So you want a personal website?

Myles Braithwaite
{xmpp:email}: me@mylesbraithwaite.com
twitter: @mylesb
What do you want to do with your website?
Single Purpose Web Sites
• One purpose idea.
Tuesday

WhatDayOfTheWeek.com
Do Websites Need to Look Exactly The Same in Every Browser.com

NO!
• Basic knowledge of HTML (You could use OpenOffice.org)

• Almost any free web host.
Journal
(or Blog)
• Content that is updated on a regular basis
What do Stormtroopers do on their day off?
They play video games, dance, fish, hang out with Wall-E, and all kinds of other stuff. I can't decide which is my favorite...this one, this one, or this one? No, it's gotta be this one:
• WordPress (http://wordpress.org)

• Movable Type (http://movabletype.org)

• PyBlosxom (http://pyblosxom.sf.net)
• Requires support for a dynamic language
• Probably a database
• Large communities for support and extensions
• Well documented
But
Articles or Documents
• Technical documents
• White papers
• Searching is incredibly important.
Welcome to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.

3,645,412 articles in English

Today's featured article

Imagination was an American fantasy and science fiction magazine launched in October 1960 by Raymond Palmer's Clark Publishing Company. The magazine was sold almost immediately to Greenleaf Publishing Company, owned by William Hamling, who published and edited it from the third issue, February 1951, for the rest of the magazine's life. Hamling launched a sister magazine, Imaginative Tales, in 1954; both ceased publication at the end of 1958 in the aftermath of major changes in US magazine distribution due to the liquidation of American News Company. The magazine was more successful than most of the numerous science fiction titles launched in the late 1940s and early 1950s, lasting a total of 63 issues. Despite this success, the

In the news

The CDU/CSU led by Angela Merkel (pictured) wins a renewed plurality in elections to the Bundestag in Germany.

Tropical Storm Ketsana causes record amounts of rainfall in Manila, Philippines, leading to the declaration of a "state of calamity" in 25 provinces.

The discovery of the largest Anglo-Saxon treasure trove ever found, in Staffordshire, United Kingdom, is announced.

Three men are sentenced to death for murdering and mutilating an albino boy to sell his body parts in Shinyanga Region, Tanzania.
Design Explorations
A series of design explorations across 37signals products
By Jason Zimdars, designer at 37signals

One of the first projects for me as a new designer at 37signals is to take a fresh look at a series of features and screens in the applications. These individual pieces are ones that we know can be better but haven’t made it onto anyone’s plate yet. Much like the Highrise Contacts exploration I did a couple of months ago, I’ll be looking at each piece intensively for a short period of time with the aim of improving and refining the experience. And also like the Highrise piece, I’ll be carefully documenting the process, including directions that didn’t quite work. So stay tuned for more like this in the coming weeks.

EXPLORATIONS

Highrise Edit Contacts Screen
Exploring the Highrise Edit Contacts screen
August 11, 2009

Basecamp Account Screen
Highrise Edit Contacts
Exploring the Highrise Edit Contacts screen

By Jason Zimdars, designer at 37signals

This screen is used to make changes to the contact information for people and companies in your Highrise contact list. In the previous article (our exploration of the Basecamp Account Screen) we explored a variety of broad concepts then narrowed and refined to find a solution. Here the process was a little bit different. The initial concept came together pretty quickly but we explored lots of small, subtle improvements in order to apply that concept the best way.

The original screen

The previous version of the edit contacts screen had several areas that we thought could be better. The primary problem was simply that this view was pretty busy. There were lots of fields — many of them empty. New contacts can be added automatically to your Highrise account using dropboxes so it is common for contacts to only have a name and email address associated with them. The edit contacts screen is then used to add additional contact methods and information. So the first time you see this screen it is usually empty. All those empty text fields make it look like there is a lot of work to do. Plus the visual noise was also pretty high with lots of inputs, pull-down selections, and the red delete buttons. Another issue was with the fields, themselves. With every text field stretched to the full width of the space, they didn’t feel like they were sized right for the content.
Wiki’s

- MediaWiki (http://mediawiki.org)
- Used by Wikipedia
- DokuWiki (http://dokuwiki.org)
- Flat files (no dependency on a database)
• Plone (http://plone.org)

• Alfresco (http://www.alfresco.com)
Should I host my website with Home, Shared, etc.
Home Server
Advantages

• You will already have a computer and a broadband internet connection.

• Websites with little “media” have minimal bandwidth requirements.
Bell Sucks
Rogers Sucks
ISP in Canada Suck
Disadvantages

- **Bell** and **Rogers** downtime is always an issue
- **Bell** and **Rogers** don’t allow static IP addresses.
- You will have to setup a Dynamic DNS
- Or if you're on Bell, you could use a CNAME
Free Dynamic DNS Providers

- FreeDNS (http://freedns.afraid.org)
- DynDNS (http://dyndns.com)
Shared Web Hosting
Advantages

- Minimal cost
- Administration is someone else's job
- But do daily/weekly/monthly backups just in case
- T1, Data centre, etc.
Disadvantages

- If the company goes bankrupt how will you get your data?
- People on the internet are sketchy.
• NearlyFreeSpeech (nearlyfreespeech.net)