Nicholas Hoyt
User Experience Designer

Address: Urbana, Illinois

Portfolio: https://nicholashoyt.com/portfolio

Phone:

Email:

My track record of success as a UX/UI designer is based on utilizing design methodologies that carefully observe task flows and usage contexts and ultimately reveal users' mental models. These methodologies result in a deeper understanding of users' goals, which is the essential prerequisite for producing software with a streamlined feature set and optimal user experience.

Experience

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Sep. '05 – present

As interaction designer, user interface designer and front-end developer, the purpose of my work at UIUC is centered around producing open source software tools that foster awareness and better understanding of web accessibility.

Several of these tools have been adopted by the University of Illinois and other large university systems (e.g. Penn. State, Indiana University, Ohio State, University of Iowa) as their tools of choice for web accessibility evaluation.

- Designed and co-developed the 'Functional Accessibility Evaluator', a web application that spiders websites and produces evaluation results based on the entire range of WCAG 2.1 'A' and 'AA' Success Criteria.

- Designed and co-developed the 'AInspector for Firefox' browser extension, which performs the same type of accessibility evaluation as 'FAE' for a single web page, with additional features for dynamic content.

- Designed and developed the 'SkipTo Landmarks & Headings' browser extension for Chrome and Firefox, which enables users to easily navigate to ARIA landmark regions and HTML headings on a web page.

- Designed and developed the 'Page Structure' browser extension, which enables comprehensive manual checking of the headings and landmarks structure and labeling on a web page.

- Developed navigation menu prototypes and interaction models for the Web Implementation Guidelines Group that is tasked with creating a comprehensive set of web components for use by campus web developers.

- Designed and co-developed the 'A11yFirst plugins for CKEditor', which provide proactive guidance for accessible authoring, including proper heading structure and text alternatives for images.

- Designed and co-developed the 'Accessibility Bookmarklets', easily installable in any browser.

Independent Contractor — Boston, MA / Chicago, IL   Aug. '97 – Sep. '05

As user interface designer and web developer, provided software design and development services with a focus on user experience design and front-end development for various clients, including ABN AMRO, Accenture, Allstate Insurance, Bank One, Fidelity Investments, HOLT Value Associates and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

- Served as lead interaction designer in the user interface redesign of 'NetBenefits', Fidelity Investments' flagship web application that provides retirement savings account access to over one million investors.

- Designed and developed the 'Contribution Calculator' for Fidelity Investments, a Java-based financial planning tool that was featured on Fidelity's website for institutional investors for over 10 years.

- Authored an ebook on XML and XSLT development for internal use by Accenture developers.

- Led the user experience design of a web application for call center representatives at Allstate Insurance.

- Designed the user interface of an application used by financial portfolio managers for HOLT Value Associates.

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Skills

User Experience & 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 Testing & Analysis

- Creation of interactive HTML/JavaScript prototypes
- Facilitation of remote and lab-based usability testing
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of test results

Web Accessibility & Inclusive Design

- WCAG 2.1 requirements
- WAI-ARIA Authoring Practices, ARIA in HTML
- Accessibility evaluation and auditing

Front-End Development

- Modern JavaScript (ES6+), HTML, CSS
- DOM scripting and event handling
- Git, Node.js, npm, Babel, webpack, Rollup, Gulp
- Responsive design, Sass, Bootstrap
- Web components, Lit library, WebExtensions API

Education

B.A. in Computer Science, University of Massachusetts Boston
Summa cum laude

Resources

Browser Extensions & Editor Plugins

- [AInspector for Firefox](#)
- [A11yFirst plugins for CKEditor](#)
- [SkipTo Landmarks & Headings for Chrome](#)
- [SkipTo Landmarks & Headings for Firefox](#)
- [Page Structure for Firefox](#)
- [Accessibility Bookmarklets](#)