

Storyboarding Your Web Presentation

Storyboarding, borrowed from filmmaking, is the process of creating a rough outline and sketch of what your presentation will look like before you actually write any pages. Storyboarding helps you visualize the entire presentation and how it will look when it's complete.

Hints for Storyboarding

Some things to think about when developing your storyboard are as follows:

- Which topics will go on each page?
A simple rule of thumb is to have each topic represented by a single page. But if you have a large number of topics, maintaining and linking them can be a daunting task. Consider combining smaller, related topics onto a single page instead. However, don't go overboard and put everything on one page; your reader still has to download your document over the Net. It's better to have several medium-sized pages (say, the size of two to 10 pages in your word processor) than to have one monolithic page or hundreds of little tiny pages.
- What are the primary forms of navigation between pages?
What links will you need for your reader to navigate from page to page? These are the main links in your document that enable your reader to accomplish the goals you defined in the first section. Links for forward, back, up, down, or home all fall under the category of primary navigation.
- What alternative forms of navigation are you going to provide?
In addition to the simple navigation links, some Web presentations contain extra information that is parallel to the main Web content, such as a glossary of terms, an alphabetical index of concepts, or a credits page. Consider these extra forms of information when designing your plan, and think about how you are going to link them into the main content.
- What will you put on your home page?
Since the home page is the starting point for the rest of the information in your presentation, consider what sort of information you're going to put on the home page. A general summary of what's to come? A list of links to other topics?
- Review your goals.
As you design the framework for your Web presentation, keep your goals in mind, and make sure you are not obscuring your goals with extra information or content.

Steps for Storyboarding

1. Define the purpose of your presentation and the audience or reader that you are planning to address.
2. Break up your content into main topics and group related information under a single topic.
3. Use paper-based templates or flowcharting software to create a rough outline of each Web page starting with the home page.
4. Provide the following information for each page.
 - A descriptive title
 - The main heading
 - The subheadings
 - The purpose of the page
 - A description of content
 - The type of images
 - A description of the links