



JOHNS HOPKINS
WHITING SCHOOL
of ENGINEERING

Data Patterns and Representations

Human Centered Design



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Data Patterns and Representations

Human Centered Design: Foundations

Module Learning Objectives



MLO 1

Identify key principles of Human-Centered Design, including User Experience, User Interfaces, and Design Foundations.



MLO 2

Explain the influence of psychology foundations and cognitive biases on user decision-making and behavior.



MLO 3

Analyze the role of usability frameworks, such as the Honeycomb of Usability and Usability Heuristics, in creating intuitive interfaces.

Module Learning Objectives



MLO 4

Evaluate the effectiveness of Human-Centered Design methodologies and tools, such as Territory Mapping, Directed Storytelling, and Co-Creation.



MLO 5

Create a design solution that integrates UX principles, psychological insights, and user-centered methodologies

Assigned Readings

- Storytelling with Data
 - Chapter 2: choosing an effective visual
 - Chapter 5: think like a designer



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Human Centered Design: Foundations

Definitions



A **problem-solving approach and mindset** that focuses on the needs, goals, and pain points of people.

**Human
Centered Design**



An **iterative process and framework** in which solutions evolve through divergent and convergent phases.

**Design
Thinking**



A **product design practice** that focuses on the full experience from a user's first contact to the last.

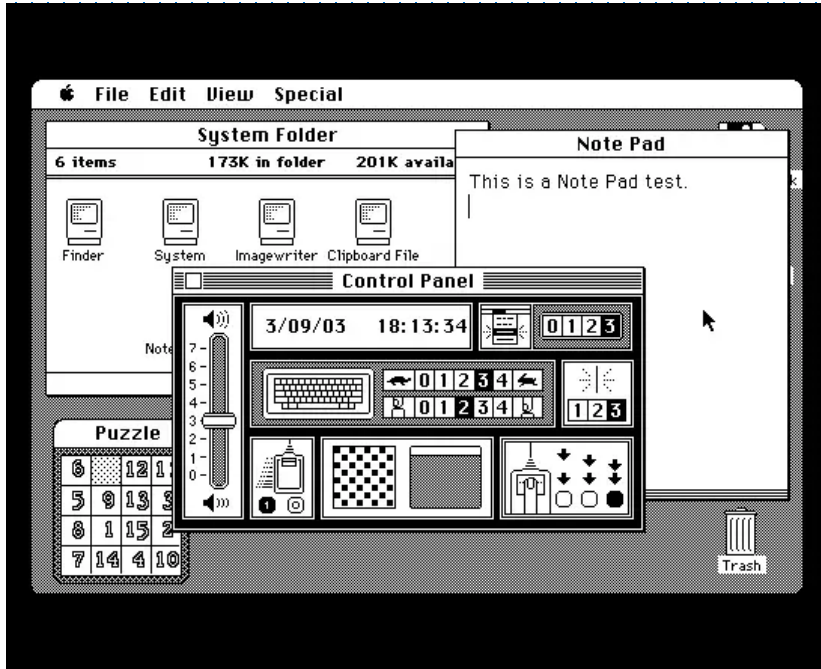
**User Experience
Design**



A **product design practice** that focuses on the visual touchpoints that allow users to interact with a product.

**User Interface
Design**

User Interface History

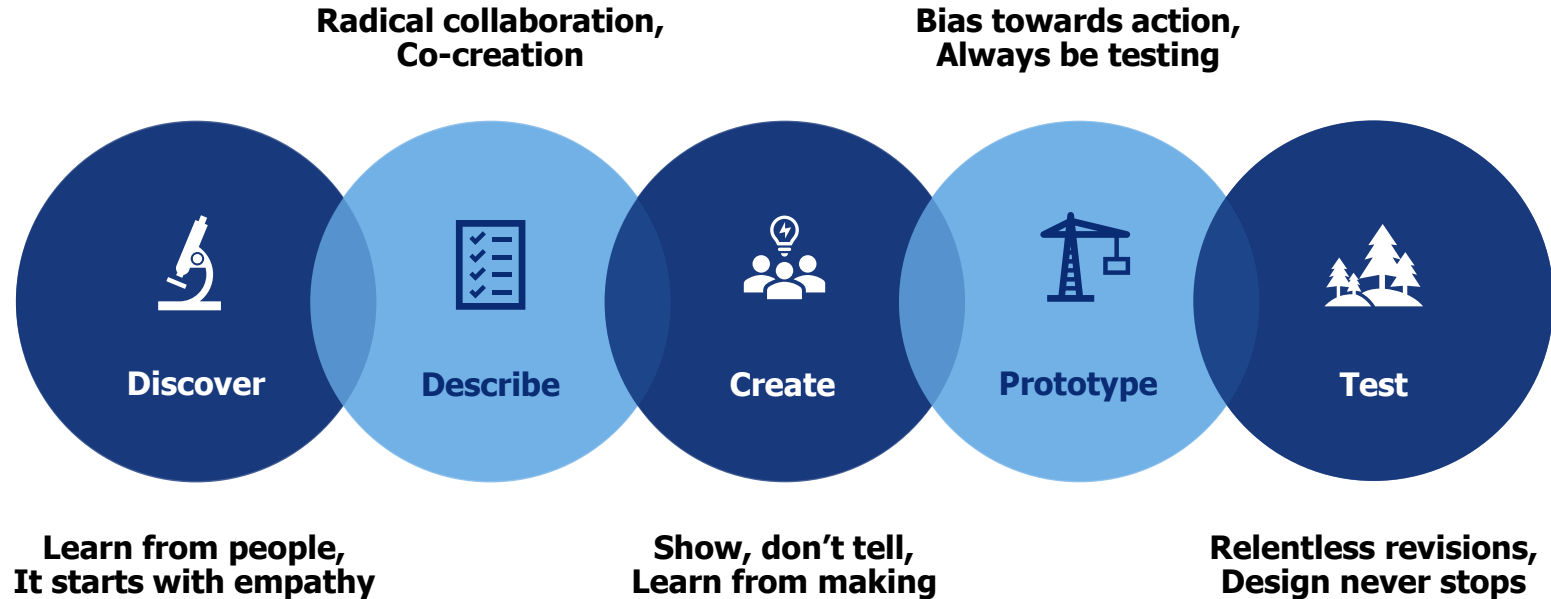


Tech Journeyman, 2024



Apple.com, 2024

Human Centered Design





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Human Centered Design: Psychology Foundations

Psychology Foundations

Human psychology, behavior, and decision-making drive how our target users and audience will experience our products/designs.



A designer who doesn't understand human psychologies is going to be no more successful than an architect who doesn't understand physics.

- Joe Leech
Psychology of Designers



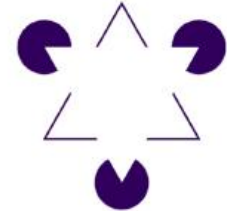
Sensation & Perception



Cognitive Biases



Cognitive Heuristics



Gestalt Principles

YOU

At some point you may come back and read this line but maybe not

WILL READ THIS FIRST

And then you will read this line next.

You will go back to read the body copy if you want to know more. It takes the most effort to read because it has a lot of text in a small font in a light weight with tight line spacing. Many people will skip paragraphs like this unless they aren't engaged right away. This is why it's important to draw attention to your message using visual hierarchy.

**You'll probably
read this before
the paragraph**

Psychology Foundation

Sensation

- **Sensation** is the process by which we receive information from the environment (light, sound, taste, smell, pressure, temperature, orientation, balance, etc).

Perception

- **Perception** first involves finding and attending to a stimulus, then distinguishing the stimulus from everything else (the background) and identifying the stimulus.

Salience

- **Salience** the visual design principle where we use visual variables to guide users/ audiences to consume information in a pre-defined, structured manner.

Cognitive Biases - Definitions

Anchoring Bias

- The anchoring bias, or focalism, is the tendency to rely too heavily – to “anchor” – on one trait or piece of information when making decision.

Confirmation Bias

- The tendency to search for, interpret, focus on and remember information in a way that confirms one's preconceptions.

Framing Effect

- The tendency to draw different conclusions from the same information, depending on how that information is presented.

Mere Exposure Effect

- The tendency to express undue liking for things merely because of familiarity with them.

Cognitive Biases - Impact

Anchoring Bias

- People tend to anchor new ideas based on the first piece of information presented resulting in only small, incremental ideas for improvement
- Stifles radical, out of the box thinking

Confirmation Bias

- Assuming “That’s the way we’ve always done it” confirms why new ideas or change tends to fail while overlooking many other extraneous factors as to why change has never been accomplished before.

Framing Effect

- Without thoughtful design of information, audiences are left to draw their own conclusions
- Unconscious negative framing of information could lead your audience to draw a different conclusion than intended

Mere Exposure Effect

- Users or stakeholders reluctance to accept new, or change because it is foreign and unfamiliar
- May also bias users to express preference towards visualizations, features, etc. because they have been exposed to them before, not because of substance

Cognitive Biases - Solution

Anchoring Bias

- Avoid exposing audiences to a current state UI/visual/process before asking them to broaden ideas to think of something new

Confirmation Bias

- Rather than focusing on the elements your audience is "confirming", look to investigate causes, relationships, and dependencies that also influence outcomes, and establish why a new approach would render different results.

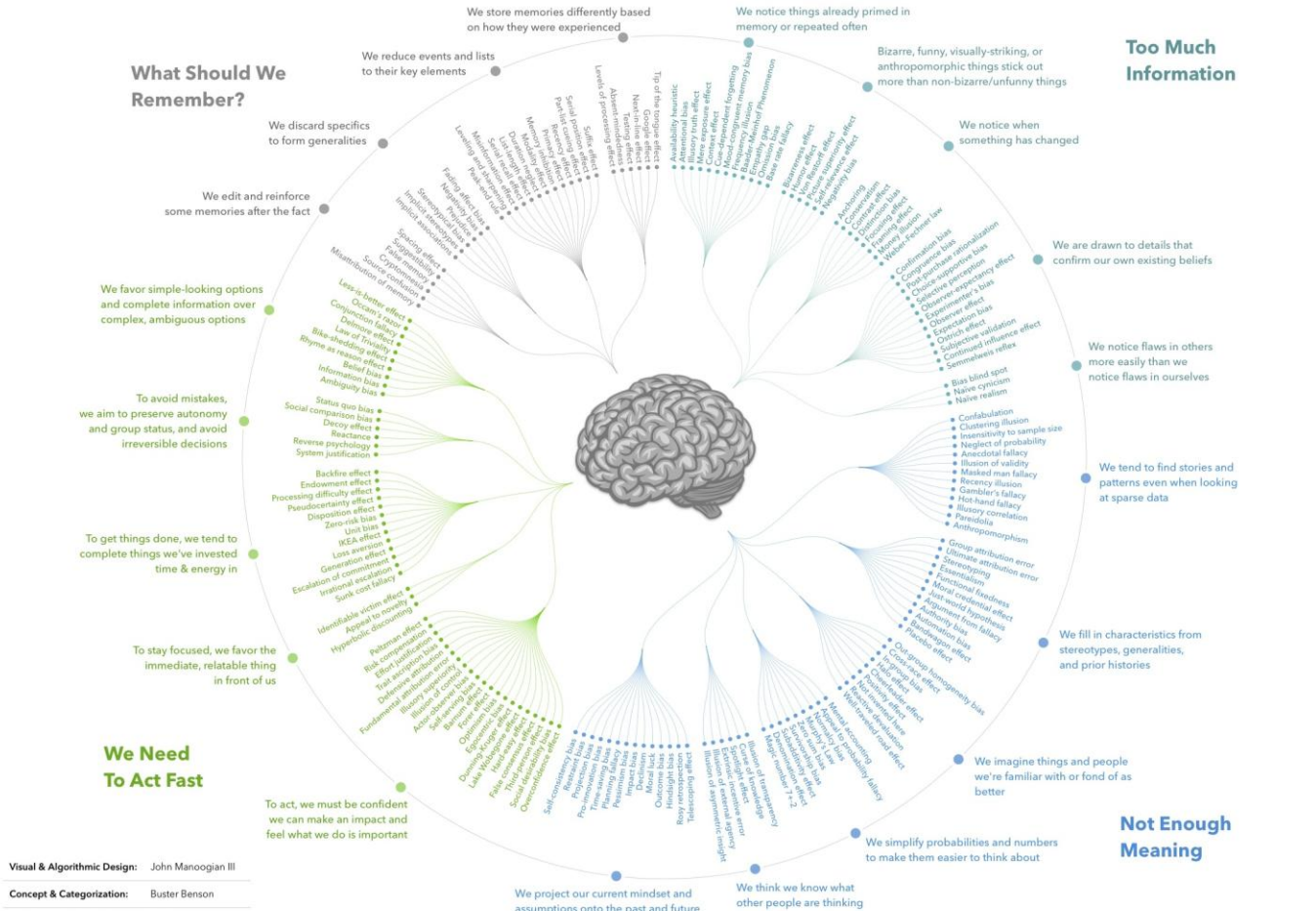
Framing Effect

- Pay careful attention to the conclusions you want your audience to draw and frame information in such a way that they draw that conclusion naturally on their own.

Mere Exposure Effect

- Appeal to logical, tested and proven fast as to benefits and drawbacks of a new idea compared to an existing one – Focus on concrete evidence rather than emotions preference of your audience.

COGNITIVE BIAS CODEX



designhacks.co

Biases common to design process:

Confirmation Bias

Familiarity Bias

Anchoring Bias

Status Quo Bias

Unintentional (or intentional) triggering

Unconscious Bias

Occam's Razor

Empathy Gap



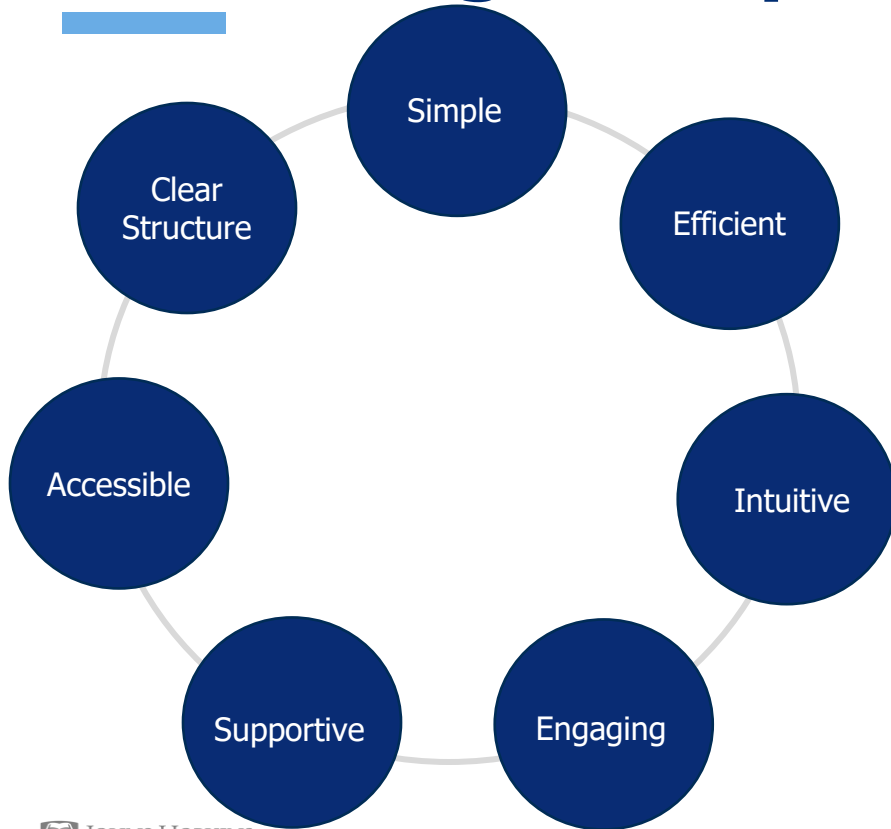
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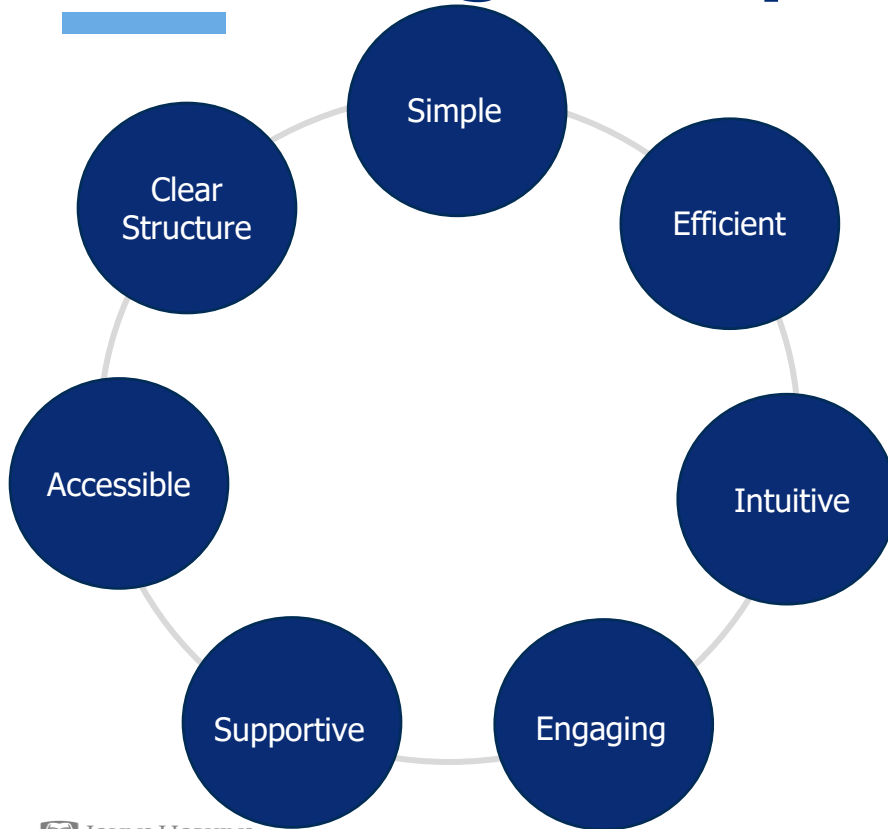
UX Guiding Principles



Simple

- Minimization of work
- Effective use of text and space
- Colors and background usage
- Page weight distribution
- Page layout
- Annoyances

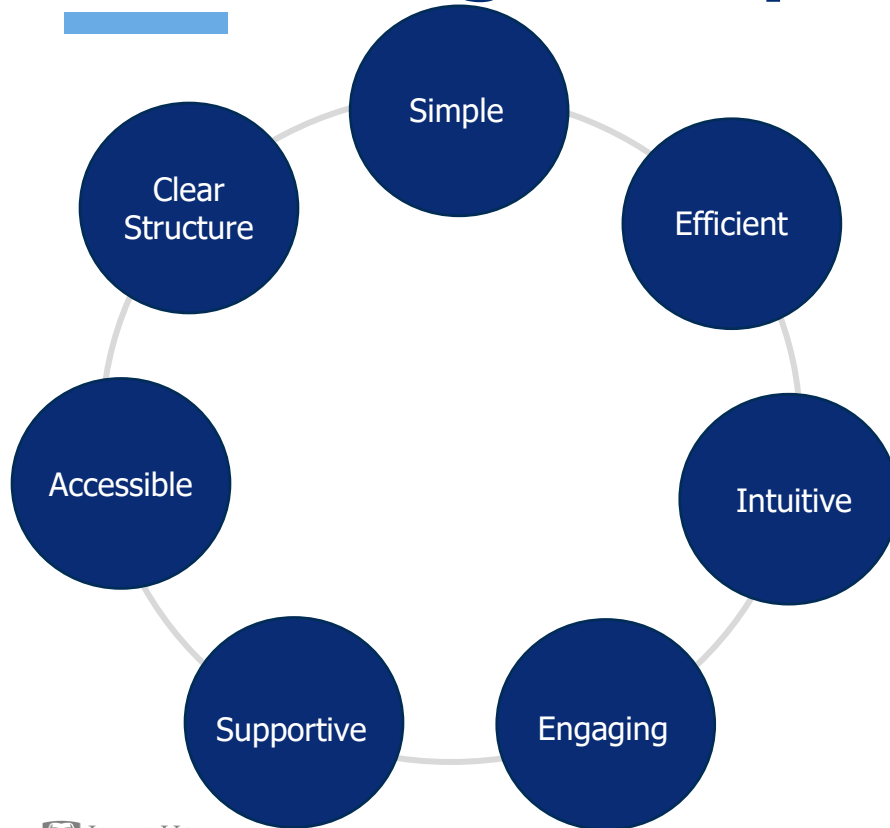
UX Guiding Principles



Efficient

- Productivity Enablement
- Fields and forms
- Reduction of cognitive load
- Alternatives and pop-ups
- Readability

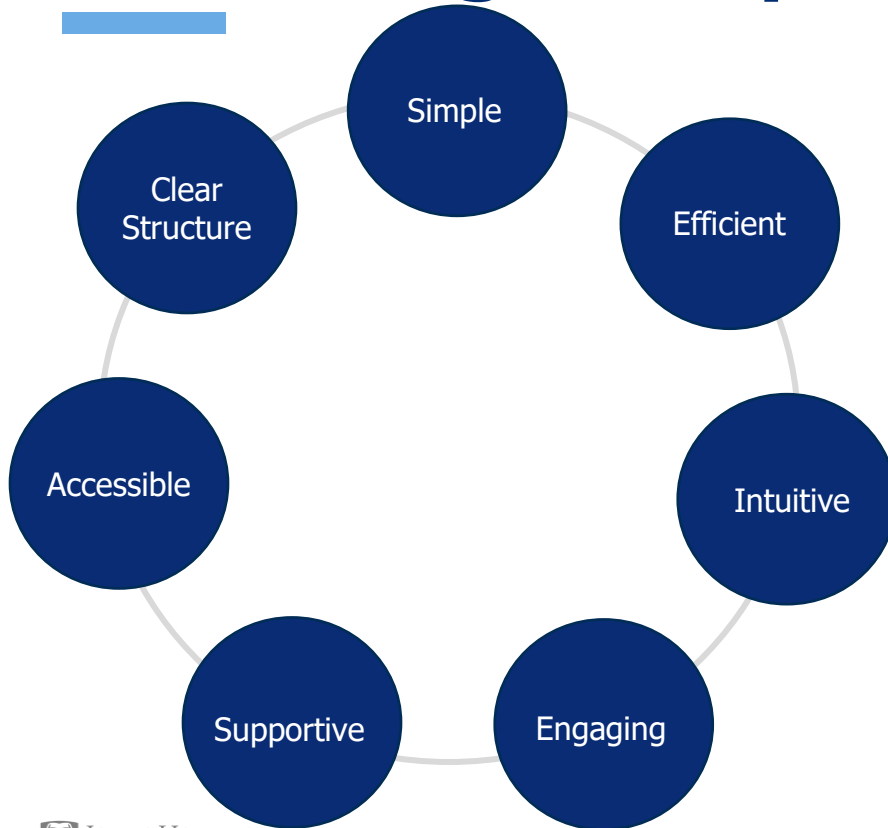
UX Guiding Principles



Intuitive

- Branding and familiarity
- Recognizable layout
- Page titles

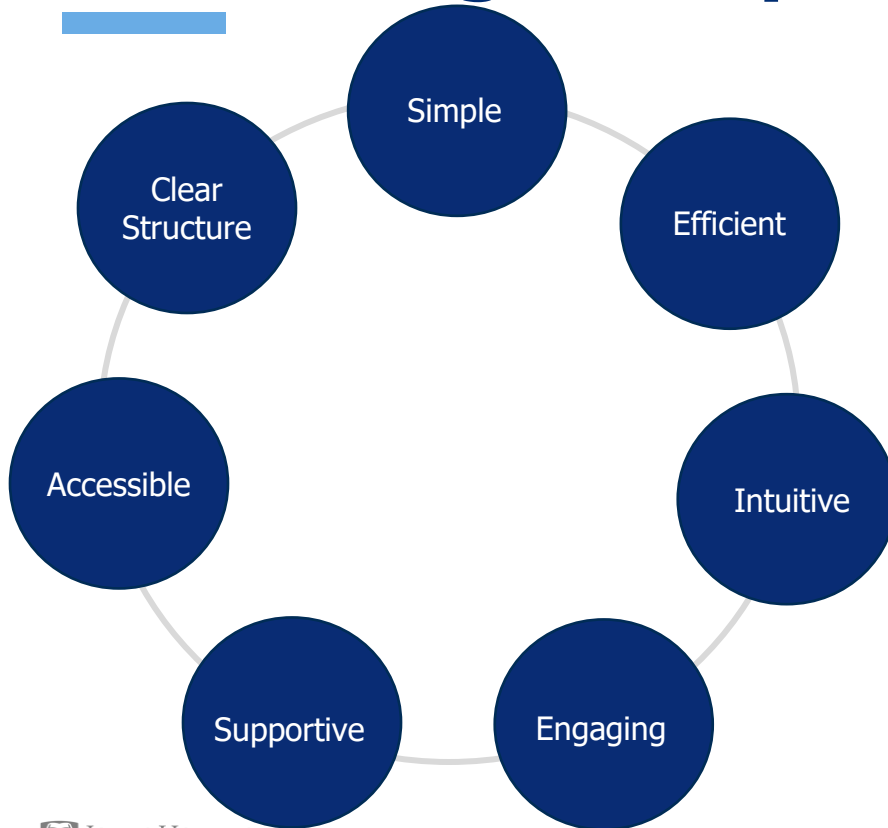
UX Guiding Principles



Engaging

- Comfort
- Utility
- Flexible Design

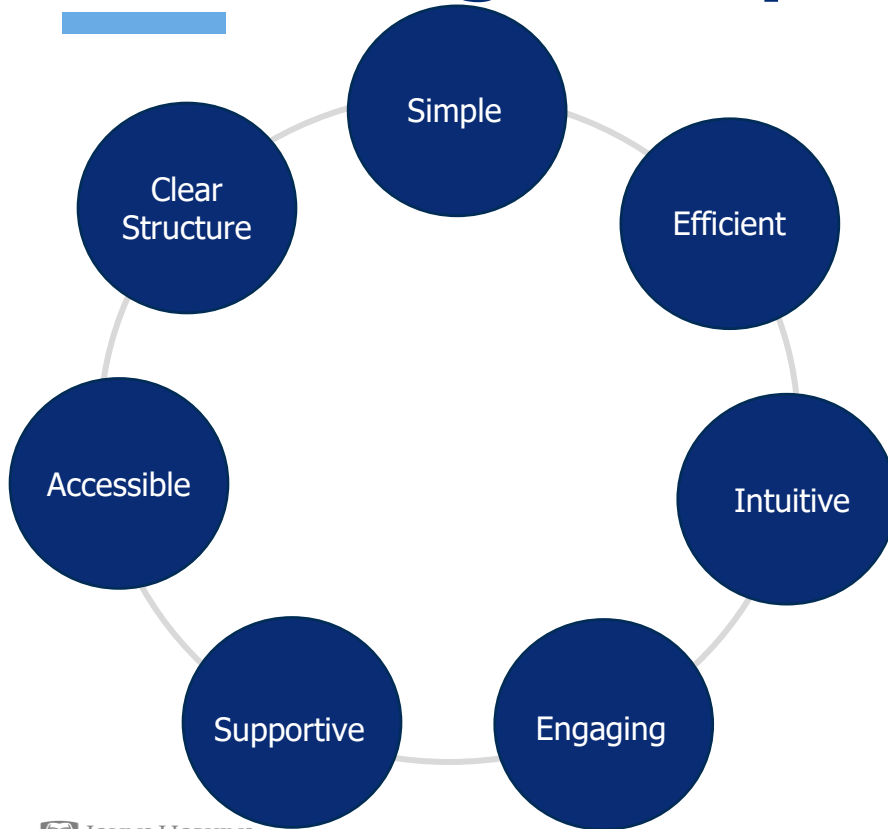
UX Guiding Principles



Supportive

- Help and instructions
- Explanations
- Error handling

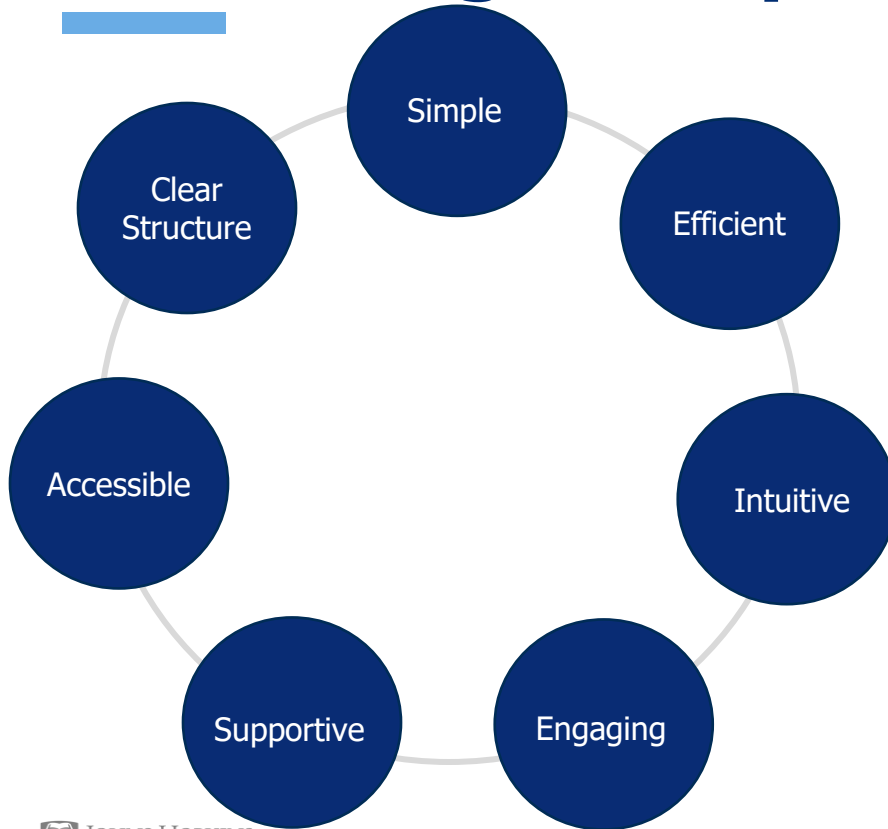
UX Guiding Principles



Accessible

- Accessibility standards
- Labeling, language and grammar
- Designed for the audience

UX Guiding Principles



Clear Structure

- Navigation controls
- Navigation model
- Information Architecture
- Memory



Usability Honeycomb

The Usability Honeycomb is a framework developed by Peter Morville to illustrate the facets of user experience (UX) that contribute to the usability and value of a product or service. The honeycomb consists of seven interconnected components, each representing a different aspect of user experience.

(Peter Morville, 2004)

Usability Heuristics

Make system status visible

Designs should keep users informed about what is going on, through appropriate, timely feedback.

Align site with the real world

The design should speak the user's language. Use content that is relevant and aligns to the user's experiences outside of the digital world.

Give users control

Users need control over how they navigate and interact with content. Pages should offer a variety of navigational and interactive options.

Ensure consistency and standards

Use a consistent framework that is easy to understand to promote users' learnability of a site. Adhere to platform-wide standards.

Target recognition over recall

Minimize the user's memory load by making elements, actions, and options visible. Avoid making users remember information.

Usability Heuristics

Prioritize flexibility and efficiency

Shortcuts – hidden from novice users – may speed up the interaction for the expert user.

Pursue minimal design

Interfaces should not contain information which is irrelevant. Every extra unit of information in an interface competes with the relevant units of information.

Prevent errors and ease recovery

Good error messages are important, but the best designs carefully prevent problems from occurring in the first place. Error messages should use plain language and suggest a solution

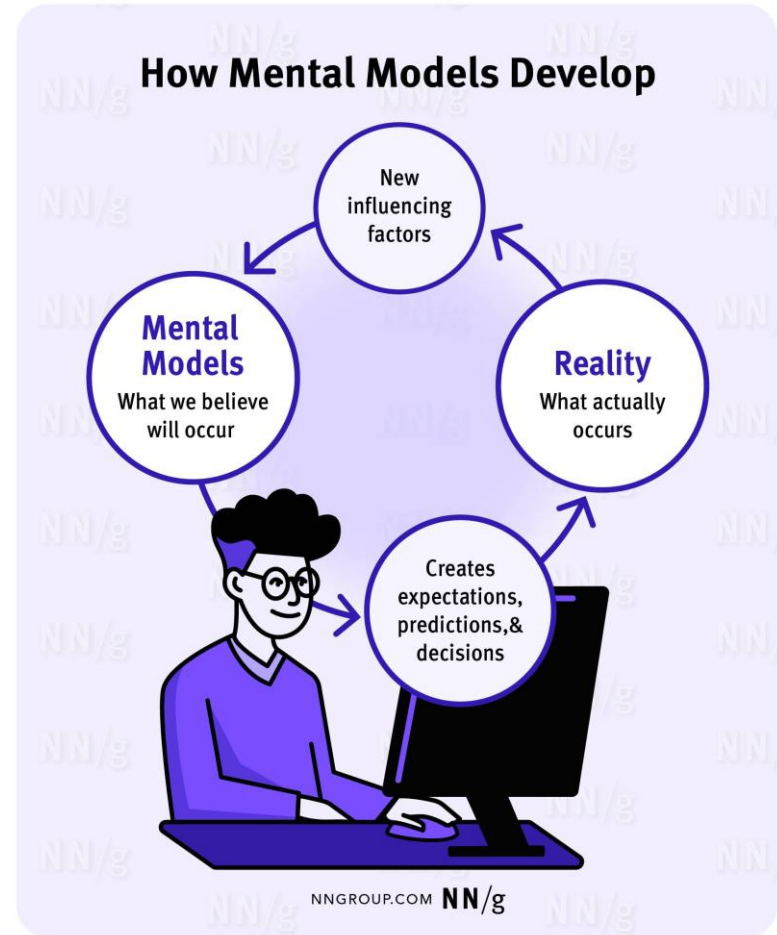
Support with help and documentation

It's best if the design doesn't need any additional explanation. However, it may be necessary to provide documentation to help users complete their tasks.

Mental Models

A mental model is what the user believes about the system (web, application, or other kind of product at hand). Mental models help the user predict how a system will work and therefore, influence how they interact with an interface.

- They are based on beliefs not facts.
- They are unique to each user
- They can change over time based on additional experience
- There's great inertia in users' mental models – stuff that people know well tends to stick



Visual Design Principles

5 Visual-Design Principles in UX

Scale: The most important elements are the biggest, because they are more likely to be noticed. Aim to use no more than 3 different sizes to establish visual hierarchy.

Visual Hierarchy: Structure elements in order of importance to effectively guide the eye. Hierarchy can be established through variations in scale, value, color, spacing placement, etc.

Visual-design principles inform us how design elements go together to create well-rounded and thoughtful visuals. Graphics that take advantage of the principles of good visual design can drive engagement and increase usability.

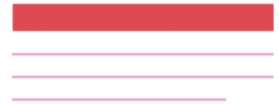
SCALE

The principle of scale refers to using relative size to signal importance and rank in a composition.



VISUAL HIERARCHY

The principle of visual hierarchy refers to guiding the eye on the page so that it attends to design elements in the order of their importance.



BALANCE

Balance occurs when there is an equally distributed amount of visual signal on both sides of an imaginary axis.



CONTRAST

The principle of contrast refers to the juxtaposition of visually dissimilar elements in order to convey the fact that these elements are different.



GESTALT PRINCIPLES

Gestalt principles capture our tendency to perceive the whole as opposed to the individual elements.



Visual Design Principles

5 Visual-Design Principles in UX

Balance: Equally distribute the amount of visual signal across a page. Balance can be symmetrical, asymmetrical, or radial.

Contrast: Provide the eye with a noticeable difference between two objects in order to emphasize they are distinct.

Gestalt Principles: A set of principles that explain how humans make sense of images.

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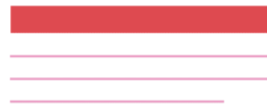
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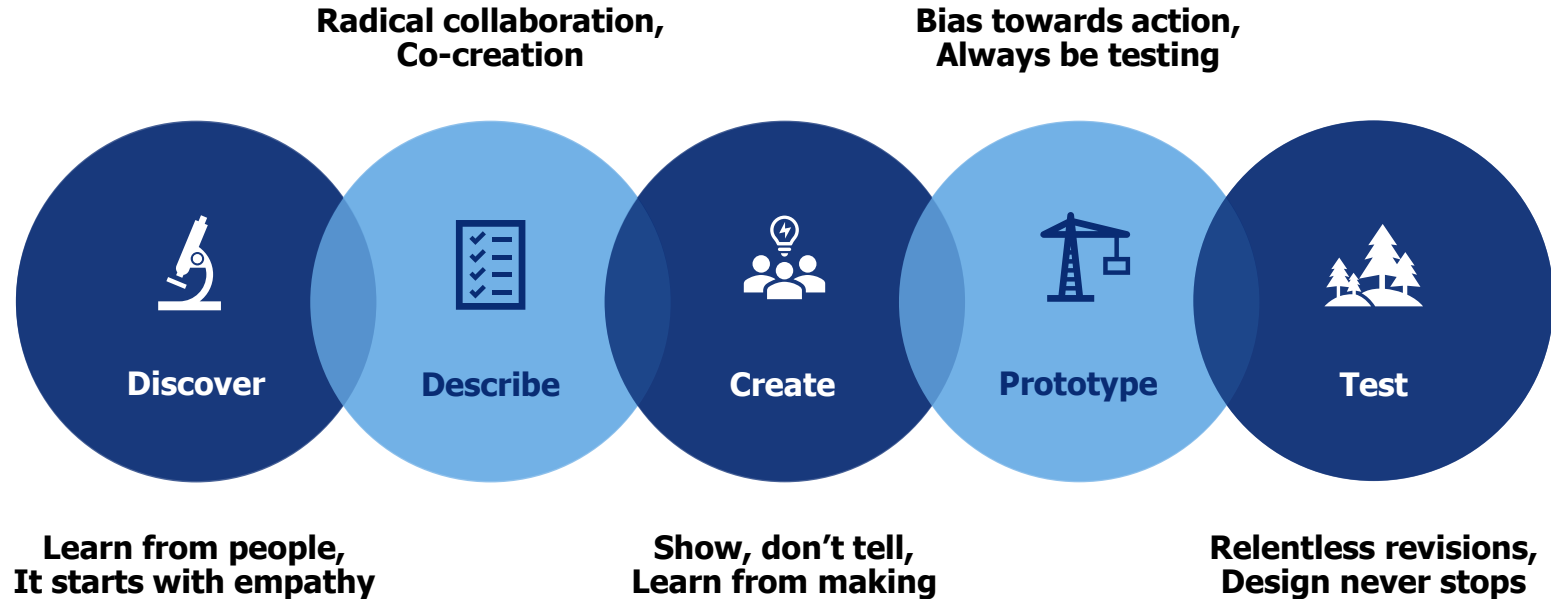
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Human Centered Design: Methodologies and Tools

Human Centered Design



Discover Phase

A research technique where you follow a person and observe someone's workflows, actions, routines, patterns and decision making while they perform a task or job

Shadowing

A way for to capture and acknowledge everyone's individual perspective and understanding of what matters for the overall project

Territory Mapping

A research technique where a person is asked to tell a story of a particular experience.

Directed Storytelling

Describe Phase

Summary of insights, recommendations, and/or concepts resulting from the synthesis of user and secondary research. Highlights opportunities for the future vision

Research Readout

'How Might We" (HMW) questions are a technique to frame your challenge for ideation. Start your questions with HMW to get to the core of the problem

How Might We?

An archetype developed to represent a specific user group. It is helpful in creating empathy and understand for users' motivations and behaviors

Personas

Bring it to Life

Wireframe in lo-fidelity the visual that represents the main components. Ensure accurate statistics and models are developed and showcased

Create

Simulation of the final product to test and validate ideas.

Prototype

Continuously refine and test your prototype to then take the ideas and finalize them. Watch out for bad techniques and biases.

Test

Tools of the Trade



(Maze, 2024)

- A user testing platform that allows designers to create and conduct usability tests on prototypes.



(AdobeXD, 2024)

- A versatile design software that helps designers create and prototype user experiences for websites, mobile apps, and digital user interfaces



(Streamlit, 2024)

- An open-source Python framework that allows you to create custom web apps for machine learning and data science



(Tableau, 2024)

- A powerful and flexible data visualization tool used in the Business Intelligence (BI) industry



Streamlit is going to be our Canvas



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