**Visual Modeling**

There is a range of methods used to represent a proposed user interface in visual terms so that the interaction of information, design elements, and the user can be explored and alternate solutions to design challenges can be compared.

Visual modeling generates a visual representation of the system user interface that will bridge the gap between development teams and business owners (or user workgroups). Visual models can range in fidelity from a storyboard, to a structured wireframe, to a high-fidelity UI design. Some visual models can be interactive, permitting usability testing and user acceptance prior to development work.

**Benefits**

* Picture worth 1000 words.

**Limitations**

* Design may not match the underlying technical constraints .

**Study Execution**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **​Milestone** | **​Owner** |
| ​Initiate kick-off call | HFE |
| Provide system access, requirements, and or any other representation of the business needs or  representation of the system | ​Business Office |
| Recruit designers | HFE |
| Recruit work-domain experts | ​Business Office​ |
| ​Conduct visual modeling activities | HFE |
| ​Present models | HFE |
| ​[**Conduct after action review**](https://vaww.portal2.va.gov/sites/humanfactors/SitePages/AAR%20Process.aspx) | HFE |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Phase of Development​** | |
|  | **​**Planning, Scoping & Definition |
| **✔** | **​Requirements Gathering** |
| **​✔** | ​**Early Design** |
| **✔** | ​**Detailed Design & Development** |
| ​ | ​Field Testing |
| ​ | ​Deployment |
| ​​ | ​Post-Deployment |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **​Study Characteristics ​** | |
| ​**Timeframe** | Varies |
| **​Level of Effort** | Varies |
| ​**Data Collection** | N/A |
| ​**Data Reporting** | ​N/A |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **​Related Methods ​** | |
| Derived from | N/A |
| ​Complimentary Methods | [**​User Interview**](https://vaww.portal2.va.gov/sites/humanfactors/HFBoK/SitePages/User%20Interview.aspx) |
| ​Similar Methods | N/A |
| ​Follow-Up | [**​Cognitive Walkthrough**](https://vaww.portal2.va.gov/sites/humanfactors/HFBoK/SitePages/Cognitive%20Walkthrough.aspx) |