Sasha Stepanov

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wireframe

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Introduction to Wireframe

## What is a wireframe?

A wireframe is a skeletal blueprint or framework that outlines the basic design and functions of a user interface (such as a website or application).

The goal of a wireframe is to quickly and easily communicate:

* The contents of the page
* The page structure and layout
* The app’s functions

In other words, a wireframe describes the basic structure, functions, and content of the page.

Wireframes can be low-fidelity or high-fidelity, depending on your needs and preferences. A low-fidelity wireframe is often sketched out on paper or a whiteboard and is a useful way to brainstorm the basic outline for your design. A high-fidelity wireframe has more detail and may include simple workflows and interactions. (Team, 2021)

## The Best Wireframe Tools Software List

Prototyping software isn’t hard to come by but that doesn’t mean that just anything will sport the UX tools that you need. Here’s my hand-picked list of the best wireframe tools:

1. Sketch - Best for vector editing
2. Adobe XD. App for wireframing, designing, prototyping, and sharing experiences for web, mobile, voice and more
3. Microsoft Visio. Software for creating flowcharts, diagrams, org charts, floor plans, engineering designs within the familiar Office system
4. Miro. Visual collaboration platform to collaborate and centralize communication as your team’s design app wireframes, websites, and more
5. Omnigrafle. Best for stencil and template library. (5 Best Wireframe Tools For Websites & Mobile Apps In 2021, 2021)

## The benefits of wireframing

Wireframes help designers:

* Communicate ideas. A picture is worth a thousand words. Wireframes communicate design decisions to teammates; by looking at a wireframe, they should have a good idea of what screens an app or website will have. Even a website or mobile app wireframe placeholders still helps the team see how the design is shaping up.
* Prepare project documentation. Wireframes also act as a reference point for functional specifications. Designers can share the wireframes with the entire team so that everyone’s on the same page regarding the requirements for the design. (Babich, 2021)

## The limitations of wireframing

* wireframe design is a schematic representation of the final design, wireframes aren’t good for usability testing (As a result, you receive very limited feedback during wireframe testing).
* Wireframes also aren’t the best tool for demonstrating a concept to stakeholders. Stakeholders might have problems understanding what the final design will look like.
* wireframes won’t help if there is a need to describe complex design ideas, like animated effects, complex transitions, or gestures. (Babich, 2021)

# References

*5 Best Wireframe Tools For Websites & Mobile Apps In 2021*. (2021, 07 30). Retrieved from dpm: https://thedigitalprojectmanager.com/wireframe-tools/

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