Video transcript

Types of wireframes

For UX designers, wireframes are an important tool that helps transform their conceptual ideas into user-centered experiences.

To tailor their solutions to various challenges, UX designers categorize wireframes into various types.

So, let's explore the different types of wireframes and their role in creating a digital solution.

There are three types of wireframes: low fidelity, or low-fi; mid fidelity, or mid-fi; and high fidelity, or high-fi.

To understand the differences between them, let's consider an example. Sarah is a UX designer creating wireframes for a food blog.

Sarah is just starting her project and wants to explore multiple options. She decides to create low-fi wireframes.

To create a low-fi wireframe, Sarah uses pen and paper. She adds placeholders for recipes, cooking videos, and photographs of dishes. But she doesn't add any colors, text, or actual photos. She focuses on generating low-fi wireframes, which contain just the general layout.

Low-fi wireframes are preferable when starting a new design, creating many wireframes, dealing with time constraints, or exploring multiple layout options before finalizing them based on stakeholder feedback.

Once Sarah has created her low-fi wireframes and shared them with her stakeholders, she finalizes the layout based on the feedback she receives.

Sarah is now ready to create the mid-fi wireframes.

To create the mid-fi wireframes, Sarah adds details, such as section headings and call-to-action buttons. She rearranges some of the elements based on their importance. However, her primary focus remains functionality and not aesthetics.

Mid-fi wireframes allow UX designers to refine their design and layout, establish the visual hierarchy of elements, and guide users' attention to key elements or actions.

Sarah's done with design iterations and is now creating high-fi wireframes.

When creating high-fi wireframes, she includes specific elements and placeholders that closely resemble the intended UI, such as the video player. She also adds microcopy text and text hierarchy to her wireframes. In addition, she adds colors, fonts, and some images to see how the final design will look. Sarah's focus still remains on the design's usability, functionality, and the user experience. The focus is not on the actual content.

UX designers use high-fi wireframes to add UI elements, interactions, and visual design choices.

High-fi wireframes are a more detailed, visually polished, and clearer representation of the final product.

Do UX designers need to create all three types of wireframes? Experienced designers understand that the choice of wireframe varies depending on each project's specific needs and goals.

The most important thing to remember is that based on their project requirements, UX designers can create three types of wireframes that help them visualize their design ideas and communicate these ideas with other stakeholders.