

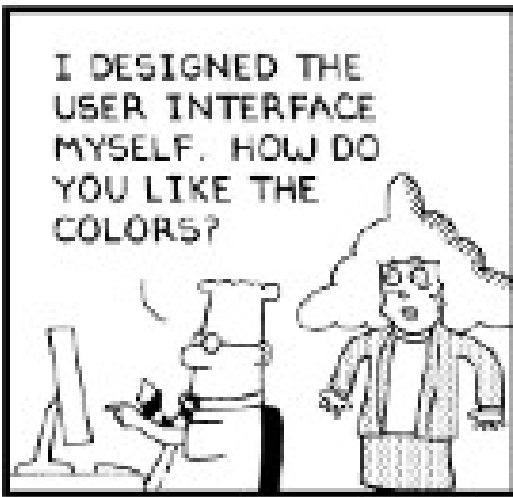
What to Do When Interface Design Goes Bad

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What you're in for...

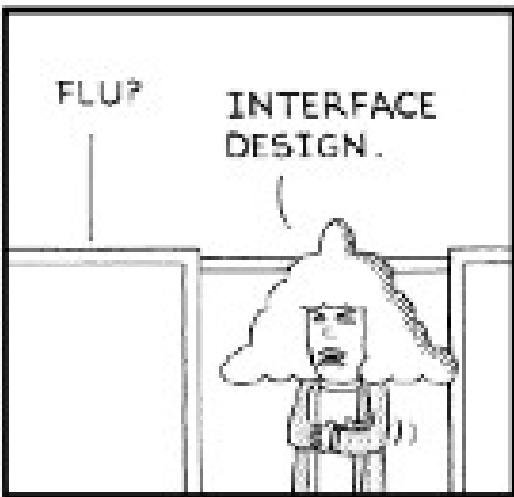
- A quick discussion about why interface design matters
- A closer look at some tricks and tips for improving your design and markup
- An assessment of what we have learned and how to learn more about interface design



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Background Thoughts

- Bad interface design is emotional
- User interfaces should guide
- User interfaces should teach

Content is King?

- Sort of... Design matters ... A LOT
- Users judge superficially, and quickly
- Professional Design = Credibility

Tips: Consistency

- Intuitive interfaces are learnable because they follow and support their own conventions
- Make it look easy by developing with same goals and same look and feel
- Consider web conventions

Example: Consistency

The screenshot displays a configuration interface for a mail server, organized into several panels:

- SMTP Listeners:** Contains a list of listeners with columns for IP address and port. The first entry is `*:25 (all IPs)` with `Edit` and `Delete` buttons. Below it are `192.168.1.8:25`, `192.168.1.8:24`, and `192.168.1.93:25`.
- ECStream Listeners:** Similar to SMTP Listeners, with the first entry being `*:25 (all IPs)` and the same three specific listener entries below.
- Logging:** Shows a list of loggers: `eclogger`, `compel`, `compel`, and `custom1`. The `eclogger` entry has `Edit` and `Delete` buttons.
- Relays:** Divided into two sections:
 - Relay From:** Lists source IP addresses: `192.168.1.8/25`, `129.210.48.3/27`, and `4.93.108.4/24`.
 - Relay For:** Lists destination domains: `sol.com to 4.93.108.4`, `hotmail.com to anotherdomain.com`, `xyz.com to xyz2.com`, and `someotherdomain.com to abodef.com`.
 - Never Relay To:** Lists domains: `ip addresses`.
- Domains:** Lists domain configurations: `sol.com`, `hotmail.com`, `xyz.com`, and `someotherdomain.com`. The `hotmail.com` entry has an `Edit` button.
- Bindings:** Organized into groups:
 - Group A:** `custom1`, `binding1` (with `Edit` button), `binding`, and `stizzle`.
 - Group B:** `heresanother`, `bindingfor`, and `youtuedit`.
 - Other Bindings:** `heresanother`, `bindingfor`, and `youtuedit`.

Tips: Low Literacy

- Simplicity - hold it dear
- Highlight key text
- Use Headings
 - And
 - Bulleted Lists

Example: Low Literacy

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Develop Window Help 02:40:13 (85%) Wed 3:46 AM
Spotlight @ MSU Libraries :: Montana State University Libraries
http://www.lib.montana.edu/spotlight/ RSS Google

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Computer Tips for the End of the Semester

1. Save your Documents! When working on Library computers, save your files to either your Z drive or flash drive. Documents in the Saved Documents folder are erased each night or whenever a computer is restarted.
2. Jazz up your final paper with color images and charts. A color printer is available in the Library. The cost is \$0.50/page. Alas, your \$8.00 of free printing cannot be used towards color printing. Ask your librarian for instructions on how to print in color.
3. Remember that our printers print double sided. To print singled sided, you need to change it manually through the properties feature in the print box.

Posted on Tue, 08 Apr 2008 17:24:59 by connie7 Add comment

Free Access to Additional RSC Titles in April

The library subscribes to some of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) journals online, but we can not afford all of them. However, through the end of this month, the RSC is letting us have access to all their journals from 1997-present. They should all be accessible via the [Journalist](#) as of tomorrow, or you can get to them now (from on campus) at <http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/Journals/fjournalsearch.asp>

While we wish we could afford all the RSC titles, at least we can enjoy all the RSC titles back to 1997 while we have access during the month of April.

Posted on Fri, 04 Apr 2008 21:54:58 by Greg Notess Add comment

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+ more...

Interface: HTML Forms

- Primary user interface (UI) for web applications
- Frequently just an afterthought
- Specific markup can improve function

Example: <form>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Title:** Prototype: GET Amazon Reviews and Thumbnails via REST API
- Address Bar:** <http://www.lib.montana.edu/~jason/files/api/amazon/>
- Search Bar:** Google
- Navigation Links:** Search | Site Map | FAQ
- Logo:** libraries montana state university
- Form Content:**
 - Text: Enter an ISBN or Amazon ASIN for details:
 - Input field: 0596005601
 - Button: Check Amazon
- Links:** View code | Get code
- Footer:** Home Resources Services About Contact XML feed © Copyright 2008.

Tips: <form> <label>

- Provides active cursor
- Creates accessible markup

```
<label for="id">Enter an ISBN or Amazon ASIN for details:</label>  
<input type="text" id="id" name="id" value="0596005601" />
```


Tips: `<form>` `<script>`

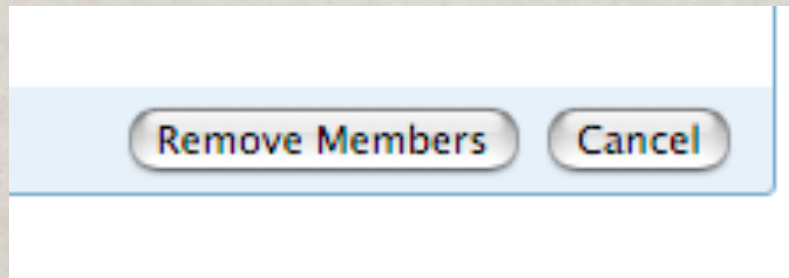
- Pre-populate with form field values
- Creates accessible markup

```
...value="0596005601" onfocus="this.value="; this.  
onfocus=null;"...
```

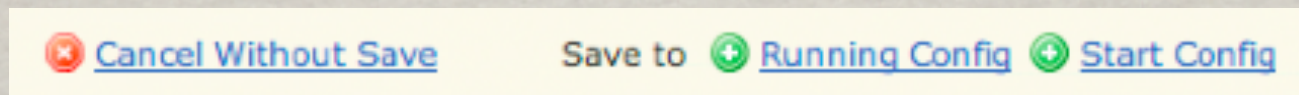

Tips: <form> actions

- Prioritize necessary actions
- De-emphasize or even remove negative action choices

Negative



Positive



Tips: Segmentation

- Simple segmentation gives momentum & direction
- Use <fieldset>, <legend>, <h1>, <h2> HTML tags
- Group related actions

Example: Segmentation

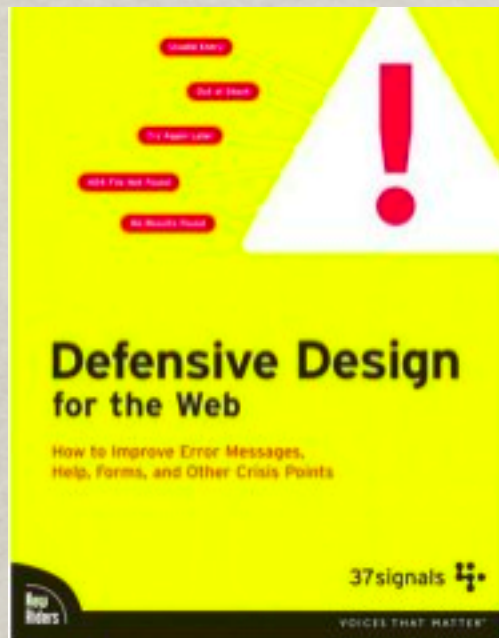
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.lib.montana.edu/resources/manage/index.php>. The page title is "Manage Resources & Research Guides :: Libraries @ MSU". The interface is divided into several sections:

- Manage Resources & Research Guides**: This section contains two main boxes:
 - Create Resources or Guides**: Includes links for "Add New Resource", "Add New Guide", and "Logout and return to Resource Index Page".
 - Administer Resources or Guides**: Includes links for "Create New Subject for a Resource", "Create New Type for a Resource", and "Create backup of resources database".
- View Resources and Guides for Editing**: This section contains two links: "View all Resources" and "View all Guides".
- Search Filters**: Three search boxes are provided:
 - By Subject:** A dropdown menu with "Pick Any Subject" and a "Go" button.
 - By Owner:** A dropdown menu with "Select an Owner" and a "Go" button.
 - By Keyword in Title:** A text input field with a "Search" button.

At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: "© Copyright 2001-2008. Montana State University Libraries" and a link to "Contact Us".

Learning More...

- Kathy Sierra, Creating Passionate Users
- Luke Wroblewski, LukeW Interface Designs
- 37 signals blog and their book...



Questions?

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