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## Usability Case Studies – Nielsen Norman Group Articles

## **Stop Password Masking**

- ✓ Usability suffers when users type in passwords and the only feedback they get is a row of bullets. Typically, masking passwords doesn't even increase security, but does cost business!!
- ✓ Feedback and visualizing the system's status most important
  usability measures
- ✓ undifferentiated bullets complex codes does not comply on the earlier principle!
- Most websites (and many other applications) mask passwords as users type them
- ✓ nobody looking over your shoulder when you log in to a website.
  [earlier years internet café curse!]
- ✓ suffering reduced usability to protect against a non-issue

- ✓ Abandon Legacy Design Nasty usability problem in testing of mobile devices
- ✓ typing is difficult and typos are common
- ✓ make more errors when they can't see what they're typing
  while filling in a form, feel less confident
- (a) employ overly simple passwords and/or (b) copy-paste passwords from a file on their computer. Both behaviors lead to a true loss of security.
- ✓ <u>checkbox</u> to have their passwords masked
- ✓ there only because it's always been there
- ✓ understanding your products and offers instead of struggling with the user interface.
- ✓ tension between security and usability, sometimes security wins.

## **Horizontal Attention Leans Left**

- ✓ Web users spend 69% of their time viewing the left half of the page and 30% viewing the right half
- ✓ more than twice as much time looking at the left side of the page as they did the right:
- ✓ Viewing Time : 69% on left half of screen; Right half 30%
- ✓ Keep <u>navigation</u> all the way to the left. current options
- ✓ Keep the **main content** a bit further in from the left.
- ✓ most important stuff should be showcased between one-third and halfway across the page.
- ✓ Priority content should be front and center,

- ✓ Web users spend 69% of their time viewing the left half of the page and 30% viewing the right half
- ✓ more than twice as much time looking at the left side of the page as they did the right:
- **✓ Viewing Time**
- √69% on left half of screen; Right half 30%
- ✓ Keep <u>navigation</u> all the way to the left. current options
- ✓ Keep the main content a bit further in from the left.
- ✓ Left aligned Text v/s Right Aligned Text (Amounts Fine!)
- √ The Newspaper industry still thrives WHY

- most important stuff should be showcased between onethird and halfway across the page.
- ✓ users focus their attention the most on left.
- ✓ Keep secondary content to the right
- ✓ Layouts and viewing patterns are codependent
- ✓ Utilize conventional top navigation or left navigation
- ✓ Web users spend 80% of their time viewing the left half of the page and 20% viewing the right half.
- Adhering to design conventions will help maximize users' efficiency and company profits
- ✓ 81% fixations fall in the left half of this region on SERPs vs.

  80% on general-web pages.