

Why to use it?

Better user experience

When you reduce the amount of distractions for your audience, they are better able to focus their attention on what is important. In the below example, only a single menu item is shown so as to direct the user's attention to something specific.

Using a simplified user interface in help documentation can aid in user success by giving them **only** the information they must have in order to be successful, increasing their success and satisfaction with a product.

Keeping content up to date

Keeping content up to date is one of the biggest challenges faced by technical communicators today. If we look to software as an example, new features and functionalities are being added frequently. And with each feature addition to the user interface, the instructions are at risk of becoming quickly out of date.

Simplified user interface graphics can play a strategic role in keeping the documentation updated. The removal of a button or addition of a feature will easily confuse the user if this change is not reflected in a screenshot. However, a simplified user interface graphic can often sustain multiple software versions and updates before needing further updates. The simplified design is more forgiving to minor interface changes and additions as it is already an abstract representation of the interface.

Faster content localization

During the localization process, it can be time-consuming and expensive to create screenshots and graphics for each locale. Yet, the localization of onboarding materials and other graphics can be trivial for any organization that wants to be successful internationally.

Most technical writers know the effort it takes to create and manage unique screenshots for each language. In order to simplify this task, you can design the content to use SUI images instead of language-specific screenshots. The same graphic can often be repurposed across multiple languages with little to no adjustment. Additional information or instructions can be conveyed through the sub- or figure text.

polish version

english version

SUI version