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ICT 320

18 April 2021

Project #2 Design and Documentation

The we website that I will create wireframes and blueprints for is the National Weather Service (<https://www.weather.gov>). The first blueprint will depict a high-level picture of the entire website (Figure 1), the second one will depict a high-level picture of the redesigned website (Figure 2), the third one will show a low-level blueprint of the current main page (Figure 3), and the last one will show a low-level blueprint of the redesigned main page (Figure 4).

Figure 1: Blue: Main pages, Green: subcategories

Chart

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Figure 2: Blue: Main pages, Green: subcategories

Diagram

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 3:

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 4:

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Next, multiple wireframes will be depicted, in order to show the original website, and the updated version. The first image shows the layout of the current homepage (Figure 5). The second image shows the redesigned home page (Figure 6). The third one depicts the current main page of the website (Figure 7). The fourth image shows the redesigned main page (Figure 8).

Figure 5:

Graphical user interface, diagram

Description automatically generated

Diagram

Description automatically generated

(bottom half of Figure 5)

Figure 6:

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 7:

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Figure 8:

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

**Descriptions of Each Updated Aspect:**

1. **Figure 1 to Figure 2**

After looking at the layout of the website, and creating a high-level blueprint, I noticed that information portrayed on the website was not very detailed, was not organized very well, and was not separated and labeled in a manner that was easy to follow. I feel that the abundance of subcategories with no separation could, definitely, cause an information overload. In order to fix this, I did a few things. First, I changed the label of “Safety” (Figure 1) to “Weather Safety” (Figure 2). This could have been self-explanatory. Although, it is important that labels are very detailed so the user knows exactly what information they will find upon clicking on it. Next, I moved some of the subcategories into different main pages, as I thought the placement would make more sense. For instance, the “StormReady” and “TsunamiReady” subcategories were under the “Information” tab (Figure 1). I thought that these would better fit the “Safety” tab, as it offers information about safety for each type of weather alert. Therefore, I added these two subcategories to the “Safety” tab, and removed them from the “Information” tab (Figure 2). Next, I broke down some of the sub-categories into even smaller subcategories, using labels. I think that this was essential because it would allow an information overload to be less likely. One instance in which I did this was by breaking down the “Weather Safety” tab into three different categories. I split it into “Water,” “Temperature,” and “Other” (Figure 2). I feel that this would help people find the exact information they need, as they can see the broad categories, and will ultimately be led to the more detailed categories that they are looking for. So, the main changes made from Figure 1 to Figure 2, were to prevent an information overload.

1. **Figure 3 to Figure 4**

Upon looking at a main page of the website (“Active Alerts”), I noticed that it had some of the same issues that were on the homepage. The main problem was that the information was not split up into different categories. It is evident in this blueprint that it is just a simple list (Figure 3). I think the use of labels are super important in IA, as they can lead the user to the information that they need to find, with way more ease. In response to this, I split the information listed in the “Active Alerts” page into three different categories and organized them accordingly. First, I made a category called, “Water.” Then I added, “Other Weather,” and “Access Warnings and Information” (Figure 4). I believe that this will aid in users finding information way more efficiently.

1. **Figure 5 to Figure 6**

When looking at the home page of the website, I noticed that there was much overlap of information, as well as there not being enough labels incorporated. Also, I incorporated one of the aspects that I changed in my blueprint, into this wireframe. Here, it is evident that I changed the “Safety” tab (Figure 5) to “Weather Safety” (Figure 6). Also, I added labels to each section of the website (Figure 6). Evidently, at the top, I added an “Updates” Label. In the second set of navigation, I added “Other Maps to Access.” And at the very bottom, I added “Weather News.” I think that the addition of these labels in the home page – and evidently in many other areas of the website – will aid in the users exploring this information environment. Also, there was a few areas where I noticed an overlap of information. For instance, in the top left of the screen (Figure 5), it is evident that there is an option to change your location, and directly below it, you are able to do the exact same thing. Therefore, as seen in figure 6, I deleted the option to do it (which was in the top left corner). Also, at the very bottom of the page, there another place for navigation (Figure 5). It was the exact same navigation labels and categories that are at the top of the screen. Therefore, I deleted this area at the bottom for the updated version (Figure 6). I feel that the categories at the top were already bombarded with plenty of information. The navigation that was incorporated at the bottom of the screen could easily confuse users.

1. **Figure 7 to Figure 8**

Upon referencing the “Active Alerts” page, I was able to look at my blueprint, and determine how I wanted to organize this page. In the blueprint, I showed that the information should be split up into separate categories. For this wireframe, I put that into action and showed the information split into each category. I think that this looks way more organized, and visually pleasing to the user, when going about finding certain information. It is evident in Figure 7 that it is just a list of a bunch of information. In Figure 8, it is evident that the information is split up and organized in a systematic way.