

# Nicholas Hoyt

## UX/Interaction Designer

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Interaction/UX design professional with over 25 years of experience specializing in user interface design for web applications and browser extensions. Experience with user research and contextual inquiry, creating paper and wireframe prototypes, design specifications and conceptual models, and conducting usability testing that includes web accessibility evaluation.

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## Experience

2005-09 – present

### UX Designer, Front-End Developer

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Designed and developed browser extensions for Firefox and Chrome, including AInspector, a web accessibility evaluation tool for Firefox, and SkipTo Landmarks & Headings, an assistive technology for keyboard-only users for both Chrome and Firefox.

Designed and developed five CKEditor plugins for the A11yFirst Project: Heading/Paragraph, Image, Link, Character Style and Help. These plugins proactively guide content authors as they edit, enabling them to meet the accessibility requirements of WCAG 2.0.

Designed and developed the Accessibility Bookmarklets, which are web accessibility visualization tools compatible with all major browsers and available at [accessibility-bookmarklets.org](http://accessibility-bookmarklets.org).

Designed and developed the Functional Accessibility Evaluator, a Django/Python web application that uses web crawling to evaluate the accessibility of websites based on requirements in WCAG, ARIA and HTML 5.

1999-08 – 2005-09

### UX Designer, Front-End Developer

Web UI, Wheaton, IL

As an independent contractor, provided software design and development services with an emphasis on interaction design and front-end development for various corporate clients, including ABN AMRO, Accenture, Allstate Insurance, DeVry University, Fidelity Investments, HOLT Value Associates and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

1997-08 – 1999-08

### UX Designer, Front-End Developer

Fidelity Investments, Marlborough, MA

Served as lead interaction designer in the redesign of NetBenefits, a web application providing retirement savings account access to over one million customers. Improved the user experience through contextual inquiry, task flow analysis and usability testing.

Designed and developed retirement investing tools for 401k.com, Fidelity's website for institutional investors. Tools included the Contribution Calculator, Withdrawal Calculator and Take Home Pay Calculator.

1991-07 – 1997-08

### Front-End Developer, Senior Software Engineer

BGS Systems, Waltham, MA

Developed feature enhancements for the BEST/1 capacity planning and performance analysis

products, using X Window / Motif on the Unix and VMS platforms. Completed the training course provided by Digital Equipment Corp. on X Window/Motif user interface development.

## Education

1988-09 – 1991-06	<b>B.A. in Computer Science, University of Massachusetts Boston</b> Graduated with Honors, Summa Cum Laude
1987-09 – 1988-01	<b>Introduction to Programming, Harvard Extension School</b> Grade: A; for Undergraduate Credit
1981-09 – 1984-06	<b>Jazz Composition &amp; Arranging Major, Berklee College of Music</b> Completed all course work for my major with GPA of 3.85/4.0
1967-09 – 1970-08	<b>Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</b> Primarily focused on philosophy and psychology

## Skills

### Interaction Design

Requirements gathering and analysis; development of conceptual models, personas, scenarios, essential use cases, user role- and task-models; creation of wireframes using Sketch, OmniGraffle and Figma

### User Research & Information Architecture

Field observations, contextual interviews, task-modeling workshops, wants and needs analysis, card sorting exercises, focus groups, paper prototyping, low-fidelity prototypes

### Usability Analysis & Testing

Creation of interactive HTML/JavaScript prototypes, task lists and surveys for testing; facilitation of remote and lab-based usability testing; quantitative and qualitative analysis of test results

### Front-End Development

JavaScript, HTML, CSS, DOM scripting and event handling, WCAG 2.0 accessibility requirements, responsive design, web components, WebExtensions API