# BEST PRACTICES FOR FORM DESIGN

LUKE WROBLEWSKI
IA SUMMIT 2007



### **Luke Wroblewski**





#### Yahoo! Inc.

Senior Principal Designer

#### **LukeW Interface Designs**

- Principal & Founder
- Product design & strategy services

#### **Author**

- Site-Seeing: A Visual Approach to Web Usability (Wiley & Sons)
- Functioning Form: Web applications, product strategy, & interface design articles

### Previously

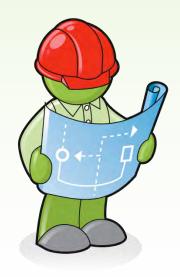
- eBay Inc., Lead Designer
- University of Illinois, Instructor
- NCSA, Senior Designer

http://www.lukew.com





# WHY DOES FORM DESIGN MATTER?







# **SHOPPING**

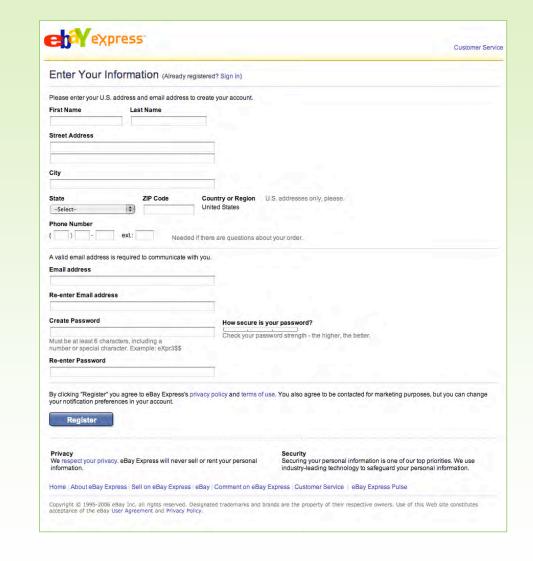


http://www.flickr.com/photos/stitch/187139723/





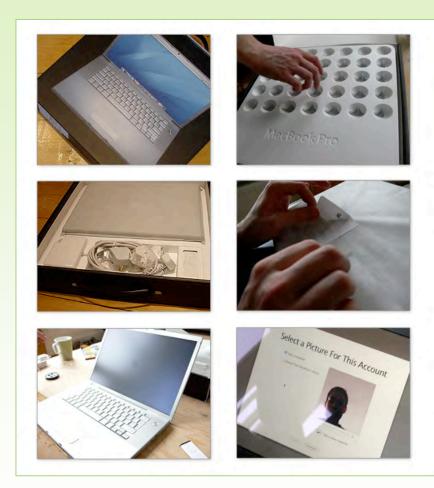
# SHOPPING ONLINE







## **ACCESS**

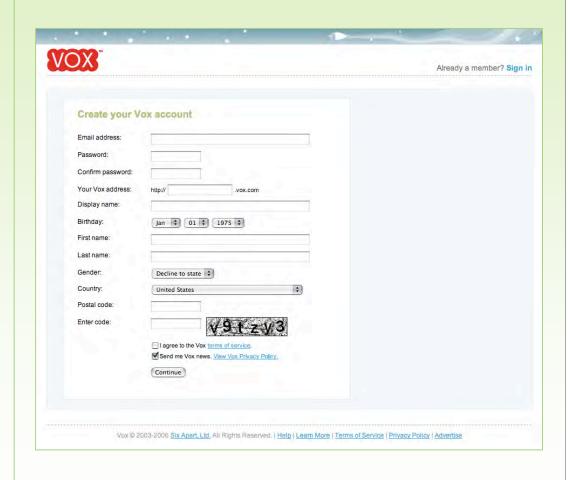


Images from Flickr users katielips, pealco, and \*nathan





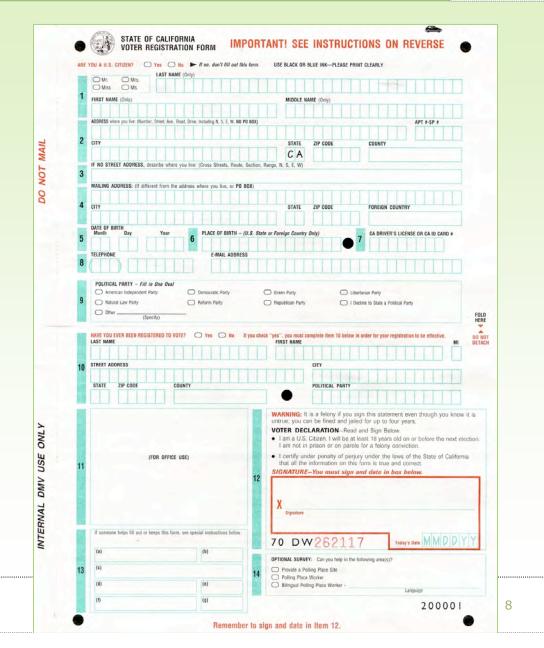
# **ACCESS ONLINE**







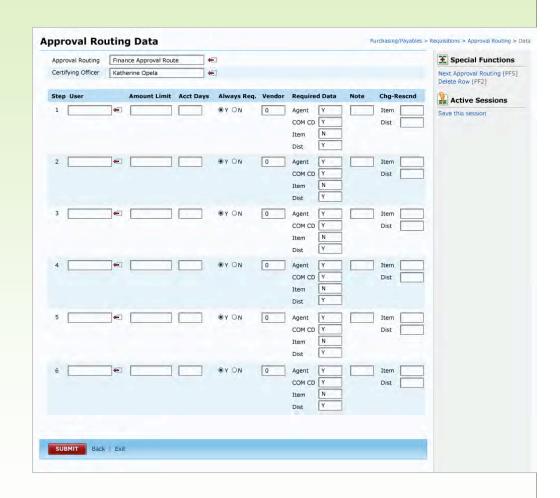
### **DATA INPUT**







# DATA INPUT ONLINE





# **Why Forms Matter**



- How customers "talk" to companies online
- Commerce (\$)
  - User: Enable purchasing
  - Business: Maximize sales
- Access (membership)
  - User: Enable participation
  - Business: Increase customers & grow communities
- Engagement
  - User: Enable information entry & manipulation
  - Business: Accumulate content & data



# **Design Principles**



- Minimize the pain
  - No one likes filing in forms
  - Smart defaults, inline validation, forgiving inputs
- Illuminate a path to completion
- Consider the context
  - Familiar vs. foreign
  - Frequently used vs. rarely used
- Ensure consistent communication
  - Errors, Help, Success
  - Single voice despite many stakeholders



# **Analyzing Performance**







Errors, issues, assists, completion rates, time spent per task, satisfaction scores





Completion times, fixations, saccades



#### **Customer Support**

Top problems, number of incidents



#### **Best Practices**

Common solutions, unique approaches



#### **Site Tracking**

Completion rates, entry points, exit points, elements utilized, data entéred



# **Design Patterns**



Information

Visual Communication
Affordances



Interaction

**Engagement Disclosure** 



Feedback

Response Verification





## **INFORMATION**





### **Information**



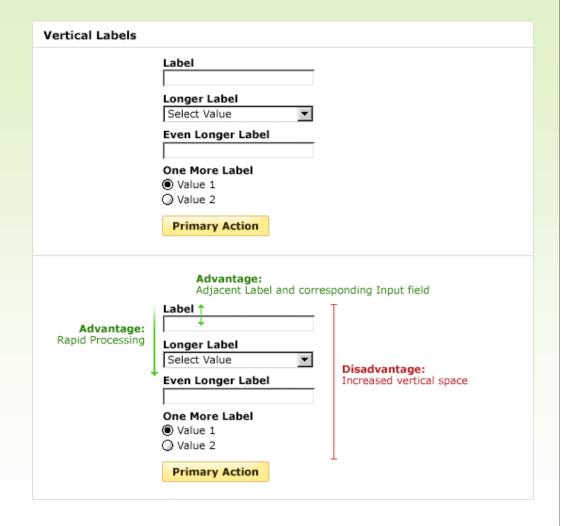
- Layout
  - Label positioning
  - Content groupings
- Input Affordances
  - Formats, required fields
- Actions
  - Primary & secondary
- Help & Tips
- Visual Hierarchy



# **Top Aligned Labels**

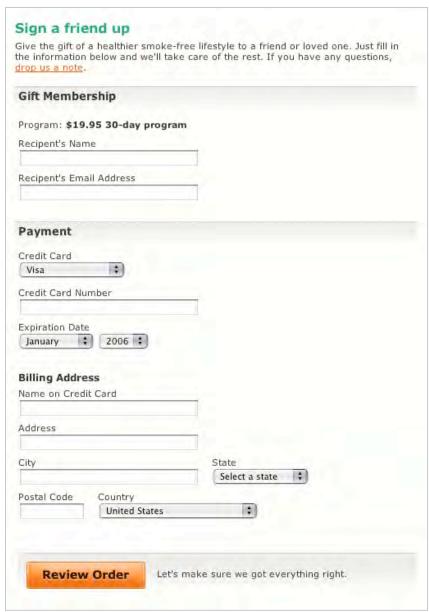


- When data being collected is familiar
- Minimize time to completion
- Require more vertical space
- Spacing or contrast is vital to enable efficient scanning
- Flexibility for localization and complex inputs





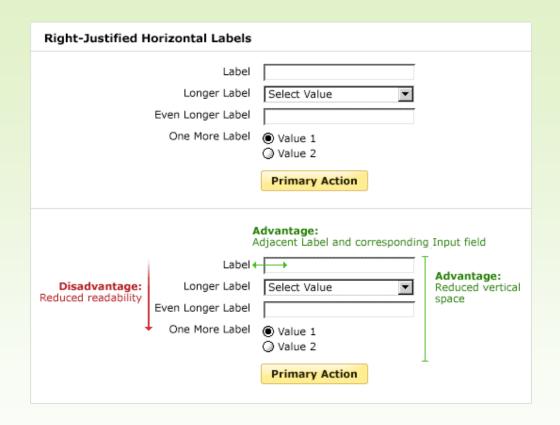
### **Top-aligned Labels**



# **Right Aligned Labels**



- Clear association between label and field
- Requires less vertical space
- More difficult to just scan labels due to left rag
- Fast completion times





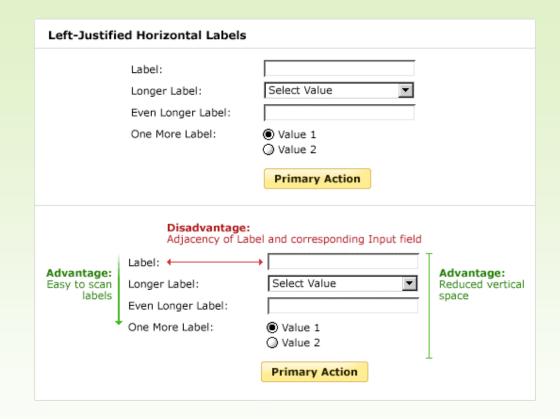
### Right-aligned labels

First Name:	Luke
Last Name:	Wroblewski
Email:	
noose a user i	name and password so that this person can log in (they can change this later).
User Name:	
Password:	
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	onal, but some contact info will come in handy when you want to take your communication
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fline. Title:	
Title: Office #:	
Title: Office #: Mobile #:	
Title: Office #: Mobile #: Fax #:	

# **Left Aligned Labels**



- When data required is unfamiliar
- Enables label scanning
- Less clear association between label and field
- Requires less vertical space
- Changing label length may impair layout





### Left-aligned labels



# **Eye-tracking Data**



#### July 2006 study by Matteo Penzo

#### Left-aligned labels

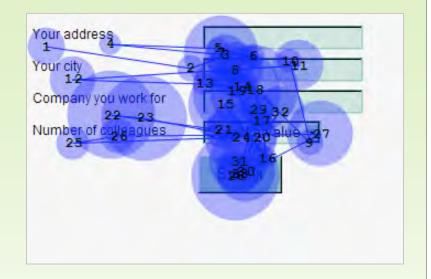
- Easily associated labels with the proper input fields
- Excessive distances between labels inputs forced users to take more time

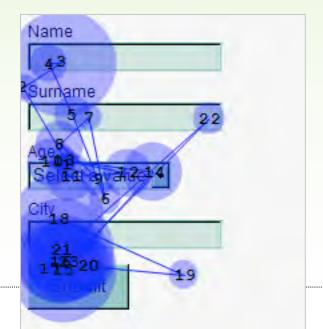
#### Right-aligned labels

- Reduced overall number of fixations by nearly half
- Form completion times were cut nearly in half

#### Top-aligned labels

- Permitted users to capture both labels & inputs with a single eye movement'
- Fastest completion times









### **BEST PRACTICE**

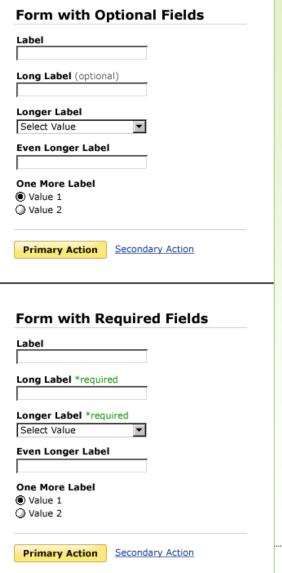
- For reduced completion times & familiar data input: top aligned
- When vertical screen space is a constraint: right aligned
- For unfamiliar, or advanced data entry: left aligned



# **Required Form Fields**

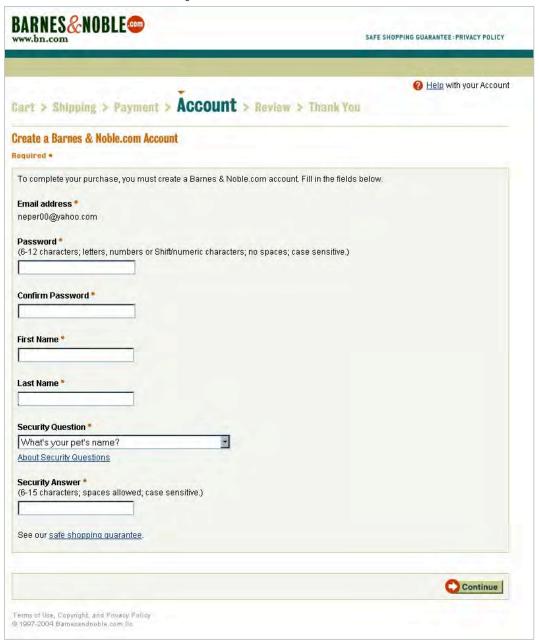


- Indication of required fields is most useful when
  - There are lots of fields
  - But very few are required
  - Enables users to scan form to see what needs to be filled in
- Indication of optional fields is most useful when
  - Very few fields are optional
- Neither is realy useful when
  - All fields are required

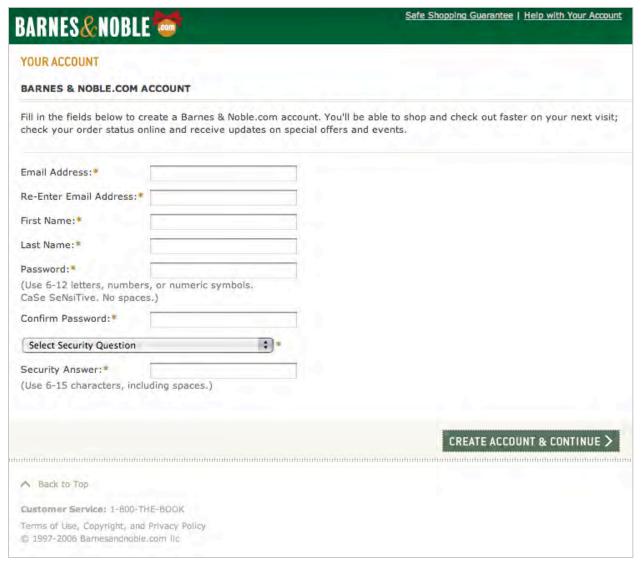




### All fields required



### All fields required



### Most fields required



### Few fields optional



SCHEDEN PERFOR ASSUBBLE

### お客さま情報の入力

メンバー登録されると2回目ご注文時の住所入力等が省略できます。 また、購入履歴が画面上でご確認いただけます。登録は無料です。 メンバー登録されなくてもご購入いただけます。下の「ゲスト購入する」をお選び下さい。 ご登録いただくお客様の個人情報の利用目的および管理等の取扱いにつきましては、「MUJI.netメンバー規約」ならびに「ブライ パシーの考え方」に定めておりますので、必ずご確認ください。

お名前(氏メ名)*		(全角)		
フリガナ(氏メ名)。		(全角カタカテ)		
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E メールアドレス (確認) *			(半角数	字)
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a話番号 »		(半角数字)		
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### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Try to avoid optional fields
- If most fields are required: indicate optional fields
- If most fields are optional: indicate required fields
- Text is best, but \* often works for required fields
- Associate indicators with labels



# **Field Lengths**



- Field lengths can provide valuable affordances
- Appropriate field lengths provide enough space for inputs
- Random field lengths may add visual noise to a form





	o create your account.
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treet Address	
lity	
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-Select-	Country or Region U.S. addresses only, please. United States
Phone Number	
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valid email address is required to communicate wit  mail address  Re-enter Email address	ith you.
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flust be at least 6 characters, including a umber or special character. Example: eXpr3\$\$	Check your password strength - the higher, the better.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	* Required	d Field	ľ
* CARD TYPE:	Select		
* CARD NUMBER:			
* CARD VERIFICATION NUMBER:			What is this? Required for Visa/MC/Amex
* EXPIRATION DATE:	Select	Select	Required for Visa/MC/Amex.
USE MY SHIPPIN	G ADDRES	S FOR MY BILLIN	G ADDRESS
lease enter your full name and address exactly as it	appears or	your statement	, and enter your credit card number as it appears
n your credit card. Please check your statement for a f you are unable to enter your billing information in th		and the second second	
* FIRST NAME:			
MIDDLE NAME/INITIAL:			
* LAST NAME:			
ATTENTION:			
* ADDRESS:			
* CITY:			1 -
* STATE:	Select		
* ZIP CODE:			xxxxx (5 digits only)
* AREA CODE & PHONE:			***-***
* EMAIL:			username@hostname.com
llear Form			
			BACK ONE STEP SAVE & CONTINUE



Home | Why Tick Matters | Screenshots | Pricing & Signup | FAQ

## Thank you for trying Tick. Just fill out the form below and we'll get you right in.

The plan you have selected (Moonlighters) is FREE and includes 1 open project.

Your company name		
Select your time zone		
(GMT-05:00) Eastern T	ime (US & Canada)	:
http://	dress (Letters and numbers only please. No sp	aces.)
First name	Last name	
mail addrage		
mail address		
Accept the a	agreement & create your acco E. With this plan you can have 1 open pro- plan will never expire and can be upgraded section, once you login.	ject at any
Accept the a	E. With this plan you can have 1 open pro plan will never expire and can be upgraded	ject at any or canceled
Accept the a Your plan is FREE given time. This p from the setting s Please review our	E. With this plan you can have <b>1 open pro</b> plan will never expire and can be upgraded section, once you login.  Terms of Service, Privacy Policy, and	ject at any or canceled

#### How will I get billed?

If you are setting up a pay plan, your first 30 days are free. After that the plan is billed monthly to your credit card and can be cancelled, upgraded or downgraded at anytime. No setup fees or contracts here! You'll be up and running in a matter of seconds.

#### What methods of payment do you accept?

We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover.

#### What do I need to use Tick?

Tick is a hosted solution, so its accessible from anywhere you can find an internet connection. All you need is a modern web browser (Firefox, IE6x, Safari or Camino). Other browsers may work as well, but they are not supported so things may look a little funky.

#### What if I need help?

Tick is designed with a gentle learning curve in mind. No manuals or extensive help files needed. That said, if you do have a question we can always be reached by email.



### **BEST PRACTICE**

- When possible, use field length as an affordance
- Otherwise consider a consistent length that provides enough room for inputs



# **Content Grouping**



- Content relationships provide a structured way to organize a form
- Groupings provide
  - A way to scan information required at a high level
  - A sense of how information within a form is related

Separating Re	elated Content	
	Label: Longer Label: Even Longer Label: One More Label:	Select Value  Value 1 Value 2
	Label: Longer Label: Even Longer Label:	Select Value
		Primary Action

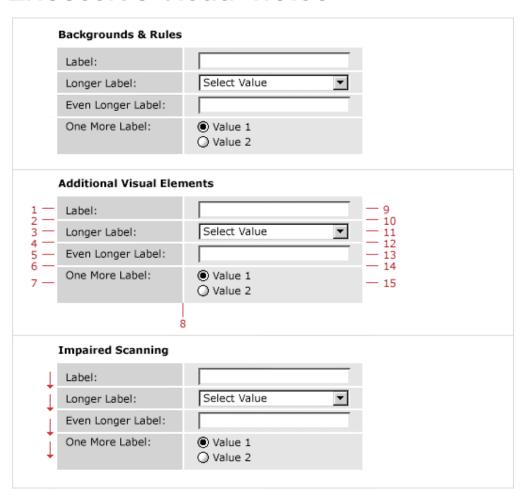


## Lots of content grouping

	に送付する 住所(勤務5	たなど)に送付する	Disadvantage: Excessive visual noise
現住所は	外の資料送付先	<b>北</b> 所	Reduced readability
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	市区郡	選用して下さい O	
住所	字丁目以降	例)銀座7-3-S	
	建物名	例)かもめマンション203号室	
電話番号		- (¥A)	
FAX番号		(¥A)	

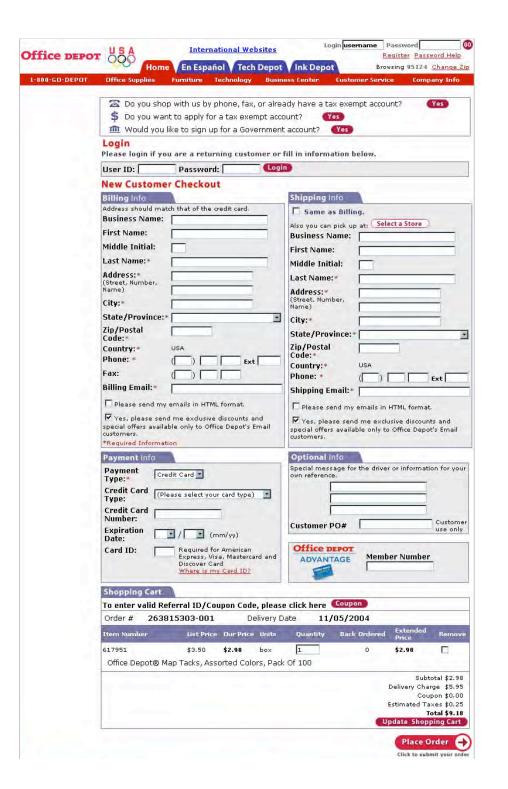
基本情報 *は必須項目です		Disadvantage: Visual noise
お名前(氏/名)。	(99)	visual noise
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都道府県 •		
市区町村・	(全角)	
それ以降の住所(丁目/番地など)・	(全角)*TE・機能を合すご 入力に対さい	
ビルメマンション名	(全角)	
電話番号 •	- (VAEP)	
メンバー登録・	○ ゲスト購入する:② 会員登録する	

#### Excessive visual noise



# Minimum amount necessary

氏 名 フリガナ		Advantage: Visual clarity
(企角カタカナ) 郵便器号 (平角数字)		Direct path to completion
電話番号		
休暇中の連絡先	● 直通 ○ 呼出し ○ 内線	
取話番号	(36) (46) (46)	
休暇中の連絡先	<ul><li>□ 現住所と同じ →これ以降は入力せず、「次に進む」</li><li>● 現住所と違う →以下の項目を入力してください</li></ul>	
郵便番号 (平角於字)	( 7般表彰が分からない方は、 <u>こまら</u> ざご参照(ださい)	
電話番号 (平角加工)		
	modet 256	



## Minimum amount necessary

Please enter your U.S. address and email address First Name Last Name	s to create your account.
Tast Name Last Name	
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Sity	
State ZIP Code	Country or Region U.S. addresses only, please.
-Select-	United States
	ded if there are questions about your order.
) - ext.: Need	
) - ext.: Need	
Need  valid email address is required to communicate	
ext.: Need	
ext.: Need  A valid email address is required to communicate  Email address  Re-enter Email address  Create Password  Must be at least 6 characters, including a	with you.
ext.: Need  A valid email address is required to communicate  Email address  Re-enter Email address  Create Password  Aust be at least 6 characters, including a number or special character. Example: eXpr3\$\$	How secure is your password?
Phone Number  A valid email address is required to communicate  Email address  Re-enter Email address  Create Password  Must be at least 6 characters, including a number or special character. Example: eXpr3\$\$  Re-enter Password	How secure is your password?

Other Costs (if they apply)	re
Who will pay the county transfer fee?	
○ Buyer	
○ Seller	
Who will pay the city transfer fee?	
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○ Seller	
Who will pay the home owner's association transfer fee?	
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Who will pay for the home owner's association transfer documents?	
O Buyer	
○ Seller	
Home Warranty	
Do you want to order a home warranty?	
Who will pay for the home warranty?	
O Buyer	
O Seller	
How much home warranty coverage?	
Which home warranty options do you want?	
Air conditioner Well	
☐ Septic ☐ Roof	
Pool Washer / Dryer / Refrigerator	
Other	
Liquidated Damages	
Liquidated Damages	
Liquidated damages can be assessed if the buyer fails to complete the purchase because of default. If the buyer agrees to pay liquidated damages in case of default, then the seller retains the deposit actually paid by the buyer.	
If you default, do you agree to pay liquidated damages?	
O Yes	
O No	
Dispute Resolution	
Rather than having disputes resolved in courts, buyers and sellers can agree to have all disputes resolved by arbitration as provided by California law.	
Do you agree to submit disputes to neutral arbitration?	
○ Yes	
○ No	
Expiration	
When do you want your offer to expire? (Commonly 3 calendar days after the buyer signs and dates the offer)	e
This offer shall officially expire, be deemed revoked, and the deposit shall be returned, unless the offer is signed by the seller and a copy of the offer is personally received by the buyer at 5 p.m. on the third day after this offer is signed by the buyer.	
If the seller makes a counter-offer, your Redfin Agent will help you respond appropriately.	



## **BEST PRACTICE**

- Use relevant content groupings to organize forms
- Use the minimum amount of visual elements necessary to communicate useful relationships



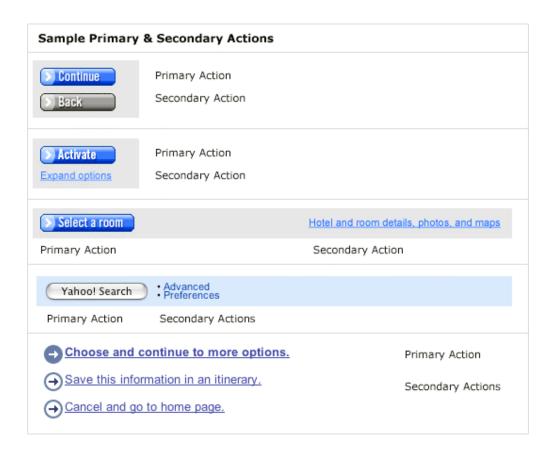
## **Actions**





- Not all form actions are equal
  - Reset, Cancel, & Go Back are secondary actions: rarely need to be used (if at all)
  - Save, Continue, & Submit are primary actions: directly responsible for form completion
- The visual presentation of actions should match their importance









### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Avoid secondary actions if possible
- Otherwise, ensure a clear visual distinction between primary & secondary actions



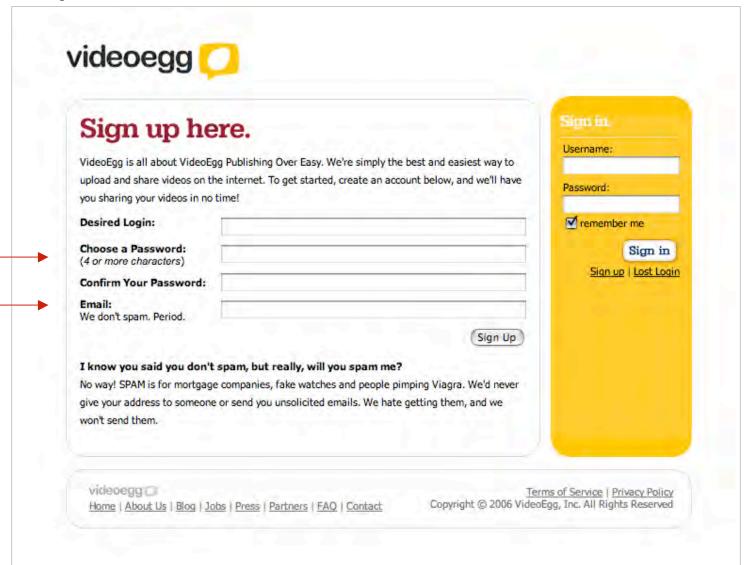
# **Help & Tips**



- Help & Tips are useful when:
  - Asking for unfamiliar data
  - Users may question why data is being requested
  - There are recommended ways of providing data
  - Certain data requests are optional
- However, Help & Tips can quickly overwhelm a form if overused
- In these cases, you may want to consider a dynamic solution
  - Automatic inline exposure
  - User activated inline exposure
  - User activated section exposure



#### **Help Text**



#### Lots of Help/Tips





Hello, skitterball! (Sign out.)

Powered By

#### Sell Your Item: Choose a Selling Format



To begin, select a <u>format</u> and click the **Continue** button. Please make sure your item is <u>allowed</u> on eBay first.

#### Sell item at online Auction

Allows bidding on your item(s). You may also add the Buy It Now option. Learn more.

#### O Sell at a Fixed Price

Allows buyers to purchase your item(s) at a price you set. Learn more.

#### O Advertise your Real Estate

Allows advertising of property to generate multiple leads. Real estate sellers may also sell at an online Auction or Fixed Price. Learn more.

#### Sell your items in your own eBay Store

Your own storefront on eBay, plus features to help you sell more. Learn more about eBay Stores.

Want someone else to sell for you? Find a Trading Assistant.

#### New Sellers, before you sell...

- · Learn how to sell
- · Review the seller's checklist
- · Learn about selling fees



Ramp up your business with new to ols & services!

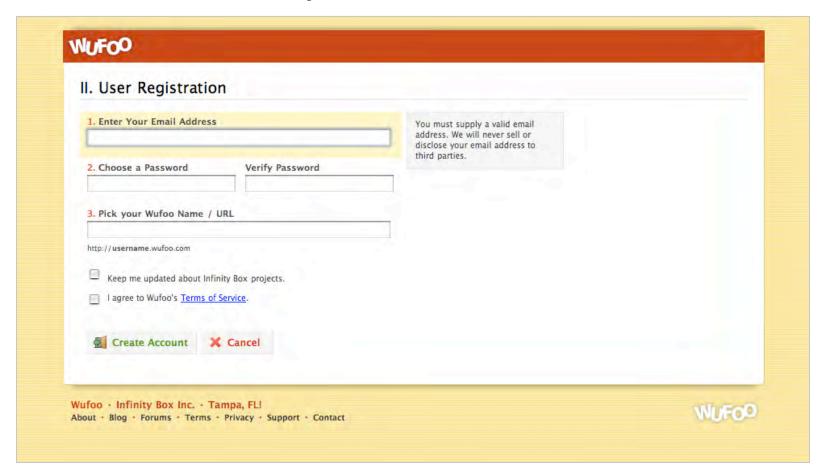
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Start Presenttips

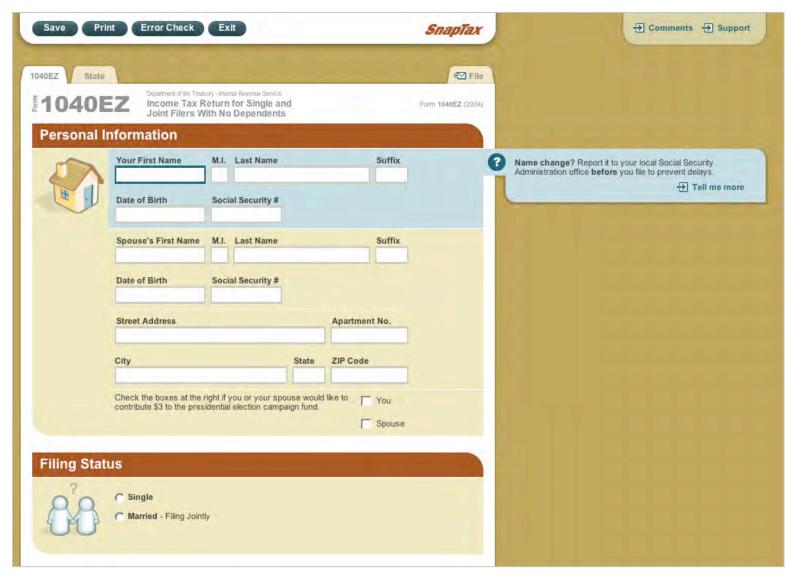


#### Skapa ett Wishlistr-konto Har du redan ett konto? Klicka här för att logga in. Steg 1: Dina uppgifter För- och efternamn tack. DITT NAMN: Vi gillar inte spam och lovar att aldrig DIN E-POSTADRESS: använda din e-postadress för något annat än det som har med ditt Wishlistr-konto att Steg 2: Välj användarnamn och lösenord för ditt konto Användarnamnet får innehålla bokstäver, VÄLJ ETT ANVÄNDARNAMN: siffror, understreck och blanksteg. Så "Apollo 13" eller "Lucky Luke" är till exempel helt okej. Lösenordet måste vara mellan 3-15 tecken långt. Blanksteg är inte tillåtna. VÄLJ ETT LÖSENORD: Så att du kan vara säker på att du skrev UPPREPA LÖSENORDET: Klicka på knappen och du är klar! Registrera mig! @ Wishlistr. Producerad av Digital Venues. Om cookies.

### Automatic inline exposure

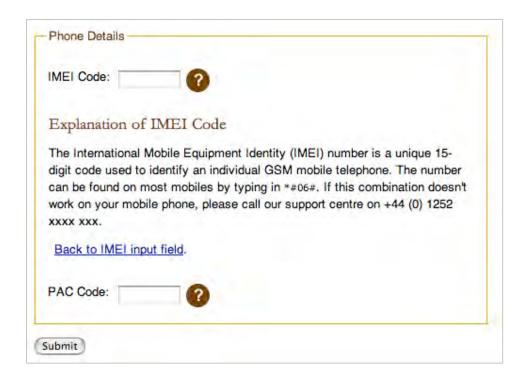


#### Automatic inline exposure

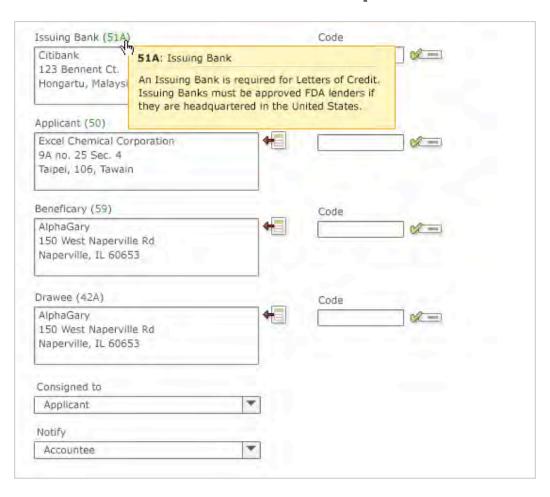


#### User-activated inline exposure

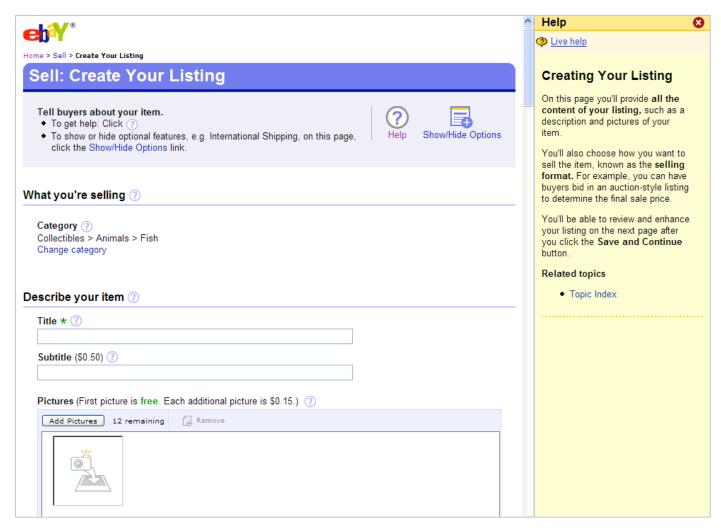




#### User-activated inline exposure



#### User-activated section exposure





### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Minimize the amount of help & tips required to fill out a form
- Help visible and adjacent to a data request is most useful
- When lots of unfamiliar data is being requested, consider using a dynamic help system





# **INTERACTION**





## Interaction



- Path to Completion
- "Tabbing"
- Progressive Disclosure
- Exposing dependencies



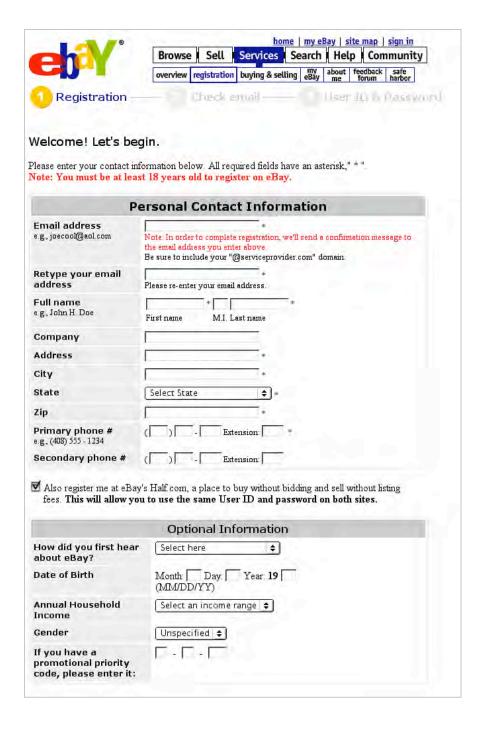
# Path to Completion



- Primary goal for every form is completion
- Every input requires consideration & action
  - Remove all unnecessary data requests
  - Enable flexible data input
- Provide a clear path
- Enable smart defaults



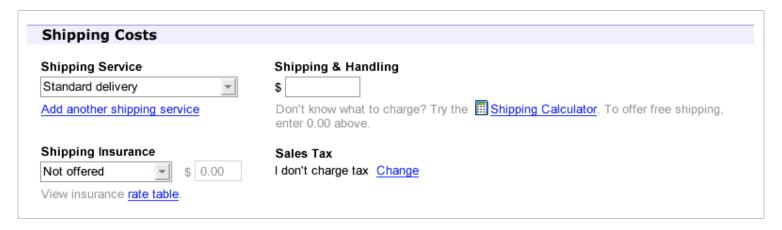
# Remove Unnecessary Inputs



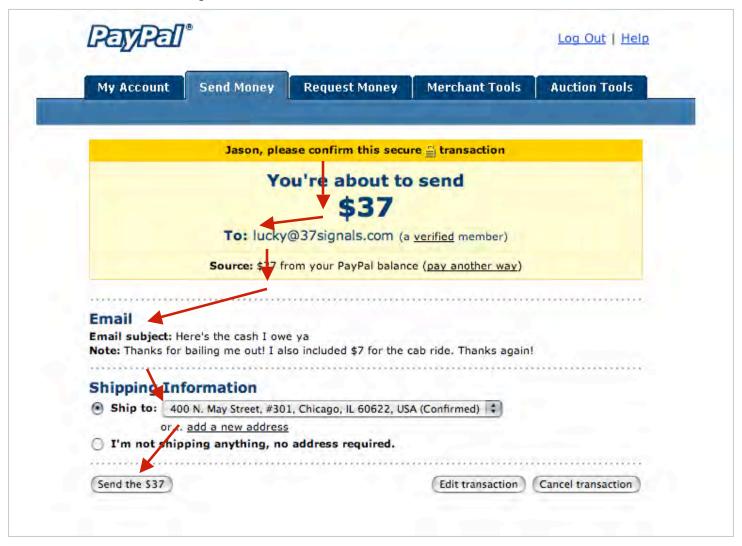
### Flexible Data Input



#### **Smart Defaults**



#### Path to Completion



#### Clear Path to Completion



## Path to completion

Offer Wizard Pages	Previous: Offer Information	Offer status: Draft Last saved: 12/11/06, 10:18 AM
Offer Information     Buyer Information	Step 2. Buyer information	Save My Offer
Initial Deposit     Contingencies     Inspections	The buyers listed in the purchase and sale agreement will becom	e the owners of the property at closing.
6. Closing	Personal Information	
7. Confirm and Submit	Who is buying the property?	
	Buyer 1 name Luke Wroblewski	
Redfin Direct Resources	Buyer 2 name (optional)	
low Redfin Direct Works		
requently Asked Questions	Where do the buyer(s) currently live?	
Terms and Conditions	Street address Unit #	
Terms and Conditions		
	City State Zip	
BBB ONLINE RELIABILITY PROGRAM		
	What is the legal status of the buyer(s)?	
WHACKER SAFE	Married couple buying the property together	
TESTED 11-DEC	A married person buying the property as his or her sole and separate property	
	A single person	
	Two or more single people buying the property together  Two or more single people buying the property together	
	A corporation	
	Contact Information	
	How may a Redfin agent will contact you to discuss your of	ffer?
	Phone number	
	Email address cdr@lukew.com	
	When can a Redfin agent contact you?	
	Other Information	
	What special conditions, if any, are related to your offer?	
	How did you hear about Redfin? (Optional)	
	now are you near about Regime (Obdollar)	
	• [-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4	



### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Remove all unnecessary data requests
- Enable smart defaults
- Employ flexible data entry
- Illuminate a clear path to completion
- For long forms, show progress & save



# **Tabbing**



- Many users interact with a form by "tabbing" between fields
- Proper HTML markup can ensure tabbing works as expected
- Multi-column form layouts may conflict with expected tabbing behavior



Yes, please log me in automatically.

CREATE ACCOUNT



### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Remember to account for tabbing behavior
- Use the tabindex attribute to control tabbing order
- Consider tabbing expectations when laying out forms



# **Progressive Disclosure**



- Not all users require all available options all the time
- Progressive disclosure provides additional options when appropriate
  - Advanced options
  - Gradual engagement



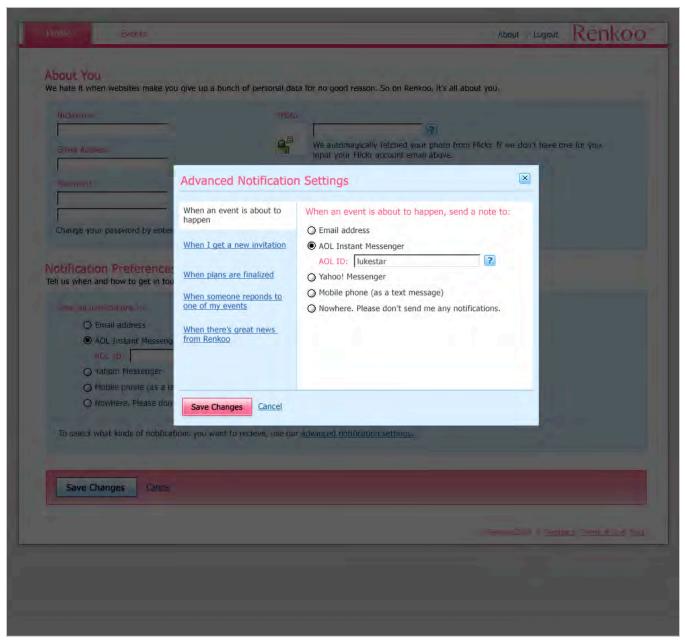
## **Exposing Options**

		Cancel	
Title:			
Category: General	•		
Message body: Show ex	ktended message body)		
	The second		
Make this message	private		
Attach files to this  Associate this m	message essage with a milestor	ie	
Associate this m A link to this mes	essage with a milestor	the milestone you select.	
Associate this mes  A link to this mes  None  Completes this	sessage with a milestor sage will appear below is milestone	the milestone you select.	
Associate this mes  A link to this mes  None  Completes this	essage with a milestor	the milestone you select.	
Associate this mes  None  Completes this mis  Associate this mis  Notify people of	ssage with a milestor ssage will appear below is milestone lestone or Cancel	the milestone you select.	
Associate this me  A link to this mes  None  Completes this  Associate this mi  Notify people of  All of IxDA Vol	iessage with a milestor sage will appear below is milestone lestone or Cancel f this message via elunteers Pedro Jorge Adler	the milestone you select.	
Associate this mes  None  Completes this mi  Associate this mi  Notify people of All of IxDA Vol Jeff Howard  All of IxDA Box	ssage with a milestor ssage will appear below s milestone lestone or Cancel f this message via elunteers Pedro Jorge Adler	the milestone you select.	
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Associate this me  A link to this mes  None  Completes thi  Associate this mi  Notify people of  All of IxDA Vol  Jeff Howard  All of IxDA Boa  Carrie Ritch  Dan Saffer	ssage with a milestor ssage will appear below s milestone sessione or Cancel f this message via elunteers Pedro Jorge Adler ard Josh Seiden Lada Gorlenko	email  Mauro Cavalletti  micah alpern	
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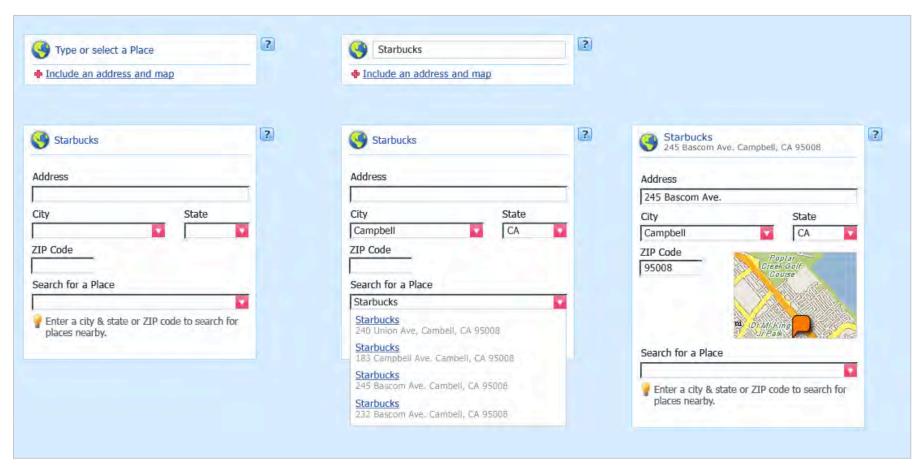
## **Exposing Options**



### Dialog

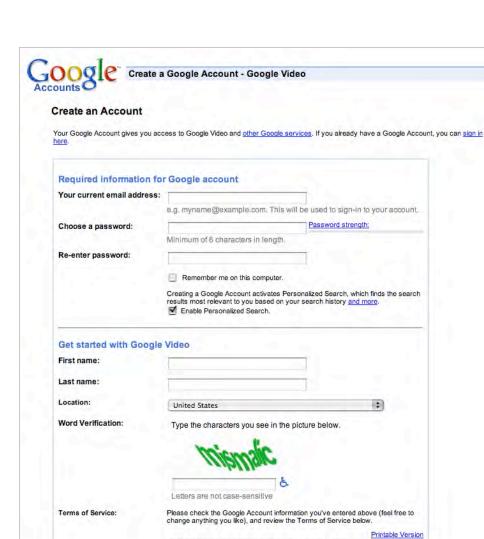


### **Progressive Disclosure**



### **Gradual Engagement**





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By clicking on 'I accept' below you are agreeing to the Terms of Service above and

I accept. Create my account.



### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Map progressive disclosure to prioritized user needs
- Most effective when user-initiated
- Maintain a consistent approach



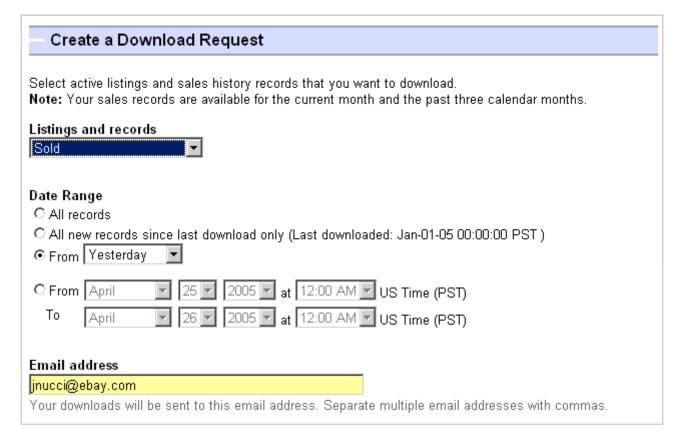
# **Selection Dependent Inputs**



- Sometimes an initial data input requires or enables additional inputs
  - More options become available because of an initial input
  - Further clarification required due to initial input



### **Selection Dependent Inputs**



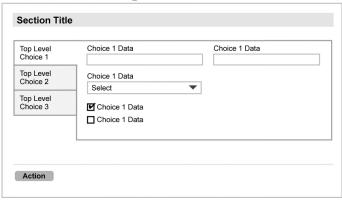
#### Page Level



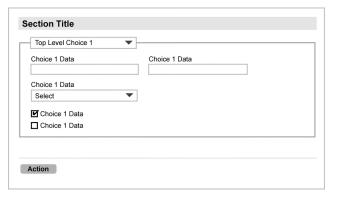
#### **Section Tabs**



#### **Section Finger Tabs**



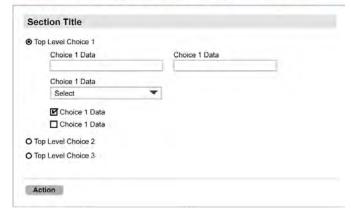
#### **Section Selectors**



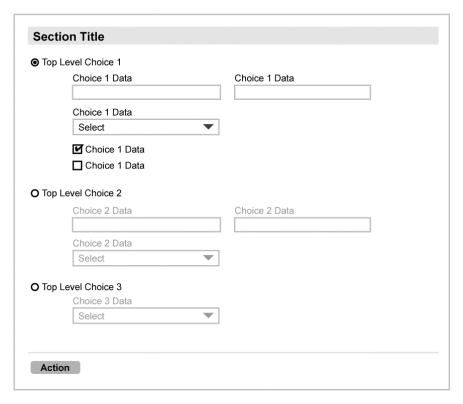
#### **Expose Below**



#### **Expose Within**



#### **Inactive Until Selected**



### **Exposed & Grouped**



# **Exposing Dependent Inputs**



- Page Level
  - Requires additional step
- Section Tabs
  - Often go unnoticed
  - Require smart defaults
- Finger Section Tabs
  - Follow path to completion scan line
- Section Selectors
  - Effectively Group information
  - Hide some options
- Expose Below & Expose Within
  - Potential for confusion
- Inactive Until Selected & Exposed within Groups
  - Association between primary selection is impaired





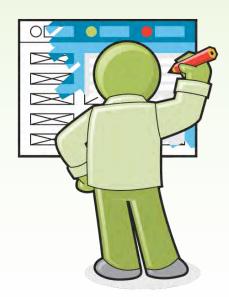
### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Maintain clear relationship between initial selection options
- Clearly associate additional inputs with their trigger
- Avoid "jumping" that disassociates initial selection options





## **FEEDBACK**





## Feedback



- Inline validation
  - Assistance
- Errors
  - Indication & Resolution
- Progress
  - Indication
- Success
  - Verification



## **Inline Validation**



- Provide direct feedback as data is entered
  - Validate inputs
  - Suggest valid inputs
  - Help users stay within limits



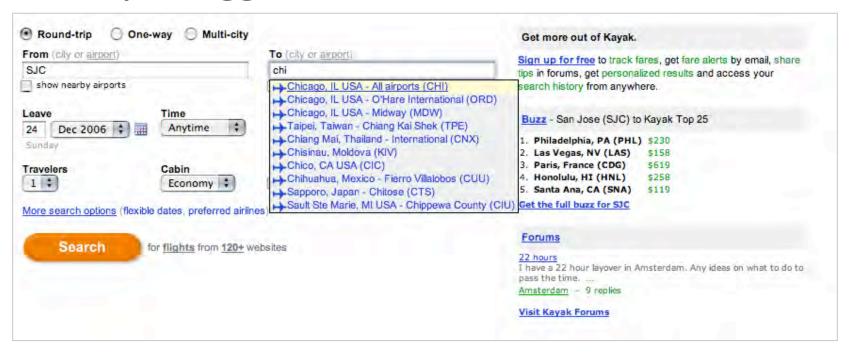
### **Password Validation**

Must be at least 6 characters, including a number or special character. Example: eXpr3\$\$  Re-enter Password	How secure is your password?  Check your password strength - the higher, the better.
Create Password    Must be at least 6 characters, including a number or special character. Example: eXpr3\$\$  Re-enter Password	How secure is your password?  Check your password strength - the higher, the better.
Create Password  Must be at least 6 characters, including a number or special character. Example: eXpr3\$\$  Re-enter Password	How secure is your password?  Check your password strength - the higher, the better.

## **Unique User Name Validation**

	ity member, y	ou can cor	nment,	chat, and create your own column.
rivate Information				
Email Address:				
Password:				
Confirm Password:				
▽	I certify that I am at least	13 years of age and	have read and	agree to the terms of the Newsvine User Agreement.
blic Information				
Display Name:	cheeseburger		Available!	(How you will be seen on the site $-$ e.g. $\it John Smith$ or $\it supergerbil 420$ .)
Newsvine Domain:		.newsvine.com	(The ad	dress for your column — e.g. jim.newsvine.com)
	Register for Newsvine			

### **Valid Input Suggestions**



### **Maximum Character Count**

#### Message

After typing a few words I get a sense of how much room I have left to type...

922 characters left (Limit is 1000 characters)



### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Use inline validation for inputs that have potentially high error rates
- Use suggested inputs to disambiguate
- Communicate limits



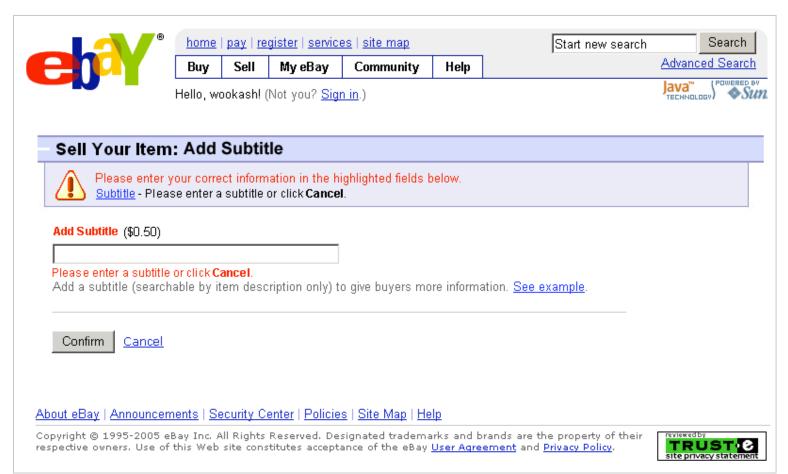
## **Errors**



- Errors are used to ensure all required data is provided and valid
  - Clear labels, affordances, help/tips & validation can help reduce errors
- But some errors may still occur
- Provide clear resolution in as few steps as possible



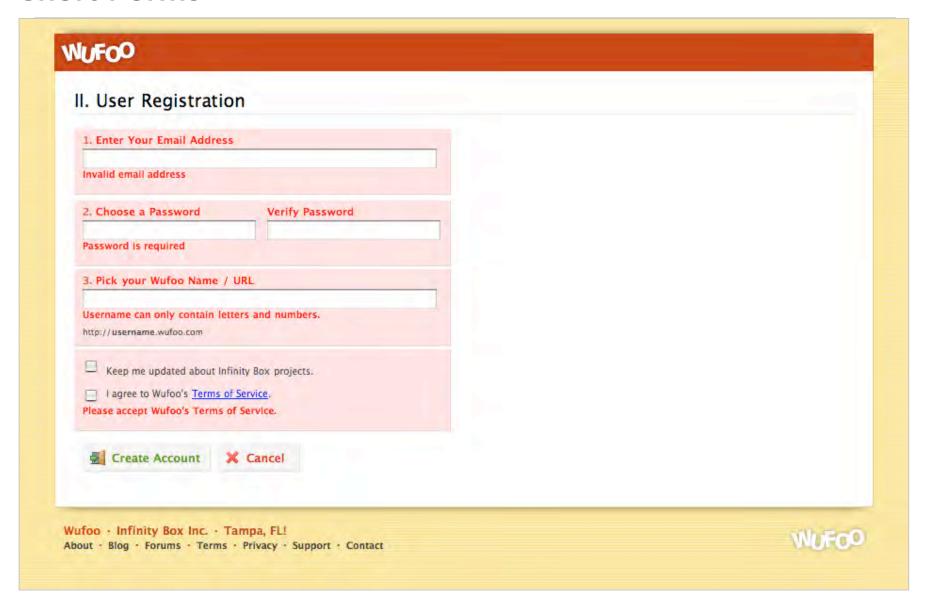
### **Error Messaging**



#### Short Forms: too much?

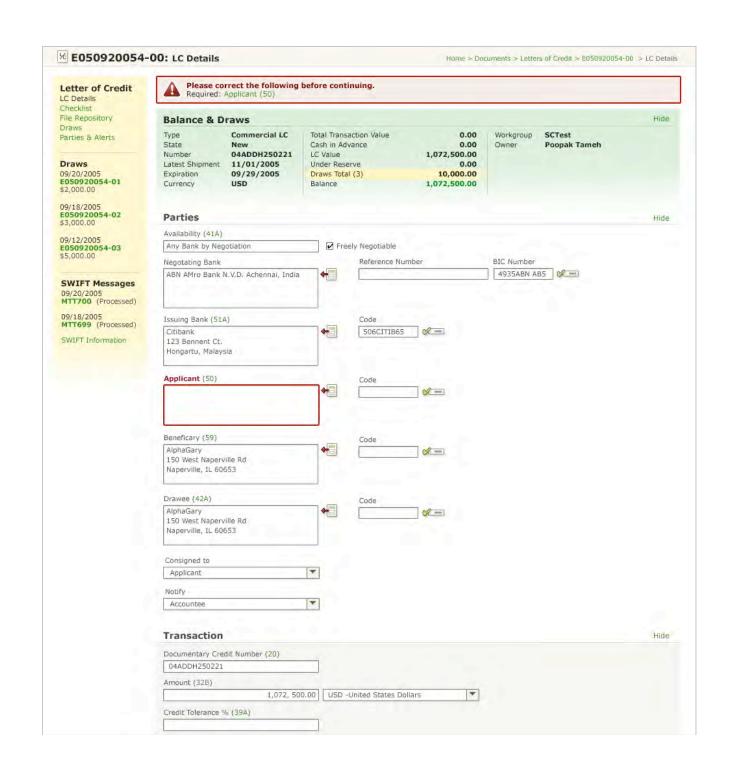


### **Short Forms**



#### **Short Forms**







### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Clearly communicate an error has occurred: top placement, visual contrast
- Provide actionable remedies to correct errors
- Associate responsible fields with primary error message
- "Double" the visual language where errors have occurred



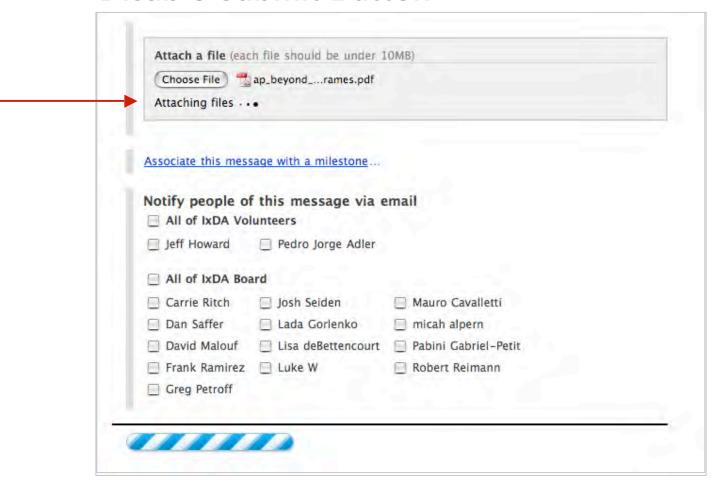
# **Progress**



- Sometimes actions require some time to process
  - Form submission
  - Data calculations
  - Uploads
- Provide feedback when an action is in progress



### **Disable Submit Button**





### **BEST PRACTICE**

- Provide indication of tasks in progress
- Disable "submit" button after user clicks it to avoid duplicate submissions



## Success



- After successful form completion confirm data input in context
  - On updated page
  - On revised form
- Provide feedback via
  - Message (removable)
  - Animated Indicator



W-

V =

Code

AlphaGary

Drawee (42A)

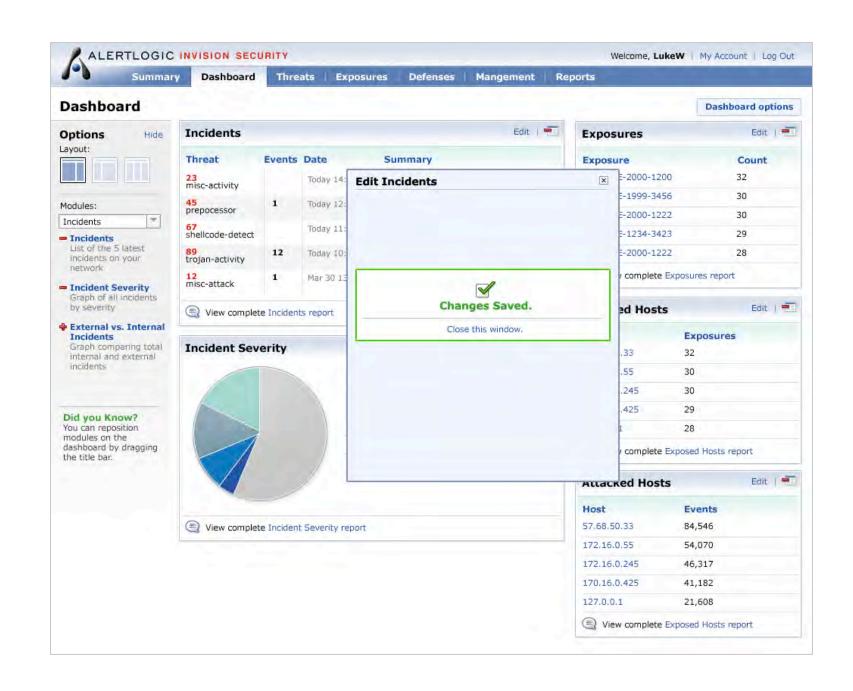
AlphaGary

150 West Naperville Rd Naperville, IL 60653

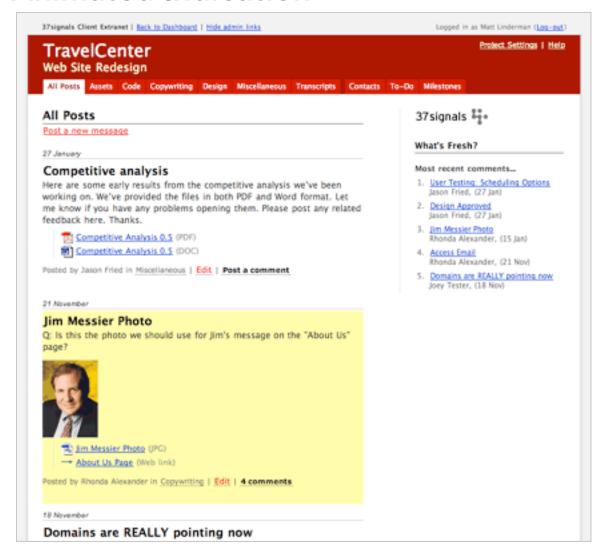
150 West Naperville Rd Naperville, IL 60653

Hide

Hide



#### **Animated Indication**





## **BEST PRACTICE**

- Clearly communicate a data submission has been successful
- Provide feedback in context of data submitted



# **Additional Tips**



- Avoid changing inputs provided by users
  - With later inputs
  - After an error has occurred
- Let users know if difficult to obtain information is required prior to sending them to a form



# **Accessibility & Mark-up**



- Use <label> tags to associate labels with inputs
  - Properly read by screen readers
  - Most browsers treat text with <label> tags as clickable: larger actions
- Use the tabindex attribute to provide a "tabbing" path
  - Provides control over tabbing order
  - Enables forms to be navigated by keyboard
- Consider the accesskey attribute for additional keyboard support
  - Direct access to associated input fields
- Consider <fieldset> to group related form fields



## **Web Form Creation Tools**





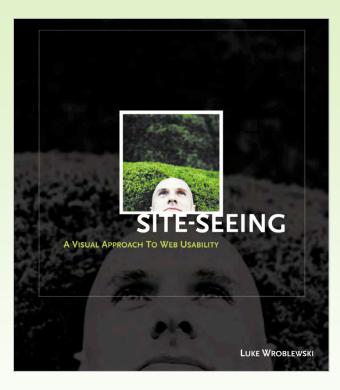


- Wufoo
  - http://www.wufoo.com
- Form Assembly
  - http://www.formassembly.com
- icebrrg
  - http://www.icebrrg.com



# For more information...





- Functioning Form
  - www.lukew.com/ff/
- Site-Seeing: A Visual Approach to Web Usability
  - Wiley & Sons
- Drop me a note
  - luke@lukew.com

