

# NICHOLAS HOYT

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## SUMMARY

Software designer and developer specializing in UX/UI design and front end development.

Over twenty years of experience in user interface design and software development with a focus on financial tools, browser extensions and web application user experience design.

Expertise in interaction design, conceptual models, usability testing and analysis and web accessibility evaluation. Significant experience with modern JavaScript, HTML & CSS.

See also my online [UX/UI design portfolio](http://nicholashoyt.com/portfolio) at [nicholashoyt.com/portfolio](http://nicholashoyt.com/portfolio).

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Interaction Designer / Software Developer**  
**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**  
**Sept. 2005 – present**

Lead designer and developer of the Skip to Landmarks and Headings browser extension, which provides a menu for easy navigation to the ARIA landmark regions and HTML section headings of a web page. Developed using Web Components and WebExtensions APIs; both a [Chrome version](#) and a [Firefox version](#) are available.

Lead designer and developer of CKEditor plugins for the A11yFirst Project. The five plugins, Heading/Paragraph, Image, Link, Character Style and Help, were thoroughly tested for usability, and are available for download at [CKEditor Add-ons](#).

Lead designer and contributing developer of AInspector WCAG, a Firefox browser extension that provides web accessibility evaluation based on the WCAG, ARIA and HTML 5 specifications; available at [Firefox Browser Add-ons](#).

Lead designer and developer of the [Accessibility Bookmarklets](#), which are web accessibility visualization tools compatible with all major browsers and available at [accessibility-bookmarklets.org](http://accessibility-bookmarklets.org); developed in collaboration with the consulting firm Pixo.

Lead designer and contributing developer of 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.

**Interaction Designer / Front End Developer**  
**Web UI, Wheaton, IL**  
**Aug. 1999 – Sept. 2005**

As principal of Web UI, Inc., provided software design and development services with an emphasis on interaction design and front end web application development for Fortune 500 clients, including ABN AMRO, Accenture, Allstate Insurance, DeVry University, Fidelity Investments, HOLT Value Associates and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

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**Interaction Designer / Front End Developer**  
**Fidelity Investments, Marlborough, MA**  
**Aug. 1997 – Aug. 1999**

Served as principal 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.

According to an article published in the *New York Times*, in the year following the deployment of the new design of NetBenefits, the number of retirement savings account customer service calls was reduced by over 50 percent compared to the previous year.

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.

**User Interface Designer / Senior Software Engineer**  
**BGS Systems, Waltham, MA**  
**July 1991 – Aug. 1997**

Responsible for X Window/Motif user interface design and C/C++ development of capacity planning and performance analysis products on Unix and VMS platforms. Investigated the feasibility of using Java for migrating to platform-independent user interface development.

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## EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Boston  
BA in Computer Science with Distinction, Summa Cum Laude, 1991

Harvard Extension School, Cambridge, MA  
Introductory Computer Science courses

Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA  
Jazz Composition & Arranging major

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## 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 Visio

### 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

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## **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**

Modern JavaScript (ES6 and later), HTML, CSS, DOM scripting, WCAG accessibility requirements, responsive design, Web Components, Chrome and Firefox browser extensions, WebExtensions API, experience with React

## **Web Development**

Node, npm, webpack, Gulp, JavaScript, XML/XSLT, OCaml, C/C++, Django, Python

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## **CONTACT INFO**

[LinkedIn Profile](#) — Additional details available upon request