Tools & Techniques

Not-necessarily trivial tools for UXA, either sought or found. Updated infrequently, not to be complete nor completed.

Needed

Tools seemingly missing for recurring tasks.

Al linter

Fed by Communication Guidelines et al; doing QA on write-ups and design files.

Al conversation prototyper

How to visually sketch conversational flows (including branching, conditionality, parameterization etc). Then how to have it interactive. Then live, hooked to a real service.

Ideally x-raying intents, who provides what data/services etc.

Color System

Proper color generation/compliance tool etc eg P1 and OKlab. Color space transformations. Derivation with constant S, L or contrast ratios, uniform steps, predictable interpolations etc.

Decision tree builder/navigator

Karnaugh table solver

Gif maker

Most illos should actually be gifs or videos; let's make it easy to make them.

Progressive disclosure

In many ways, e.g:

- Click word in a sentence to expand it. The expanded version provides more details, but still works within the initial sentence.
- Hover to instantly reveal (even for multimedia, cf https://www.twohydesign.works/)
- Mind mapping?

n-tables

Tables/matrixes with more than 2 dimensions.

Actually, even 2-tables in design tools (i.e. real tables with row/column management etc not just rectangles faking it).

Interactive lecturer

"Magic paper" where figures/tables/prototypes:

- Are easily embeddable
- Remain in the viewport as long as needed, while accompanying text can ~scroll as needed
- "React" in context of the reading
- Can turn into interactive playgrounds

E.g:

- https://www.nan.fyi/
- https://www.nathanmanousos.com/posts/chonky-menu

KJ / Affinity Diagrams

Wouldn't mind a good starting template + time per step f(# of participants.)

State Charts

state-diagrams + depth + orthogonality + broadcast-communication (+ automatic resolution thereof)

Structured screenshots gallery

Being able to capture quickly a full page (static or short vid) + name + URL of any web/app. Then have it tagged or matrixed for easy comparison/retrieval.

Flows gallery

Extension of the previous tool, into whole flows.

Al/Conversational Flowcharts

How to quickly depict probabilistic, branching convo flows. Ideally with clear markings from inputs & context, eq user utterance, LLM response, RAG response, sensor input etc.

Misc charts

Nothing crazy, just a handy list of usually useful visual formalisms. Otherwise it's easy to miss a really convenient chart type in the heat of the moment.

- 2×2 matrices
- Euler charts
- Sequential diagrams (grafcet-like)

Recommended

Changelogs

- Keep a Changelog
- Semantic Versioning