6 How to Create User Journey Diagrams with Mermaid.js

Visualizing a user journey is crucial for understanding how users interact with your product or service. Mermaid.js provides a simple syntax for creating **User Journey Diagrams**, enabling you to illustrate decision points, actions, and emotional states effectively.

Step 1: Include Mermaid.js in Your HTML

Add the Mermaid.js ES module script to your HTML file and initialize Mermaid to render diagrams on page load:

```
<script type="module">
import mermaid from 'https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/mermaid@10/dist/mermaid.esm.min.mjs';
mermaid.initialize({ startOnLoad: true });
</script>
```

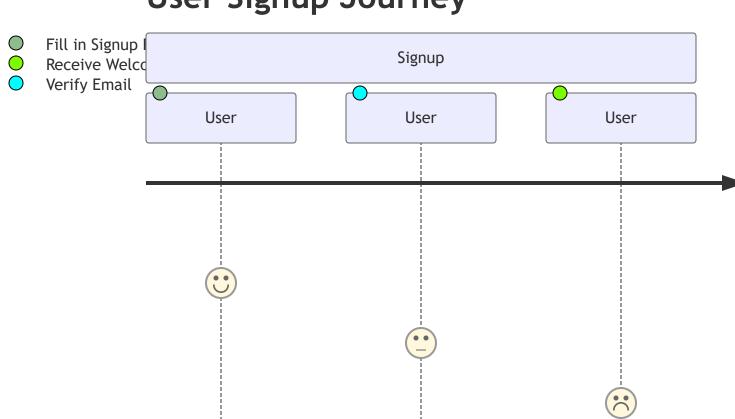
Step 2: Basic User Journey Diagram Syntax

User journey diagrams start with the journey keyword. You define participants, stages, and actions, and optionally specify emotions.

```
<div class="mermaid">
    title User Signup Journey
    section Signup
     User: 5: Fill in Signup Form
     User: 3: Verify Email
     User: 1: Receive Welcome Email
</div>
```

Rendered Example:

User Signup Journey



Anatomy of a User Journey Diagram

- journey: Starts the user journey diagram block
- title: Sets the diagram title
- section : Defines different stages or sections of the journey
- Participant: <emotion>: <action> : Represents an action taken by a participant along with an emotion rating (1-5)

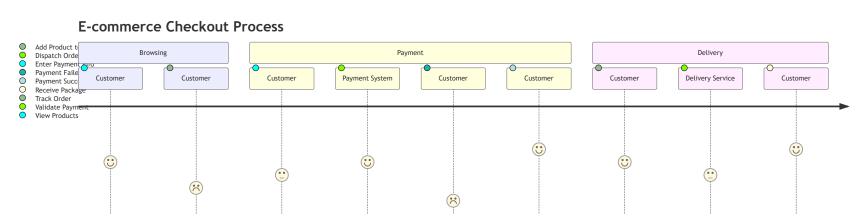
The emotion number corresponds to the emotional state of the participant during that action (5 = very positive, 1 = very)negative).

Step 3: Advanced User Journey with Multiple Participants & Emotions

This example shows multiple participants with varying emotions, sections, and detailed steps:

```
<div class="mermaid">
   title E-commerce Checkout Process
   section Browsing
     Customer: 4: View Products
     Customer: 2: Add Product to Cart
   section Payment
     Customer: 3: Enter Payment Info
     Payment System: 4: Validate Payment
     Customer: 1: Payment Failed
     Customer: 5: Payment Success
   section Delivery
     Customer: 4: Track Order
     Delivery Service: 3: Dispatch Order
     Customer: 5: Receive Package
</div>
```

Rendered Diagram:

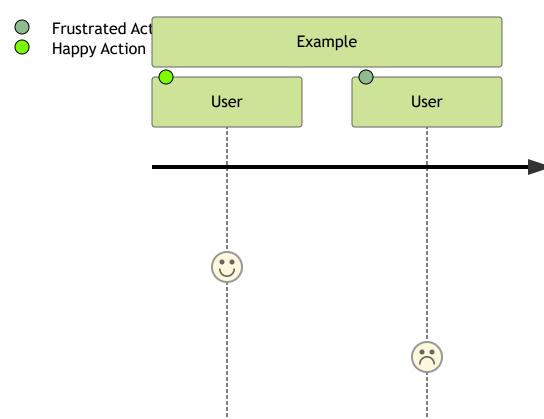


\$\text{Customizing Your Diagram}

You can change diagram themes or customize Mermaid options using the initialization directive:

```
<div class="mermaid">
%{ init: { "theme": "forest" } }%
 title Custom Themed Journey
 section Example
   User: 5: Happy Action
   User: 2: Frustrated Action
</div>
```

Custom Themed Journey



Resources

- Official Mermaid User Journey Syntax
- Mermaid Live Editor Try your diagrams interactively

Summary

- Use the journey keyword to create user journey diagrams
- Organize actions into sections and assign emotions (1–5) for clarity
- Include multiple participants to represent different roles • Customize diagram appearance with Mermaid themes
- Embed diagrams easily in HTML, Markdown, or documentation tools

User journey diagrams with Mermaid help teams visualize and improve user experiences quickly and collaboratively. Happy diagramming! 🧖