

## Reporting Usability Results (Creating effective communication)

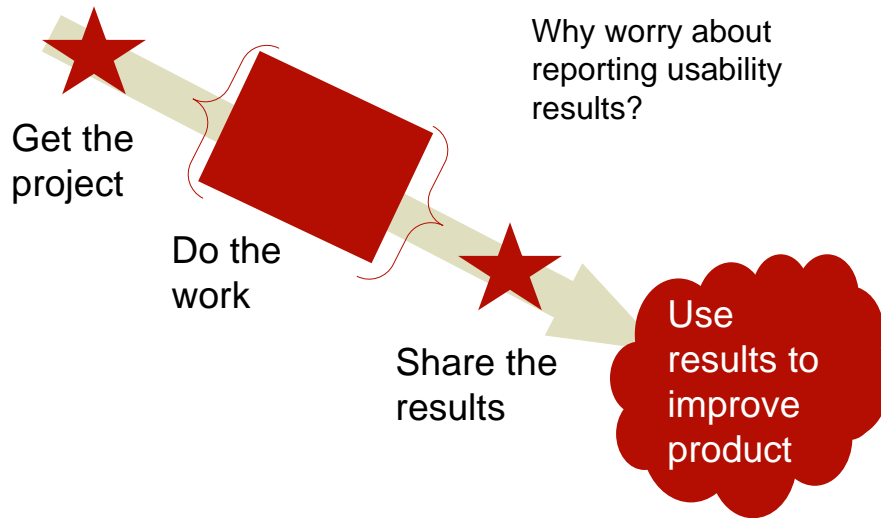
A Tutorial for User Friendly 2005  
December 18, Shanghai

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### Agenda

- Defining the problem
- Industry projects on reporting
- Understanding the audience
- Elements of usability reports
- Putting it together

## Defining the Problem



## Don't report...tell the story of what you learned

### Stories

- Let one person persuade many
- Let the team think creatively
- Act as a springboard for change

Method	Effectiveness
Documents	Low
Charts and diagrams	Limited
Rational argument	Limited
Dialogue	Impractical
<b>Storytelling</b>	<b>High</b>

Adapted from Stephen Denning - [www.stevedenning.com](http://www.stevedenning.com)

## Industry projects on reporting usability

- Defining international standards
  - IUSR Project
  - ANSI standard for reporting summative usability tests
  - New project on reporting formative usability test
- What should be "standardized"?

## About the IUSR Project

- Industry Usability Reporting Project (IUSR)
- Started in 1998 and managed at NIST (US National Institute of Standards and Technology)
- Goal: Increase the visibility of software usability
  - Reduce uncontrolled overhead costs of poor usability
  - Encourage software suppliers and consumer organizations to work together
  - Define a process to support decision-making
- The Common Industry Format (CIF), became a US ANSI standard in 2001, and was approved as an ISO standard in 2005

## The Common Industry Format (CIF)

- ANSI/INCITS 354-2001
- Codifies best practice for describing a summative test and reporting the statistical results
  - Defines objective usability measures
  - Focuses on reporting usability metrics
  - Provides a description of the test to allow it to be repeated

Approved Companywide Architecture and Standards Bulletin					
Common Industry Format (CIF) for Usability Assessment - Technical Standard					
Business Unit Variations	AAM	BCA	P W	S&C	SSG
	None	None	None	None	None
Component/Product	Common Industry Format (CIF) for Usability Test Reports				
Current Version	ANSI/INCITS 354-2001				
Manufacturer	National Institute for Standards & Technology (NIST)				
Standards Declaration	The Common Industry Format for Usability Test Reports (CIF) is the Boeing companywide standard that must be used by suppliers of				

### 5.4.4 Usability Metrics

As defined in Section 4.1, usability is measured by three types of satisfaction.

The following information shall be provided:

- a) Metrics for effectiveness.
- b) Metrics for efficiency.
- c) Metrics for satisfaction.

Effectiveness and efficiency results shall be reported, even when specified context of use. In this case, the report shall specify why metrics meaningful.

## The CIF Template

The CIF is a template for a summative usability test report

- Title page
- Executive summary
- Introduction
  - Full product description
  - Test objectives
- Method
  - Participants
  - Context of the test
  - Tasks given to participants
  - Test facility
  - Equipment used
  - Experimental design
- Usability Metrics
  - Effectiveness (task completion, errors, assists)
  - Efficiency
  - Satisfaction
- Results
  - Data analysis
  - Tables with performance data
- Appendices
  - Questionnaires
  - Participant instructions
  - Task instructions

Join IUSR to get access to the research and full version of the CIF:  
[www.nist.gov/iusr/](http://www.nist.gov/iusr/)

## IUSR Formative Usability Reporting Project

- **The need**
  - Most usability work is formative, not summative
  - The CIF was being adapted for reporting formative or informal usability tests
- **Goals**
  - Raise the level of visibility of usability
  - Promote best practices
  - Assist practitioners
- **Two workshops**
  - Boston – October 2004
  - UPA 2005 Workshop



## Definition of “Formative Usability Testing”

- A usability evaluation with:
  - Representative users
  - Realistic tasks
  - Some version (prototype, semi-working model, etc.) of the thing being evaluated
- And where the primary purpose of the evaluation is to guide improvement in the design for future iterations

## Workshop groups worked on ...

- Reporting context and audiences
  - What are the contextual issues in usability reporting
- Elements of a report
  - What goes into a report...always, or just sometimes
- Reporting metrics
  - When, and how, to report on quantitative metrics
- Guidelines for reporting
  - How do we make decisions about reporting elements, style or audience

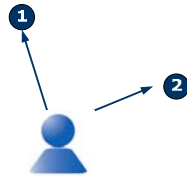
## Understanding audience and context

- A report is designed like any other interface!
  - Who is the audience?
  - What is our relationship to that audience?
  - How does this affect what and how we report?
- Do we practice user-centered reporting?

## Five contexts in which a report is presented



## Introducing yourself and usability



**In these contexts, the report must**

- **Teach**
- **Show credibility and**
- **Help gain acceptance for the recommendations**

### 1. Introducing a team to usability

- Need to explain usability
- Need to avoid jargon
- Need to establish credibility of the methods

### 2. Establishing a new consulting relationship

- Meet a new team, and introducing your approach
- Learn their existing methodology and show how usability fits
- Need to establish credibility

## Continuing an ongoing relationship



**In these contexts, the report must**

- **Communicate efficiently**
- **Talk professionally to your colleagues**

### **3. Working with a team where you have an ongoing relationship**

- You may be part of the team or a “consultant”
- Need to work within expectations and processes you have established
- Can take some “shortcuts” on areas of agreement or where the whole team participated

### **5. Coordinating with other usability professionals**

- You may be sharing usability results across projects or over time
- May need more methodology details to satisfy other professionals
- May need more data to allow comparison

## Reporting to business executives



**This is the most difficult context. The report must**

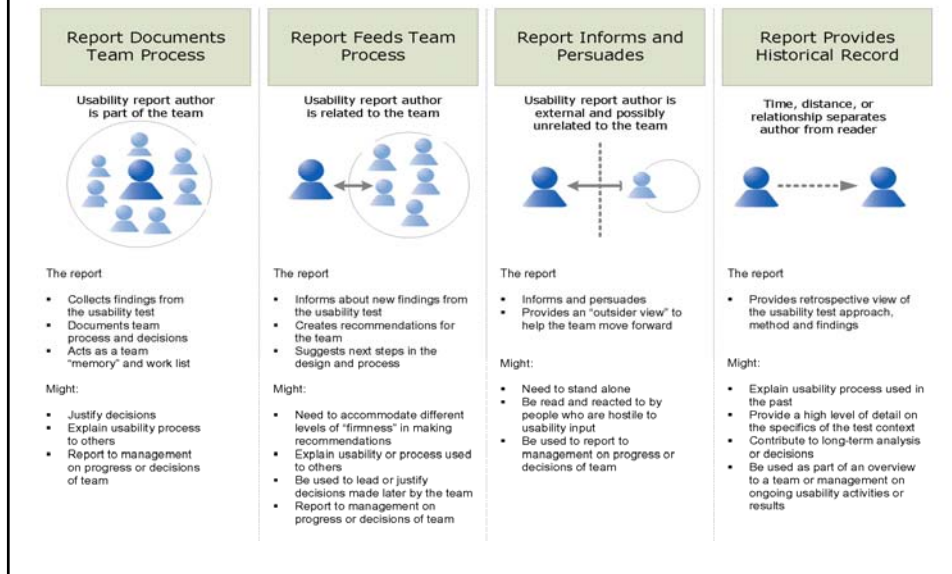
- **Be brief and to the point**
- **Teach (at a high level)**
- **Speak to business needs**

### **4. Reporting to an executive decision maker**

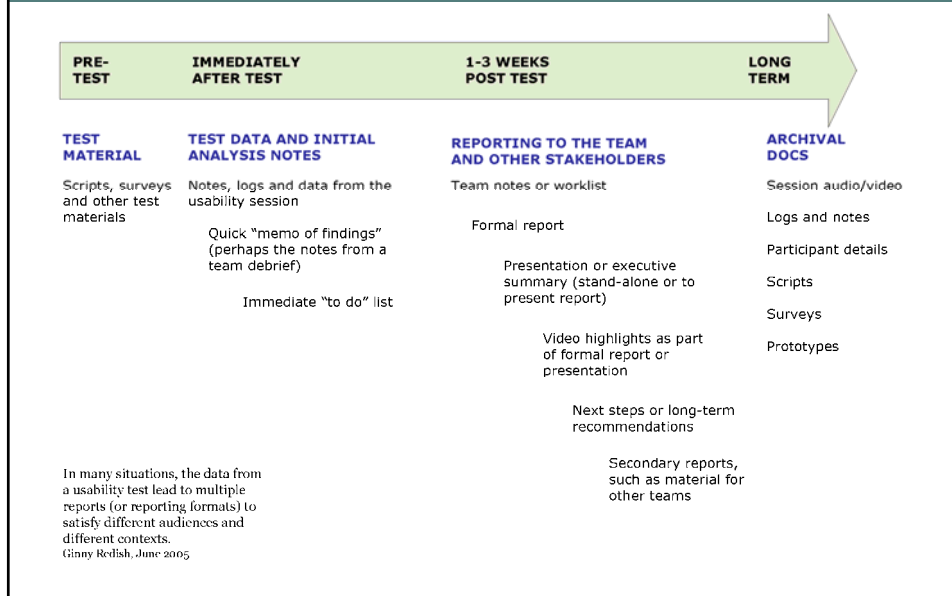
- Keep it short!
- Focus on actions to be taken: recommendations and decisions that need to be made
- Explain how the work was done, but avoid detailed discussions of methodology
- Emphasize connection between business goals and recommendations
- Consider a presentation instead of a report



## Four relationships between author and readers



## One report, or a collection of deliverables?



## Elements of usability reports

- What should be included in a usability report
  - What information?
  - How much detail?
  - How to present it?
- Do different audiences need different information in a report?

## What's in a usability report

The “superset” of elements has more emphasis on description and explanation than the CIF template, and includes more detail on results and recommendations.

- Title page or front matter
- Executive summary
- Teaching usability
- Test background
- Method and methodology
- Overall test environment
- Participants
- Tasks and scenarios
- Results and recommendations
- Details of recommendations
- Metrics
- Quotes, screenshots and video
- Conclusions
- Next steps
- Appendices

The list of all elements is in the back of the workbooks, and published in the paper in UPA's Journal of Usability Studies

## Analysis of sample reports

- The IUSR project analyzed 24 reports (some with more than one document)
- There was a lot of variation
  - No elements appeared in every report
  - Some elements were not used in any of the reports
- But most had some form of
  - List of participants
  - Findings or results
  - Recommendations

LTU	QUESTIONS	F (%)
<b>Tasks and Scenarios</b>		
E41	Tasks	67 %
E42	User-articulated tasks	4 %
E43	Scenarios	46 %
E44	Success criteria	13 %
E45	Difficulty	0 %
E46	Anticipated paths	8 %
E47	Persons on the task	0 %
<b>Results and Recommendations</b>		
E48	Summary	63 %
E49	Positive findings	87 %
E50	Table of observations or findings	58 %
E51	Problems / Findings	88 %
E52	Recommendations	83 %
E53	Definitions of coding schemes	17 %
<b>Detail of Recommendations</b>		
E54	Severity of errors	25 %
E55	Priority	13 %
E56	Level of confidence	4 %
E57	Global vs specific	13 %
E58	Classification as objective and subjective	29 %
E59	Reference to previous tasks	4 %

A summary of this analysis is published in the UPA Journal of Usability Studies

## There was a wide range of styles

- Formal documents
- Documents and presentations with screen shots
- Documents with tables of tasks, findings and recommendations
- Spreadsheets or tables with lists of issues

The collage shows four different styles of usability reports:

- Top-left:** A formal document with a table of findings, including columns for 'Task', 'Finding', 'Recommendation', and 'Priority'.
- Top-right:** A report titled 'Recommendation Details: Location of Search' with a red header and a search box. It includes a 'Why?' section explaining user behavior.
- Bottom-left:** A report with a large screenshot of a software interface and annotations, including a table of findings.
- Bottom-right:** A report titled 'Details of the Recommendations' with a table of issues, including columns for 'Issue', 'Severity', 'Priority', and 'Recommendation'.

As the form is currently laid out, it is not clear how the Category and Place fields constrain the search, or even what they mean. Is "Place" used instead of the Set Your Location function? Does it override it? Although an experienced searcher might not be confused, it is a mistake to assume that this is easy for all users.

One solution is to add short prompts that connect the search fields into a coherent "quasi-sentence" and make the relationships clear.

Another technique is to put a neutral label ("Any place") in a drop-down default that indicates that it is all right not to make a choice.

Recommendation 11 Test labels carefully to be sure that they contribute to the users' understanding of the search task.

Report of the usability test of [name]  
Test cases: [task]  
Page 6 of 6

### Details of the scenarios

Scenario 1.  
[Text of the scenario.]

[If needed, a note about the scenario.]

[If we collected quantitative data, a table or tables of the data for this scenario would come here.]

[Here again, we report what is working as well as what is not working. A recommendation may be "Keep this as it is." It may be "Do more of this in other parts of the product."]

Findings	Recommendations, comments
[Brief summary of the point of the finding] [Details of data for the finding]	[Recommendation. Each recommendation starts with an imperative verb. The recommendation should be as concrete as possible.]
[Next finding for this scenario] [Details for this finding]	[Recommendation]
<input type="checkbox"/> [Perhaps bulleted list to give frequency data or individual quotes]	[There may be more than one recommendation for each finding] [There may be cross-references to other scenarios.]

[Possible screen shot or partial screen shot, perhaps with call-outs]

Findings	Recommendations, comments
[Confirmation of findings if any for this scenario] [Details of data for the finding]	[Recommendation]

Organized by page, with lots of screen shots and callouts

Organized by scenario and user task

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**Results**

The user obtained successful search information 100% of the time. This was a high percentage and a measure of user proficiency. This high proficiency was used to be addressed in order for users to complete tasks more efficiently. The average usability score for participants was 4.0 out of 5.0. This was a high score and was usually the best score possible. The data on usability scores for participants is included in the appendix to this report.

The percentage of users who were able to perform the task was 100% of the 10 participants who were able to perform the task.

The user obtained search information 100% of the time.

Discussion: This data indicates that users were able to perform the task. They were able to find information in the report and to use the search function.

- Participants were able to find the information they needed on the home page. Search parameters and the way they were displayed and used was not very clear. The usability score for the search was 4.0 out of 5.0. This was a high score and was usually the best score possible. The data on usability scores for participants is included in the appendix to this report.
- None of the 10 participants did not know how to use the search function. All participants were able to find the information they needed on the home page. Search parameters and the way they were displayed and used was not very clear. The usability score for the search was 4.0 out of 5.0. This was a high score and was usually the best score possible. The data on usability scores for participants is included in the appendix to this report.

**Overall Usability Measures**

Discussion: This data indicates that users were able to perform the task. They were able to find information in the report and to use the search function.

Table 1 shows the task completion rate. It shows that the participants completed 100% of the 10 tasks they attempted, 100% completion rate, which is 100%, and 100% of the tasks, or 100%, which is 100%.

Table 1  
Task completion using search

Task	# Participants Attempting	Completed without assist	Completed with assist (percentage)
Task 1	6	0	2
Task 2	6	3	50
Task 3	3	1	33
Task 4	6	4	67

100% of 10 = 100% = 100%  
100% of 10 = 100% = 100%

< Back >      < Search This Document (Please) >

Recommendation Details: Location of Search

**Put an entry box for search on the home page, in a visible position**

**Why?**

- Users first scanned the page, looking for a likely link. If they did not find one, they then looked for the "hole in the page" where they could type.
- Entry boxes have high attraction, but should not be visually hidden in the header.
- A small link to a search will not be noticed easily.
- The best combination we saw was on Merck Praxis: a set of icons, an alphabetical list and the search box were in close proximity.

Discussion: This data indicates that users were able to perform the task. They were able to find information in the report and to use the search function.

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Presentation format

Classic document format

## Front page (or cover)

- Use the cover or first page to identify the test being reported
  - What was tested
  - When and where was the test conducted
  - Who conducted the test
  - Brief description of the participants

**Report on the usability test of [name]**

---

Dates of testing: [test dates]

Place of testing: [test location]

Participants: [number and type]

---

Prepared for  
[client name]  
[client address]

This example (from Ginny Redish) is one of the few that showed details of the *test* so clearly.

## Executive summary

- Use the executive summary to provide a 1-2 page overview of the most important findings and recommendations
  - Briefly define the project
  - Summarize overall usability level of product
  - List recommendations at a high level
  - Include positives!

Management Summary

**The product and its users**

The South Oxfordshire District Council web site aims to make information available in a way that helps people find the information they are looking for quickly and efficiently. The Council also wants to raise public awareness of its services by branding the information consistently, using a consistent design and colours.

Users can be anyone, but they are usually people who live or work in South Oxfordshire.

**The expert inspection**

We inspected this site from the point of view of 'Gina', some one who is moving to the South Oxfordshire area and wants to do three things:

- find out about bus routes near Didcot,
- pay her council tax online
- obtain planning permission for an extension to her house.

We found problems with all of these tasks, but we also found good, clear pages as we worked through them or elsewhere in the site. The route through the tasks is discussed in detail in section 2 of this report.

**Recommendations**

These are our general recommendations. They are discussed, with examples, in section 3 of this report.

**Support user tasks.** Be sure that the link to the most frequent or critical user tasks are easily recognised on the home page, and that the path to the detailed information is clear.

**Reward the click.** Every page should have useful information, or be consciously constructed as a menu of informative options.

**Write for the user.** Avoid government jargon, putting information in terms users recognize and presenting it from their perspective

## Teaching usability

- Some reports always include general information to teach readers about usability.
- Useful:
  - Introducing a new team to usability
  - For an executive audience
  - But not for an ongoing relationship

### Usability priorities

The usability priorities for this site, and the way users might express their goals for each are (in order of priority):

- 1: Effective: "I need to feel that I got what I was looking for"
- 2: Easy to learn: "I want to be able to use the site without help or feeling like I am lost"
- 3: Error-tolerant: "I need to be confident that the result is correct"
- 4: Efficient: "I am busy and need to use my time well"
- 5: Engaging: "I want an experience that is unique and compelling"

This report included a brief description of the usability priorities we set for an expert review.

## Participants

- Include a summary of the participants that shows:
  - How many people you worked with
  - Demographics (relevant to the project)
  - Totals for different characteristics (especially for high numbers)
- Formats
  - Table or list
  - Summary descriptions
  - Profiles or personas

#	Name	Job/Title	3.0 Experience	4.0 Training
1	Jeannette	Trainer	Very experienced	None
2	Nicole	Training Developer	Experienced	None
3	Craig	Trainer	Very experienced	None

	Length of time online	Online usage	Child with [redacted]
P1	2 years	2x per week AOL	Daughter, 16 [redacted] with therapy
P2	8 years	1-2X per week Ask Jeeves	
P3	3 years	1x week AOL	
P4	2 years	3x per week AOL	
P5	6 years	Daily AOL E-Bay, WebMD	

Total	27	Participants
Gender	10 Men	17 Women
Ethnicity	1 Asian	4 Hispanic
	4 African American	18 Caucasian
Age	2 Under 40	23 40-70
	2 Over 70	
Education	3 High School	12 Some College
	4 College	8 Post Graduate
Relationship (some multiple relationships)	7 Family member	6 Current Patient
	8 Survivor (Breast)	4 Survivor (Prostate)
	4 Survivor (Other)	

## Participants

- These profiles of users for a poker web site, with a brief description of their style of play, prior background and success criteria described general market research

The Tentative Player	The Casual Player	The Avid Player
<p>This player may be an experienced gamer, used e-commerce sites, or has played "real" poker, but has not yet tried online poker.</p> <p>Whatever his level of prior web experience, online gambling is new, and brings with it a whole new set of worries about using the Internet.</p> <p>The site must pass the 'trust test' which includes both commercial trustworthiness and hesitations over downloading software (fear of viruses) and the risk of being added to spam lists.</p> <p>To choose Full Tilt Poker, he needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be reassured that he can trust the site.</li> <li>Understand the mechanics (that the software must be downloads)</li> </ul>	<p>The casual player has tried other online gaming sites, including online poker. He finds it enjoyable, but it's still an occasional activity, not a primary method of entertainment.</p> <p>This player is not afraid to try out a new game, but can be equally quick about leaving if there is a problem</p> <p>To choose Full Tilt Poker, he needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feel the site is a good match to his reasons for playing</li> <li>Feel engaged by the site (and subsequent software)</li> <li>To not encounter any usability or trust barriers during download and initial play</li> </ul>	<p>Although an amateur, this user is an experienced and frequent player. He believes he plays poker well, and finds it a stimulating challenge.</p> <p>He has played online at other sites, and is familiar (and comfortable) with the basic mechanics of online play. The need to download software to play is familiar, and he has his own preferred methods for payment.</p> <p>To choose Full Tilt Poker, he needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the site to offer a challenge or a more advanced style of play</li> <li>To feel engaged by the branding pitch</li> <li>To trust the site, based on personal trust requirements and past experience with other sites</li> </ul>

## Participants

- These quick personas summarized the user analysis, putting participants into four groups

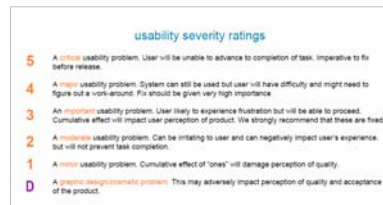
	Ad Hoc ← Sophistication of Information seeking → Deliberate	
Low	<p><b>Magpies (The Collectors)</b></p> <p>"Oh, look...this is interesting"</p> <p>Persistent novices with ad-hoc solutions to finding information. Easily overwhelmed.</p>	<p><b>Unconscious Competents</b></p> <p>"I'm sure others get more out of this than I do"</p> <p>Self deprecating, but with more skills than they are aware of. Methodical and careful.</p>
High	<p><b>Impatients</b></p> <p>"Yeah...yeah..."</p> <p>Snap judgments. Can miss things. Don't know what they don't know.</p>	<p><b>Deeply Engaged</b></p> <p>"I cheat and read the professional version"</p> <p>Proficient, comfortable with online skills and medical terminology.</p>

The Magpies
<p>"I know it's out there..." "Oh, look...this is interesting"</p> <p><b>Using the Web</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persistent novice</li> <li>Have few favorite sites, but rely on search engines or recommended links</li> </ul> <p><b>InfoSeeking Habits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad-hoc approach to finding information, with few systematic strategies</li> <li>Move rapidly to find sections of a site based on their condition</li> <li>Easily overwhelmed by complex sites, medical language or usability problems</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Medical Info</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the web to follow up on information from their doctors; filling in gaps and being sure they understand what they were told</li> <li>Least concerned with the source of their information</li> </ul> <p><b>Helping Them Succeed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the visual complexity of the page layout</li> <li>Indicate "best bet" or recommended links</li> <li>Frame questions from</li> </ul>
<p>Magpies are determined to find the information they need, even if they have to work hard to get it. They have few strong computer or information-finding skills to draw on, but are persistent.</p> <p>They make snap judgments about a site, looking for key words – such as the name of their cancer or medication – that give them a first place to read or click. They look for links in the center of the page first, often ignoring menus (which they have scrolled out of the way).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I'm going right to the list of cancers, and I see prostate cancer." [P14]</li> </ul> <p>Their info-seeking style is classic "berry picking" – they add bits of information to their "basket" as they find them, often picking up folklore along with authoritative medical information. Unfortunately, this can leave gaps in their knowledge of which they are unaware. They will use dictionary links for more information, but their browsing style can also mean that they get distracted by explanatory links, going off on tangents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I like to follow the trail and see where it leads" [P19]</li> </ul> <p>When a link to their own condition is available, they will often use it to narrow the large world of a complex site to the information of interest to them. This works well when the section is clear and simple, but they can be overwhelmed by many things: the level of medical terminology, complexity of the page layout, and even the number of choices offered to them. They prefer sites that "do some of the work for them" providing them with information in clearly delineated chunks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[Reading a list of drugs] "If I see them, then I remember what they are. Those [Cytoplex and Taxol] were better medications" [P20]</li> </ul> <p>Magpies also do best with sites that speak to them, framing questions from their point of view.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Medications are easier to remember. When it goes into your body, you remember." [P25]</li> </ul>

## Prioritizing severity

- Should problems and recommendations be prioritized on a severity scale?
  - Some reports use formal severity scales
  - Some reports list recommendations in a general “priority order”
- If you use a severity scale define the levels in the report.



## Organizing results and recommendations

### By page or feature

- Group by the location in the product where the problem occurred

### Advantages

- Easy to see all the problems in one page or screen
- Useful when this maps to developer assignments

### Disadvantages

- Each item is taken in isolation

### By task or scenario

- Show problems as they relate to a complete task that the user might need to complete

### Advantages

- User centered – focused on user path
- Not dependent on implementation
- Easier to find common interaction patterns

### Disadvantages

- Doesn't map as well to a work list

### By priority or severity

- Put the critical recommendations at the beginning of the list

### Advantages

- Focuses on most critical problems
- Works well for overarching design problems

### Disadvantages

- It can be hard to assign severity accurately



## Reporting problems

- This sample reports problems observed in a key area of the interface, but does not include recommendations.

- User typed the same words again
  - Changed the order
  - Replaced words with phrases
  - Used same words on a different site
  - Or just searched again
- Refining fields were not understood
  - They looked at them, and made no choices
  - Even users who cared about dates did not use date ranges
  - The most successful were article types... but even these were infrequently used

This Medscape "refine" form was one of the best, but even it was not used well

## Matching problems to recommendations

- In this example of a popular format, each problem is matched to a recommendation, and organized by severity.

Table 3: usability problems and recommendations

Usability problem	Recommendation	Severity
1 - Problem described in Full Detail	Recommended usability solution described in full detail here.	*****
2 - Problem described in Full Detail	Recommended usability solution described in full detail here.	*****
3 - Problem described in Full Detail	Recommended usability solution described in full detail here.	*****

## Recommendations summary and details

- In this template, one section summarizes the major findings, but all findings are listed in detail by scenario

### Major findings

[Bulleted or numbered list of major findings]

#### Major finding #1

**[Statement of the major finding]**  
[Brief summary of finding; may be bulleted list of major data points; often includes full or partial screen shot with call-outs]

**Recommendations:**

- May include recommendations for resolving major finding. Recommendations may be a numbered or a bulleted list.

[Each major finding section may also include cross-links to the later pages on specific scenarios that exemplify the major finding.]

[Findings should include positives as well as negatives. It is important to let developers know what is working well so that those aspects stay in the product. Also, developers may be more willing to hear about problems when you also let them know about successes.]

### Details of the scenarios

Scenario 1.  
*[Text of the scenario.]*

[If needed, a note about the scenario.]

[If we collected quantitative data, a table or tables of the data for this scenario would come here.]

[Here again, we report what is working as well as what is not working. A recommendation may be "Keep this as it is." It may be "Do more of this in other parts of the product."]

Findings	Recommendations, comments
[Brief summary of the point of the finding] [Details of data for the finding]	[Recommendation. Each recommendation starts with an imperative verb. The

## Visual recommendations

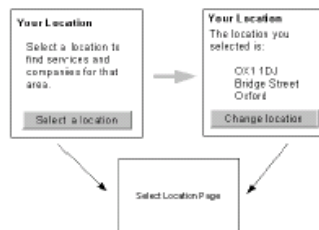
- Graphical presentations of recommended solutions can help when there is not a simple list of actions to fix a problem

The following rough concepts are intended only to show some variations in how the home page might be presented. They are not design recommendations, but food for thought.

#### Concept 1: a gateway to four directories

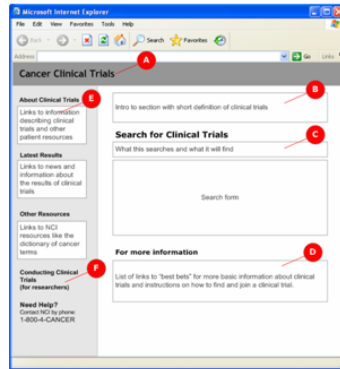
There is no simple recommendation to solve this problem. Changes might include:

- Moving the Set Location function to a second screen, so the fields are not part of the home page
- Creating a more isolated location for the set location fields, replacing them with the selected location and a button to change locations.



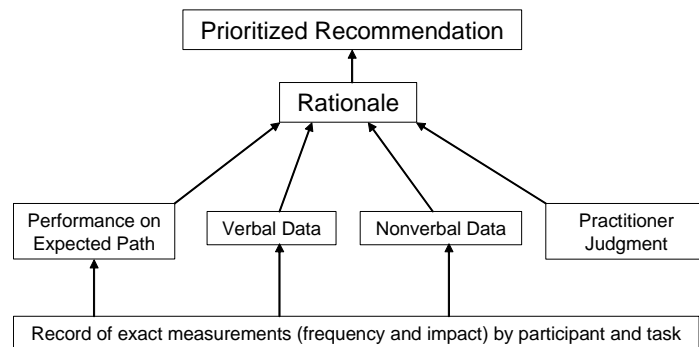
## Visual recommendations

- This report was organized entirely around wireframes illustrating recommendations for a new way to organize the interface



- Create a consistent section title (like in cancer types)
- Start with a basic, short definition of clinical trials to orient users
- Provide a one-line description of what the search will find
- Make a good transition to information below the form, with no "false bottoms"
- Use left menu area for links to section features
- Provide a minimal link to information for professionals

## Reporting metrics



### Task Level Measurements

- Completion rates
- Completion times
- Satisfaction

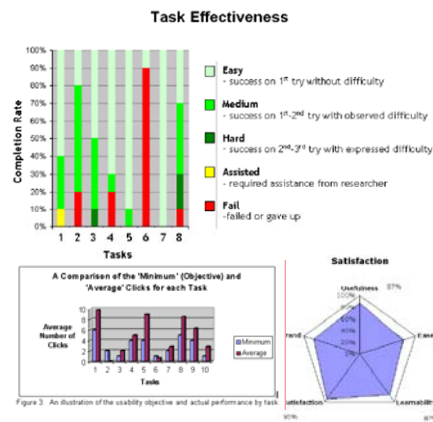
### Event Level Measurements

- Event descriptions
- Event analyses

## Reporting metrics

- Reports that included metrics also used graphs or some visualization to present the data
  - Highlighting in tables
  - Simple Excel bar charts and pie charts
  - More advanced graphs
- If you use graphs, make sure they are readable and communicate well.

Question	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1. I think I would like to use this system frequently.	4	1	2
2. I found the system unnecessarily complex.	3	0	4
3. I thought the system was easy to use.	3	1	3
4. I think I would need support of a technical person to use this site.	2	1	4
5. I found the various functions in this system well integrated.	4	1	2
6. I thought there was too much inconsistency in the system.	4	1	2
7. I imagine most people would learn to use this system very quickly.	5	1	1



## Controversies

- Let's talk about a few controversies, and see what you think:
  - Is a usability report complete without recommendations?
  - How many users do you need to *report* a problem?
  - Should you use quantitative values when there were just a few users?
- What do you think?

## Do you have to have recommendations?

- Is a usability test report complete if you have simply reported on what you observed, or must you recommend changes?

## How many users...

- How many users must experience a problem for it to be a valid finding to report?

Are there some problems that don't need quantitative validation?

Is number of people who encounter an error a good metric?

## Reporting quantity and statistics

- If you only have a few users, should you report quantitative counts? Does it make sense to report that “50% of the users did...” if there were only six participants?

What information should be reported as statistics?

## Putting it all together

- How do you “tell the story” for the most impact?
  - Consider your audience
  - Consider the goals of the report
  - Tell the business story
- Why not just use a research report format?

## What is the reporting context?



Shared experiences .....	Report read out of context
Report documents .....	Report persuades
Use "team language" .....	Use formal language
Shared project structure .....	Report must stand alone

## Case study: building consensus

- Context  
Two vendors (design and usability) working on a new web site
- Problem  
The design agency did not like the idea of being judged
- Challenge  
How to be sure that everyone would accept the results of the test

### Our solution:

A team analysis session right after the test (literally – we started at 6pm)

### As a team, we:

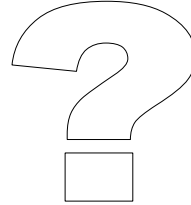
1. Agreed on what we saw during the test
2. Agreed on what it meant, what was the source of the problem (interaction, terminology, visual...)
3. Brainstormed a *general* solution (but did not make any final decisions)

### Then:

4. We wrote a report that documented this work (along with other minor issues)
5. The designer created changes based on the general solutions we had agreed on

## Let's create an ideal report

- **Content**  
What elements are the most important, and which ones would you leave out?
- **Information Architecture**  
How would you organize the report?
- **Presentation**  
How would you present findings and recommendations?
- **Media**  
How would you deliver the report?



## Resources

- Industry Usability Reporting Project (IUSR)  
[www.nist.gov/iusr/](http://www.nist.gov/iusr/)
- Reporting Formative Usability Test Results (A UPA Workshop Report)  
[www.usabilityprofessionals.org/usability\\_resources/conference/2005/formative%20reporting-upa2005.pdf](http://www.usabilityprofessionals.org/usability_resources/conference/2005/formative%20reporting-upa2005.pdf)
- “Towards the Design of Effective Formative Test Reports”  
Mary Theofanos and Whitney Quesenbery, UPA Journal of Usability Studies, Issue 1, Volume 1, November 2005, pp. 28-46  
[www.usabilityprofessionals.org/upa\\_publications/jus/2005\\_november/formative.html](http://www.usabilityprofessionals.org/upa_publications/jus/2005_november/formative.html)
- Steve Denning – The Leader’s Guide to Storytelling: Mastering the Art and Discipline of Business Narrative  
[www.stevedenning.com](http://www.stevedenning.com)





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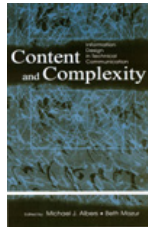
Whitney Quesenbery is a user interface designer and usability specialist with a passion for clear communication.

She is an expert in developing new concepts for product designs and has produced award winning multimedia products, web sites, and web & software applications.

Whitney is President of UPA - Usability Professionals' Association and is a leader in the STC Usability and User Experience Community.

Before she was seduced by a little beige computer into the world of usability, Whitney was a theatrical lighting designer on and off Broadway. The lessons and stories from the theatre stay with her in creating user experiences.

## Publications



**Dimensions of Usability**  
in Content and Complexity  
eds. Michael Albers, Beth Mazur.  
Erlbaum, 2003



**Personas and Narrative**  
in The Persona Lifecycle: Keeping People in Mind During Product Design  
by John Pruitt & Tamara Adlin  
Morgan Kaufmann Press,  
February 2006

More articles and publications on my web site:

<http://www.wqusability.com/publications>