Asha Patel

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Wireframing

One technique used to design quick sketches is the boxing glove wireframing technique. In this method all we need are a pad of post it notes and a felt tip pen. With little room to sketch web page designs, we are forced to include only the most crucial aspects of our website. We should still draw enough so that we can track a user’s journey through our system; of course we do not have to deal with problem areas or fail cases for this exercise. These constraints make it feel like we are wearing boxing gloves so that we don’t spend too much time on details and instead focus on layouts.

One wireframing tool available online is Gliffy which is free to use for 30 days. On this website there are tools available to draw flowcharts, UML diagrams and activities, and wireframes with containers and forms. Custom images can also be uploaded to edit or add to an existing diagram. The container section consists of blank webpages, speech bubbles, tables, charts, and empty image boxes. This allows the designer to create a grey scale diagram or flowchart by dragging the appropriate items to the screen. One drawback to Gliffy is that there is no premade template so all work must be done from the beginning. However, Gliffy is relatively easy to access and simple to learn.