspiration for design conventions.

Severity 3

• **BUILD** No indication of real-world HOA on the back-end **Possible Solution:** Customize back-end interface to clearly show the name of the HOA and a "profile picture."

#3: User control and freedom

Users often choose system functions by mistake and will need a clearly marked "emergency exit" to leave the unwanted state without having to go through an extended dialogue. Support undo and redo.

Severity 2

Build No limits on text input area
 Possible Solution: Add limits to text inputs

Severity 3

- BUILD / JOIN There is no way to "go back," "undo," and "redo" other than hitting the back button on the browser.

 Possible Solution: Build a back, undo and redo buttons directly into the back-end UI
- BUILD Once a photo is added and the website is published the picture can not be deleted. The only option to remove a picture and replace it with another picture.

Possible Solution: Include the option to delete photos

#4: Consistency and standards

Users should not have to wonder whether different words, situations, or actions mean the same thing. Follow platform conventions.

Severity 1

• JOIN General inconsistencies in design. Heights of options for designs and pages are different. Ways of selecting options are inconsistent (between design, pages, and pricing). Alignment of buttons (radio/check) are inconsistent.

Possible Solution: Make heights uniform and rethink the layout of the pricing page. Retool design for consistency

Severity 2

• Join Save & Next wording

Possible Solution: Change wording to be more in line with what the user is doing, and be consistent

Severity 3

• BUILD Image upload is confusing, opens space up and does not scroll back up to where the image upload was, interface is confusing

Possible Solution: Design a better interface that is more understandable with more usability and less confusion.

#5: Error prevention

Even better than good error messages is a careful design which prevents a problem from occurring in the first place. Either eliminate error-prone conditions or check for them and present users with a confirmation option before they commit to the action.

Severity 2

• JOIN Password should be entered twice for verification **Possible Solution:** There should be an option to see the password as well as it should be entered twice

- **BUILD** It is not clear what each element in the builder is or does, such as Masthead 1 **Possible Solution:** Show an example of where the locations of information on the page is and generally rethink the building process
- **BUILD** No "are you sure..." warnings indicating what might happen if you go through with major changes. **Possible Solution:** Add a warning or secondary approve click for deleting items, or actions that could affect multiple parts of the site

#6: Recognition rather than recall

Minimize the user's memory load by making objects, actions, and options visible. The user should not have to remember information from one part of the dialogue to another. Instructions for use of the system should be visible or easily retrievable whenever appropriate.

- **JOIN** Remember me for credit cards on file? Or my login? What are you remembering? **Possible Solution:** This is important because the confusion of these two different processes can make the user start the process all over again if the user doesn't understand the question prompt.
- **BUILD** Difficult to determine where the user is "located" in the site **Possible Solution:** The user shouldn't get confused by what pages they are accessing. Redesign by integrating with a combination of location "cues", breadcrumbs and better labeling.
- BUILD Terminology/naming not clear

 Possible Solution: Design the site with explanations on terminology either a hover over or a help button or find an alternative terminology that is easier for users to understand.
- JOIN The front page has visibility issues making it hard to see the navigation buttons on the top of the website when background pictures are lighter than the text.

 Possible Solution: Either creating a bar underneath the navigation with enough contrast that it is easier to see. Or selecting background images that have enough contrast so the navigation bar is easier to see.

#7: Flexibility and efficiency of use

Accelerators — unseen by the novice user — may often speed up the interaction for the expert user such that the system can cater to both inexperienced and experienced users. Allow users to tailor frequent actions.

- **BUILD** The whole accordion header should be clickable, not just the text. **Possible Solution:** The clickable area should be expanded to include a large sweet spot for effortless button selection.
- JOIN Responsive design is limited. A user with a 13" laptop couldn't see the skip button. **Possible Solution:** Design should be responsive so that the site is accessible on all devices.



Dialogues should not contain information which is irrelevant or rarely needed. Every extra unit of information in a dialogue competes with the relevant units of information and diminishes their relative visibility.

Severity 1

- JOIN Ellipsis after password

 Possible Solution: Ellipsis can be removed and the term can be rephrased to "Password"
- Join Every description of a theme says generally the same thing.

 Possible Solution: Change the wording and allow a user to view themes so that the difference can be noticed

- Join Labels and step by step too wordy **Possible Solution:** Only relevant and important information should be presented and it should be presented clearly.
- **BUILD** Too much going on in the dashboard home. Literally can't fit all the text. Text-heavy with no space-saving icons **Possible Solution:** Edit the information on the dashboard. Use more universal icons, but make sure their texts are not icons for that selection. Utilize responsive design so that text can be replaced when icons in different screen configurations.

#9: Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors

Error messages should be expressed in plain language (no codes), precisely indicate the problem, and constructively suggest a solution.

Severity 1

• JOIN My coupon isn't valid but its not telling me anything **Possible Solution:** Add notification about if discounts with coupons

Severity 2

• **JOIN** No indication that password needs to be at least 8 characters until after password is entered **Possible Solution:** Add notification that lets the user know what is correct format for passwords

- JOIN Text under for errors in sign up too thin and unreadable **Possible Solution:** Change the weight and scale of texts to improve readability.
- JOIN / BUILD No "undo" button, or versioning. No way to go cancel or undo an event added to the calendar. **Possible Solution:** Add and undo button with at least 2 levels of undo so users have a change to correct mistakes. Add versioning and change logs so users can remember/go back to previous
- Many errors throughout the joining process that lead to blank pages
 Possible Solution: Make errors modal windows that are easily exited out of and describe what the error is. Also, fix programming errors.

#10: Help and documentation

Even though it is better if the system can be used without documentation, it may be necessary to provide help and documentation. Any such information should be easy to search, focused on the user's task, list concrete steps to be carried out, and not be too large.

- **BUILD** Not clear what page/pull quote is should have no information about components in general **Possible Solution:** Add more information describing what everything is. Add helpers, tutorials, or any additional kind of help and documentation to assist the user.
- Webinars, tutorial videos & support contact info missing in dashboard
 Possible Solution: Build links to helpful webinars and tutorial videos into the back-end right next to where users would need them. Include a consistent support "question mark" icon throughout the back-end.

Summary of findings

We did not find any catastrophic issues. However, the onboarding process and dashboard are in need of repair and some reimagined experiences due to the number of negative findings.

Usability Study Findings

Joining MyCommunitySite.com

Objectives:

- Identify areas of the joining process that users have the most trouble
- Understand why they are having trouble, if any
- Evaluate users' reaction to the UI and copy
- Provide meaningful and relevant suggestions and solutions to improve the user experience and user interface

Methodology

Remote usability testing was conducted from July 1-10th, 2020. 9 participants, ages X-X were chosen due to their closeness in age bracket and computer literacy of current MyCommunitySite.com members and target clients.

Participants were asked to go to MyCommunitySite.com, join the site, and navigate through the signup process.

Homepage

Findings

- 7 of 9 users did not have issues finding the "Join Now" link at the top of the page.
- 2 users scrolled up and down on the page looking for a way to join.
- One user spent almost 2 minutes looking for a way to join the site.



Recommendations

Make the Join Me link more prominent in the top right corner by styling it as a button. Larger font, bright colors, and a background.

Sign Up

Findings

Site Name

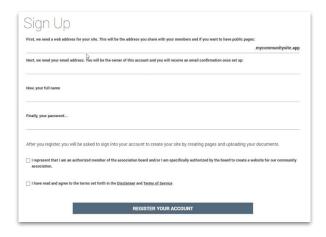
- 7 of 9 users put an email address or "www." ".com" as their site name
- 5 of 7 users did not understand the error message and required assistance to continue
- One user, when faced with an error, tried to click next to mycommunitysite.app to move the text to the right side of the page

Password

- One user was concerned about the security of the website and their password
- One user received an error due to not entering in the required amount of characters for the password

Other

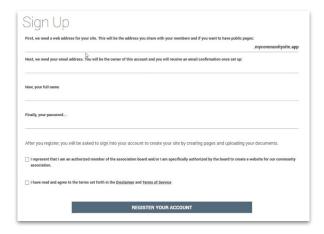
- Disclaimer and TOS links are broken
- One user with a smaller laptop did not realize there was content below the fold



"May not contain...well alright, you should have said that to begin with."

Sign Up

- Show instructions for site name and password upfront with more clear, understandable language
- Use more common UI standards
- Fix error for Disclaimer and Terms of Service
- Redesign error response, allow user to go back or see error without having to use browser back bar
- Make error messages more prominent and explanatory
- Add more introductory text possibly merge with next screen



Getting Started

Findings

 Users did not have a problem with this page, but asked aloud if they should click "select your theme" before continuing

Recommendations

Consider rewording the text to be more descriptive and changing "select your theme" to continue

Let's get started

Welcome to MyCommunitySite. You are about to create and customize your site. There are 5 steps outlined below. Once you have created your site, you will be asked to finalize your account and enter your payment information.

- 1. Select your theme
- 2. Enter some basic information about your association
- 3. Select a couple of different page types for your site
- 4. Upload the list of association members
- 5. Enter your payment details and launch your site!

SELECT YOUR THEME

Select Theme

Findings

- 7 of 9 users did not have problems navigating this page and moving forward
- One user found the themes hard to see and thought they looked alike
- One user thought there was only one option for their theme
- One user had problems with their browser, IE11

Recommendations

- Improve the UI and text to showcase each theme's individuality
- Apply cross-browser compatibility, even outdated or deprecated browser IE10

Select your theme





SAVE & NEXT

"The theme is really hard to see and they all look the same to me, especially modern feel and modern feel 2."

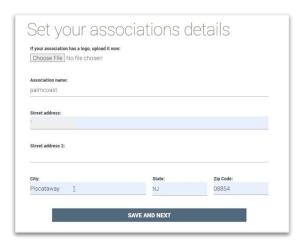
Association Details

Findings

- 7 of 9 users did not have problems navigating this page and moving forward
- Two users thought that they needed to use the site name they entered as the association name (mysite.mycommunitysite.app)

Recommendations

 Provide an example of an association name, or provide more clear instructions



Select Pages

Findings

- 8 of 9 users were unable to select any pages other than Member Documents
- 3 users were unsure if they had to select more than one in order to move on

- Add descriptive and guiding text at the top of the window
- Apply cross-browser compatibility, even outdated or deprecated browser IE10

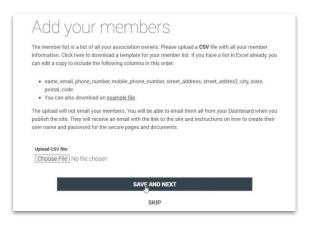


Add Members

Findings

- 5 of 9 users did not have problems navigating this page and moving forward
- Two users hit save and next without uploading a CSV and received a 404 error
- One user with a smaller laptop was unable to see "skip"

- Do not allow users to click save and next unless they have uploaded a file
- Place save and next buttons side by side

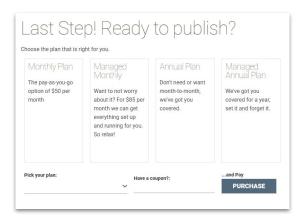


Pick a Plan

Findings

- Two users thought clicking on a box would select a plan
- Three users did not understand how much the plans cost
- One user thought that they needed to write in what plan they wanted

- Use common UI styling for interactive elements
- Add pricing for each of the plans in the description boxes



Overall

Findings

- The average time it took a user to join the site from the home page to pay was 8 minutes.
- The shortest amount of time was 2 minutes, the longest 12
- Some of the UI is unfamiliar to users and causes confusion
- There are many dead ends (error pages) possible throughout the process

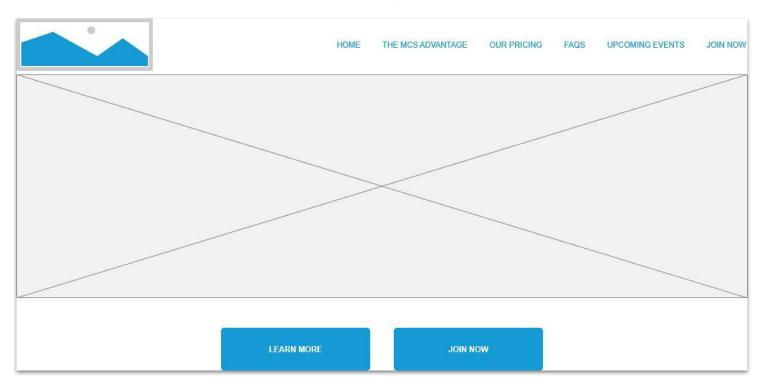
- Fix the errors throughout the process, and adjust the error messages to not be full screen/next page
- Rewrite some instruction and error messages to be more clear and concise
- Provide information that helps the user along the journey
- Use consistent and common UI to provide a familiar experience
- Provide the user a way to go back through the journey

Designs

Joining MyCommunitySite.com

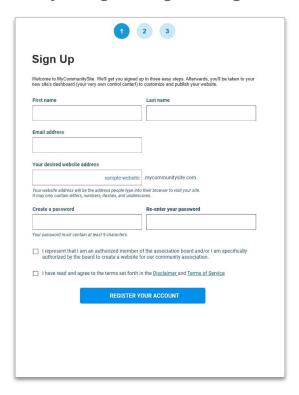
Join Now Process

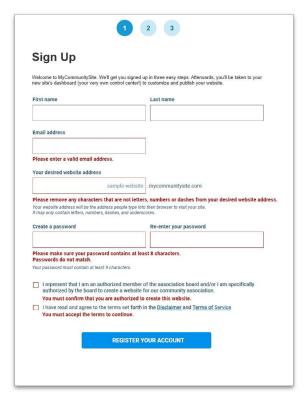
We added the Join Now button next to Learn More so that it is easily visible to the users.



Sign Up Process

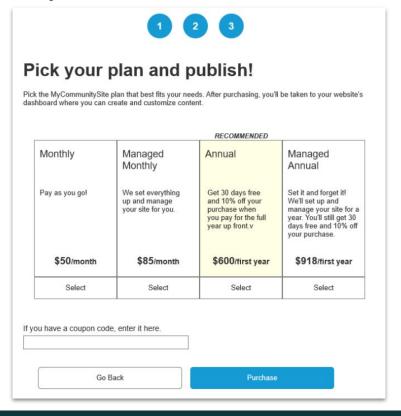
We removed several steps in the sign up process, streamlining joining to three steps. Changes to the initial sign up page were made based on usability testing, focusing on adding information in order to reduce user error.





Sign Up Process

Adding information about each plan, as well as highlighting a recommended plan reduces confusion and creates confidence in the user that they are purchasing what they need.

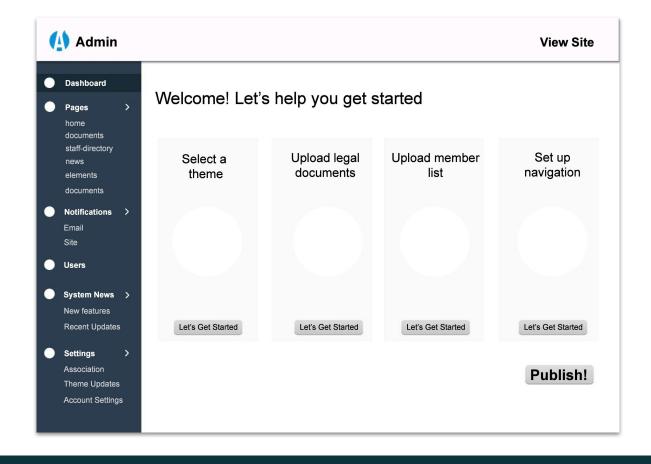


Designs

MyCommunitySite User Dashboard

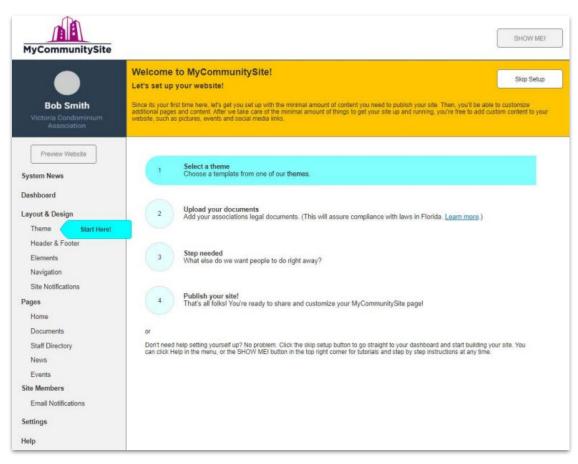
First time login concept 1

We envision a step by step walkthrough for first time users that would assist in adding the minimal amount of information and set up needed to comply with Florida laws. This would also serve as a tutorial for using the site and help familiarize users with the navigation and tools. Several iterations of the left navigation are being tested and considered.



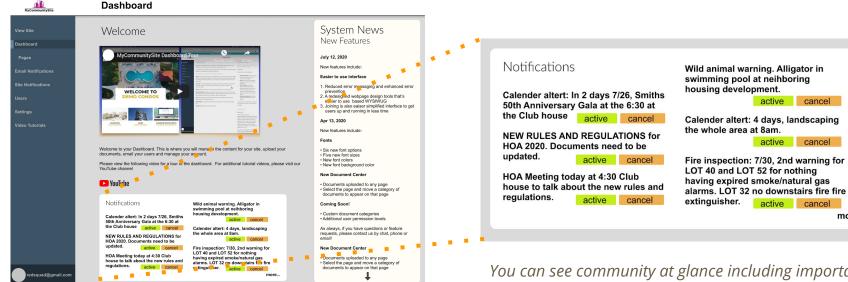
First time login concept 2

We tested two different approaches to the introductory wizard.



Adding Notification to the Dashboard

Notification help HOA admins keep on top of important tasks.



Keep track of on updates, schedules and association requirements When you need it you can check on important tasks

You can see community at glance including important status updates and special events

active cancel

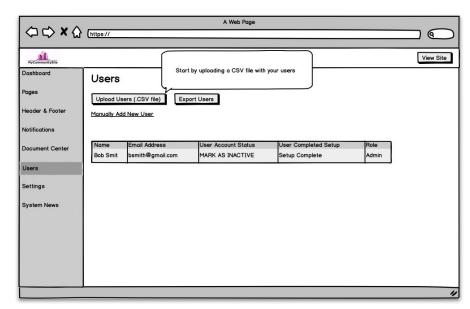
active cancel

active cancel

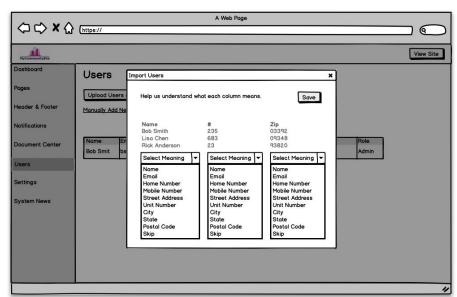
more...

Adding Users

We designed a more flexible, guided experience with CSV file column matching and tooltips.



Tooltips guide new users step-by-step



A modal instructs users to match their CSV file columns to MyCommunitySite standard columns

User Testing Findings

Joining MyCommunitySite.com

Objectives:

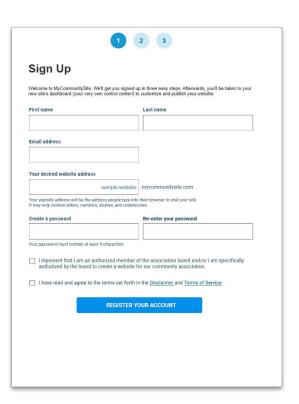
•

Sign Up Process

Findings

- More information about pricing and the service offered needs to be shown. Users are unsure they are getting the best value or what they are really paying for.
- Users suggested a free trial period to assess value
- Some users were confused about the term "join" due to the idea of joining to get a membership.

- Show examples of sites on the homepage so potential users can see what they are purchasing.
- Provide more information on the pricing plans, and explain in more detail what it means to have your website taken care of Offer a free trial
- Change phrasing of joining to sign up



Setup Wizard 1

Add numbers that create an order

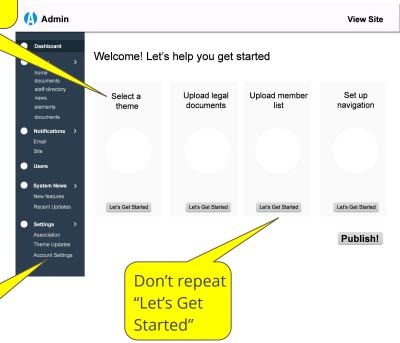
Findings

- The layout looks clean and easy to understand
- The navigation is clear but can be improved
- More information about what each of the steps is for is needed

Recommendations

- There should be numbers that create an order
- Repeating "Let's get started" bothers the users.
 That can be re-written
- Contrast in the dashboard should be more strong.

Contrast in the dashboard can be better

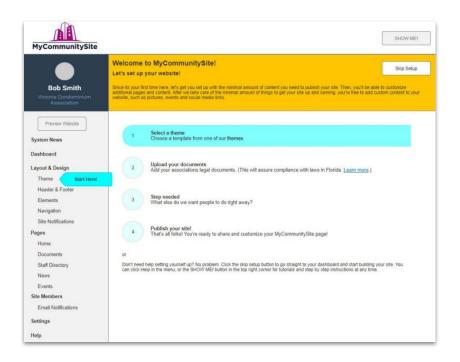


Setup Wizard 2

Findings

- Tooltip is helpful
- Too much text on the screen, too much to read.
- Users were split in preference between the first and second design

- Merge the first and second designs simplify as much as possible without losing important information
- Third step should be upload member list
- More tooling of the left navigation needs to be done



Dashboard

First time users will be overwhelmed

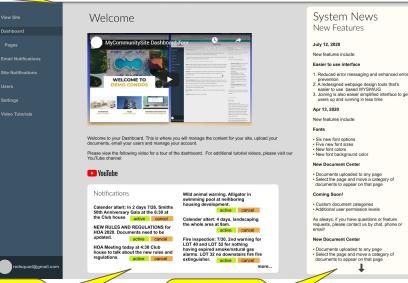
Findings

- Too much information for a first time user
- This needs to be simplified
- Layout should be slightly adjusted as users mistook the YouTube logo as the title of the notifications section
- User suggested adding a notification area for broken links or other areas of the site that aren't working so they can fix it right away.

Recommendations

- Full customizable dashboard
- The ability to minimize Notifications and System News I like the idea. to collapse the feeds or turn them off and on, based on the user.
- Replace cancel with a trash can
- Add link to send feedback or report issues
- Add a survey feature to get feedback from their HOA etc.





but not as new user

Why do you need this?

Adding Users

Findings

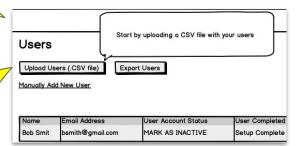
- Some terms are confusing
- Additional upload flexibility is needed
- Some people do not understand what a CSV file is. Consider adding more information about the file and what this is for.

Recommendations

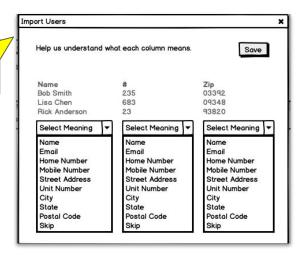
- Include additional/clearer labeling
- Expand and define member upload options

Overall, simple and easy to understand.

"What the heck is CSV?"



Column matching is not clear



Overall

- Generally positive reaction to designs
- Implement tool tips and helper text throughout the site
- Users want to see what they are getting before they sign up
- Suggest adding testimonials from current users
- Users want to be able to preview their site when they add content or make changes
- Information that is not pertinent to signing up and publishing the site should be optional. People are interested in the information but do not want it "cluttering" up their screens.
- Not many people read, so minimize the amount of text

Contact

Molly Prower: molls12@gmail.com

Mike Raynes: michael.t.raynes@gmail.com

Nimish Mytle: nimish1111@gmail.com

Ariel Saulog: ariel.saulog@rutgers.edu