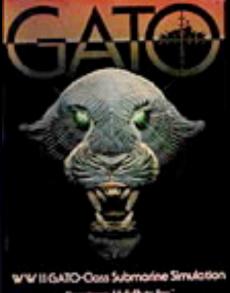
## When Designers Get Too Clever Anti-Patterns: Avoiding the Traps of Bad Design

Bill Scott Director, UI Engineering netflix.com b.scott@yahoo.com





Spectrum / Ld.dy-ar Juc."

**Rico** JavaScript for Rich Internet Applications

Home Features Demos Documentation Downloads About

An open-source JavaScript library for creating rich internet applications. Rico provides full Ajax support, drag and drop management and a cinematic effects library.

#### BACKGROUND

Rico is a Spanish word meaning *rich*. The goal of Rico is to provide a rich experience for web sites using Ajax technology.

Rico is just one small part of a larger effort at Sabre Airline Solutions to create a suite of rich internet components, behaviors and effects for the web application space.

The library is a fully object-oriented JavaScript library. Recently we refactored the library to extend the excellent <u>prototype.js</u> effort from the Ruby on Rails folks.

#### **OPEN SOURCE**

Rico is provide free and open-source (Apache 2.0 License) for either your personal or commercial use. <u>Sabre Airline</u> <u>Solutions</u> retains the copyright on the Rico code produced at Sabre.

#### **BROWSER SUPPORT**

Rico has been tested on IE 5.5, IE 6, Firefox 1.0x/Win, Camino/Mac, Firefox 1.0x/Mac, Currently there is no Safari or Mac IE 5.2 support. Support will be provided in a near future release for Safari.

#### AJAX SUPPORT

Ajax is the term that describes a set of web development techniques for creating interactive web applications. One of the key ingredients is the JavaScript object XmHttpRequest. Rico provides a very simple interface for registering Ajax request handlers as well as HTML elements or JavaScript objects as Ajax response objects. Multiple elements and/or objects may be updated as the result of one Ajax request.

Want to get started learning? Check out our demos and then read our two Ajax tutorials on the Documentation page.

#### DRAG AND DROP

Desktop applications have long used drag and drop in their interfaces to simplify user interaction. Rico provides one of the simplest interfaces for enabling your web application to support drag and drop. Just register any HTML element or

JavaScript object as a draggable and any other HTML element or JavaScript object as a drop zone and Rico handles the rest.

#### CINEMATIC EFFECTS

When actions are no longer occurring just at the page level but within the page itself, more clues are required to clue the user on what has transpired. Cinematic effects such as scaling and smooth sliding transitions can communicate change in richer ways than traditional web applications have explored before. Rico provides several cinematic effects as well as some simple visual style effects in a very simple interface.

#### BEHAVIORS

Take some raw HTML and sprinkle in some behaviors and what do you get? Well in Rico you can get an <u>Accordion</u> component like those found in Macromedia Flex and Laszlo. Just nest some DIVs and with one line of JavaScript turn your div panels into an accordion. And the latest behavior is the LiveGrid. LiveGrid allows you to connect an Html table up to a stream of Ajax responses. Ajax requests are automatically called during table scrolling. The result is now Html tables can hold an unlimited amount of data scrolled into view on the fly as needed! More behaviors are planned!



See Rico in Action!





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Developer Network Home Help

#### TAHOO! DEVELOPER NETWORK

#### Design Pattern Library

- NAVIGATE

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EXPLORE DATA
 Auto Complete
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Pagination

GIVE FEEDBACK Ratings & Reviews

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Fly-out Menus

Horizontal Bar Hub and Spoke Left Navigation

Faceted Navigation

Module Tabs

Navigation Tabs

Item Pagination

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Rating an Object

Writing a Review

Drag and Drop

Drag and Drop (

PERFORM ACTION

Drag and Drop

Modules

In Page Editing

CUSTOMIZE

Yahoo! Developer Network > Design Pattern Library

#### Welcome

Welcome to the Yahoo! Design Pattern Library. We are very happy to be sharing our library with the design and development community. This is our first drop of what we hope to be a monthly release cycle for the publication of patterns. In many cases we have bundled the patterns with pointers to related code from the Yahool User Interface <u>Code Library</u>. We hope this is a useful resource and look forward to your <u>feedback</u>.

#### What's a Pattern?

A pattern describes an optimal solution to a common problem within a specific context. more...

#### Recent Patterns

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To: yul Cc: Yusef Jones <yusef@s Yusef Smith <vusefs@ Auto-Complete The user needs to enter an item into a text box which could ambiguous or hard to remember and therefore has the potential to be mis-typed.</vusefs@ </yusef@s 	<u>Travel &gt; Guides &gt; North Ameri</u> <u>ica &gt; United States &gt; New York</u> <u>Vew York City</u> > Things to do <u>Breadcrumbs</u> User needs to navigate potentially large quantities of information efficiently, without becoming lost.	
AP Reuters   AFP   USATOL - Cargo Ship Blocks Sue: - International Observers - Doll Shown Divide Amo	News Home U.S. Business W Photos Opinion Local News Odd N Search:	1 - 5 of 32 First   < Prev   Next 32 First   < Prev   Next >   Last
Module Tabs The user needs to navigate through one or more stacked panes of content without refreshing the page.	Navigation Tabs The user needs to navigate through a site to locate content and features and have clear indication of their current location in the site.	Object Pagination The user needs to view data items from a potentially large set of sorted data that will not be easy to display within a single page.
Results Page:         1       2       3       4       Next         Search Pagination         The user needs to view a set of search results ranked by relevance that is too large to easily display within a single page.	Average Rating (24) Read 20 reviews Good Average an Object A user wants to quickly leave their opinion on an object, with minimal interruption to any other task flow they are involved in.	*Review Title - e.g. We can' Great] *Write your review - Your II Writing a Review User wants to share her opinion with others about an object (place, person, thing) in greater detail than a simple rating.
	C: Yusef Jones <yusef@s< td="">         Vusef Smith <vusef@s@< td="">         Auto-Complete         The user needs to enter an item into a text box which could ambiguous or hard to remember and therefore has the potential to be mis-typed.         Image: Colspan="2"&gt;Colspan="2"         Module Tabs         The user needs to navigate through one or more stacked panes of content without refreshing the page.         Colspan="2"         Results Page:         1 2 3 4 Next         Search Pagination         The user needs to view a set of search results ranked by relevance that is too large to easily display within a single</vusef@s@<></yusef@s<>	To:       yd         Image: C:       Yusef Jones < yusef@s



Site Search



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Sliders

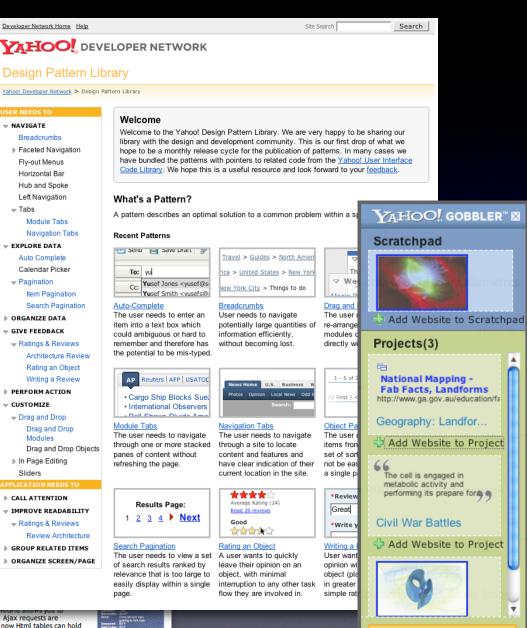
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The Hoax

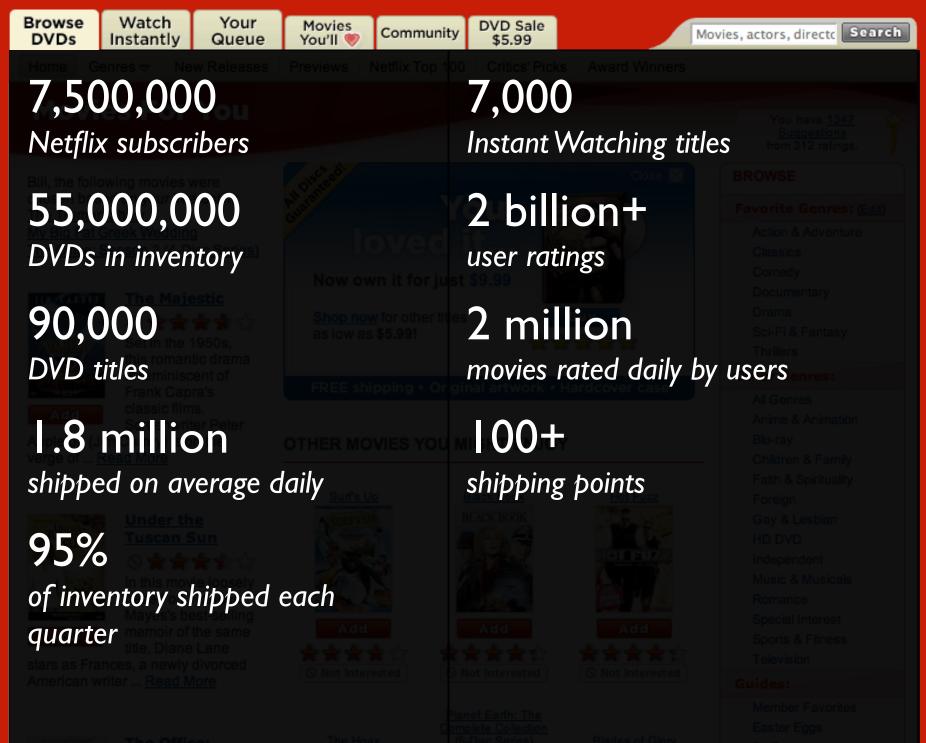
Planet Earth: The Complete Collection (5-Disc Series)

Blades of Glory

Easter Eggs

D D

### NETFLIX



# The traps of bad design: anti-patterns what are anti-patterns?

"Anti-patterns, also called pitfalls, are classes of commonly-reinvented bad solutions to problems. They are studied as a category so they can be avoided in the future, and so instances of them may be recognized when investigating nonworking systems. The term originates in computer science, apparently inspired by the Gang of Four's book Design Patterns, which displayed examples of highquality programming methods." - Wikipedia, Anti-Pattern.

### interaction design anti-patterns

Like the software anti-pattern counterparts, the following anti-patterns are common pitfalls to avoid.

pitfalls with a pithy name

## anti-patterns

big ball of mud. **meandering way.** borg idiom. tiny targets. mystery meat. buried treasure. hover and cover. pogo stick navigation. novel notions. against the flow. metaphor mismatch. jabberwocky. double duty. **linkitus.** blind type. windows aplenty. animation gone wild. misguided misdirections. unmarked hazards. missed moments. missing scene. one at a time. non-symmetrical actions.

Note: anti-patterns denoted in **bold** are discussed in this talk.

### summary

Normal flow through the page takes the user on a meandering journey with the mouse.

### alternate names

zig-zag interaction, scenic route

### example

Actions hidden under hover (in context tools) that require the user to hover an area, then move the mouse to an area that would normally be outside the object's space (back and forth operation)

### Y! Teachers (first version)





National Mapping - F... http://www.ga.gov.au...



National Mapping - F... http://www.ga.gov.au...



National Mapping - F... http://www.ga.gov.au...



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http://beta.teachers...



Copy of Gobble Image... http://beta.teachers...



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Hawai&#39:i Volcanoe... http://www.nps.gov/a...



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### Hover revealed extra tools

### Required lots of mouse zig zag to delete an item

And overshooting as you move across (eye zig zag)

### Y! Teachers (first version)





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Hover revealed extra tools

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National Mapping - F... http://www.ga.gov.au...

### Y! Teacher's Redesign







Three-dimensional Ca... http://volcano.und.n...

Three-dimensional Ca... http://volcano.und.n...

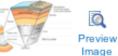






Internet Geography -... Dictionary image: vo... http://www.geography... http://education.yah...





Operation Montserrat... http://emissionhq.co...



#### Web sites (21)



How Volcanoes Work http://www.geology.s... Operation Montserrat... http://emissionhq.co...



Howstuffworks "... http://www.howstuffw...



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## Solution

Reveal hidden tools on hover Play on spatial memory

Avoid popup Avoid page jitter

### Y! Teacher's Redesign







Three-dimensional Ca... http://volcano.und.n...







Preview Image

Internet Geography -... http://www.geography...

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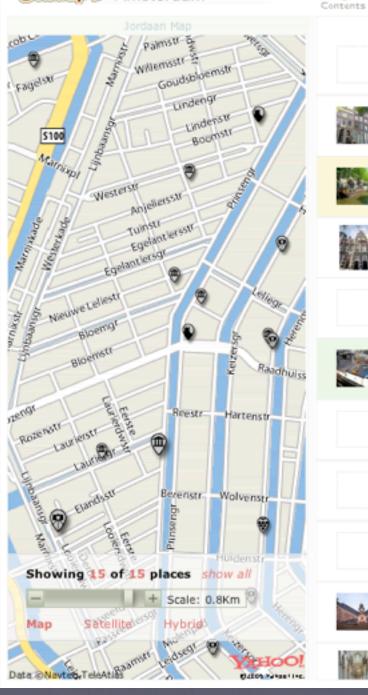
Vic Camp - Volcano T...

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#### Schmop!! Amsterdam



Sights & Attractions - Jordaan (Change...) Places Phot Admiraal Cheers! print + zoom in

> Anne Frank House Anne Frank's Hideaway print - zoom in



Dutch Theatre Institute Theater, museum and library print - zoom in

Het Huis met de Hoofden House of heads print - zoom in

Houseboat Museum Living on Water print - zoom in

Marcel Wanders Wander & Wonder! print - zoom in

Pianola Museum History of the pianola print - zoom in

Spiegelkwartier Picturesque neighbourhood print - zoom in

The North Church In the Jordaan print - zoom in

The West Church Amsterdam's Most Famous Church



Amsterdam, 1010 Tel: +31 (0)20 551 2525 (Tourist Information) Amsterdam is known for its canals and

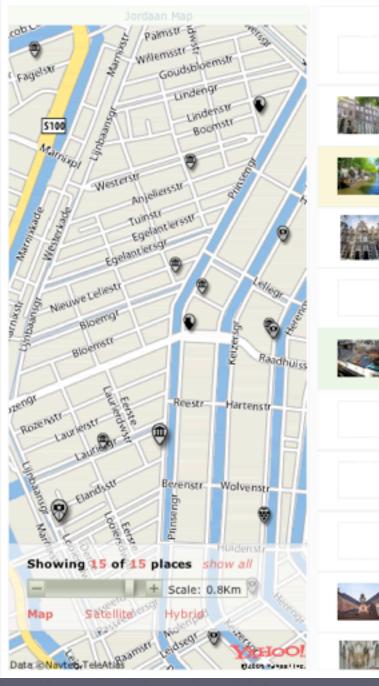
why not—it boasts of around 165 of them! Brouwersgracht is no different from the others. Come here to take in the city's charm. The streets, lined with bicycles, give you a sense of nostalgia. You can shop at the numerous stores, and follow it with feasting at one of the cafés.

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#### Schmop!! Amsterdam



Sig	hts & Attractions - Jordaan	(Change)
	Places	Photos
	Admiraal Cheers! print - zoom in	
Y	Anne Frank House Anne Frank's Hideaway print - zoom in	



Contents

Dutch Theatre Institute Theater, museum and library print - zoom in

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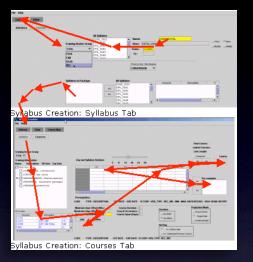
Amsterdard is known for its canals and why not—it boasts of around 165 of them! Brouwersgracht is no different from the others. Come here to take in the city's charm. The streets, lined with blow of give you a sense of nostalgia. You can shop at the numerous stores, and follow it with feasting at one of the cafés.

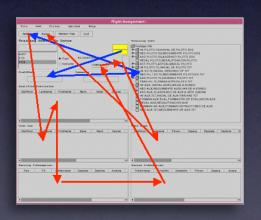
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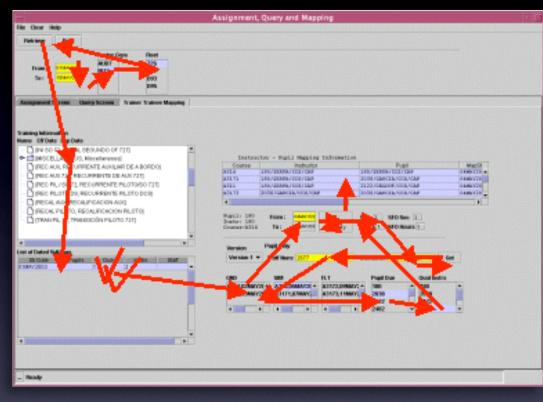


Photo: Phil Hollman

### Nightmare of endless meandering







Drawing flow arrows is a great way to visualize a flow Refactoring can follow

## refactoring. meandering way

### Annotate the current flow.

Think of flow arrows as a way to debug an interaction

### Draw the ideal flow.

Display only elements needed for each interaction Will clarify important interactions

### Watch out for hovers.

In-context tools should require minimal mouse effort Avoid flyouts Avoid page jitter

### **Follow spatial consistency.** Play off of user's spatial memory.

## anti-pattern. pogo stick navigation

### summary

Requiring the user to go down a level or two, perform an operation, come back to the top and then have to go back down again. Name comes from hopping up and down through the site.

## credit

Jared Spool



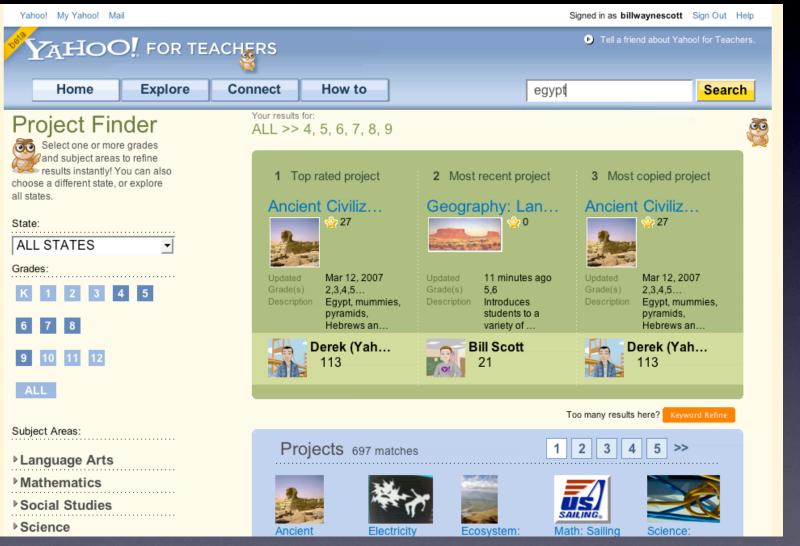
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## anti-pattern. pogo stick navigation Y! Teachers



•

No obvious close for overlay

Back Button goes to wrong place

## refactoring. pogo stick

**Draw flow arrows** between pages to catch the zig-zag bouncing from page to page (see Meandering Way).

To avoid pogo effect:

- Use in-context tools to bring actions into the current page

- Use hover details to reveal information in context
- Use overlays for encapsulating an alternate navigation path to allow temporary exploration without losing the original context of navigation
- Use in page actions like inline editing, etc. to provide functionality inline.
- Use in-context expands to reveal information on the page.

### Watch out for overlays

Can make users resort to back button anyway

### summary

Making key interaction points too small increases the likelihood that users will be frustrated with the interface.

## Fitt's law

The time to acquire a target is a function of the distance to and size of the target.

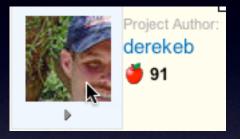
### examples

divots for expand/collapse

The identity card area has a summary view and an expanded view.

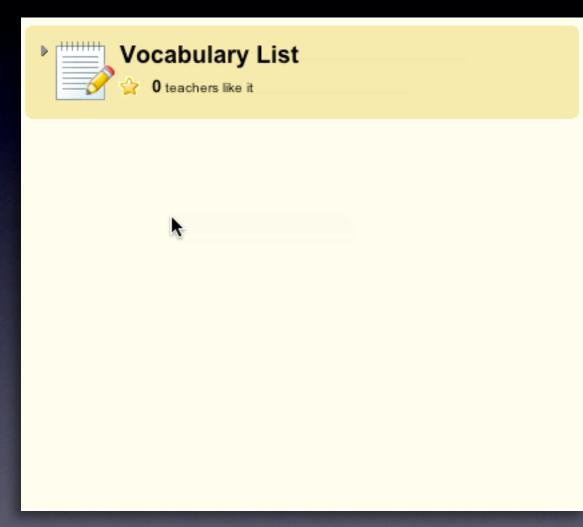


Divot for expand/collapse is hidden Shown on picture hover only



Divot is small (8×8)

Ambiguity in targeting Is it just the divot? Or anywhere in the title?



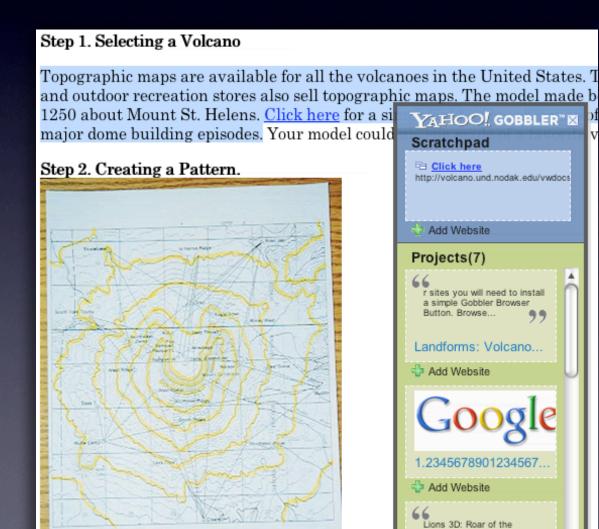
Solutions Larger target, to the upper right Or spell it out

### anti-pattern. tiny targets Ambiguity in targeting Is it just the divot? Or anywhere in the title? Solutions Vocabulary List Larger target, to the upper right 0 teachers like it Or spell it out PROJECT DOCUMENTS (3) Create a new Document Mitosis Lesson Plan teachers.vahoo.com/dannvs/mitosis lesson plan/ 👉 12 Teachers like it Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipisch a elit. Nam purus. Duis convallis est at erat. Vestibulum hendrerit aliquam sapien. Suspendisse lorem purus, pellentesque ac, facilisis vitae, imperdiet eu, velit. edit document info Copy Document Delete Document В І Ц АВС А • 🥙 • 🔳 🖷 🗏 Ø San Serif Style Font size 1

#### anti-pattern. tiny targets Ambiguity in targeting Is it just the divot? Or anywhere in the title? Solutions Vocabulary List Larger target, to the upper right 0 teachers like it Or spell it out PROJECT DOCUMENTS (3) Create a new Document Mitosis Lesson Plan (hide details) teachers.vahoo.com/dannvs/mitosis lesson plan/ 👉 12 Teachers like it Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipisch a elit. Nam purus. Duis convallis est at erat. Vestibulum hendrerit aliquam sapien. Suspendisse lorem purus, pellentesque ac, facilisis vitae, imperdiet eu, velit. edit document info Copy Document Delete Document В / ЦАВС 🗛 - 💇 - 📰 🗐 Ø San Serif Style Font size 1

The Yahoo! Gobbler has done well in tests due to the larger nature of the project drop targets.

Issue: small text drag target



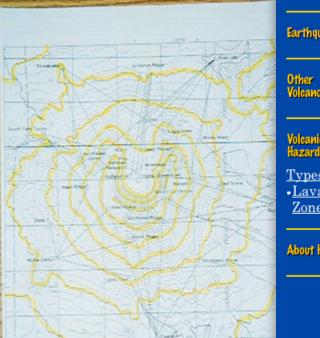
The Yahoo! Gobbler has done well in tests due to the larger nature of the project drop targets.

### Issue: small text drag target

#### Step 1. Selecting a Volcano

Topographic maps are available for all and outdoor recreation stores also sell 1250 about Mount St. Helens. <u>Click he</u> major dome building episodes. Your m

#### Step 2. Creating a Pattern.



#### science for a changing world YAHOO! GOBBLER" Hawaiian Volcano Observatory Projects (8) Geography: Land.. oleanie Hazard Kilauea When Lava Enters the Sea: Only four days old, this fan-shaped lava delta (center of image) Mauna Loa Growth & Collapse of Lava Deltas extends gobble this web page Earthquakes Birds' Nests gobble this web page Scratchpad Types Lava <u>Zones</u> Photograph by C. Heliker on November 12, 1992. gobble this web page Only four days old, this fan-shaped lava delta (center of About HVO Return to Y! Teachers image) extends about 200 m into the ocean on the southeast coast of Kilauea Volcano, Hawai'i. The diffuse plume of white steam at the leading edge of the

delta indicates that several small lava flows are pouring into the ocean. Countless deltas have formed

### Apple iphone keyboard



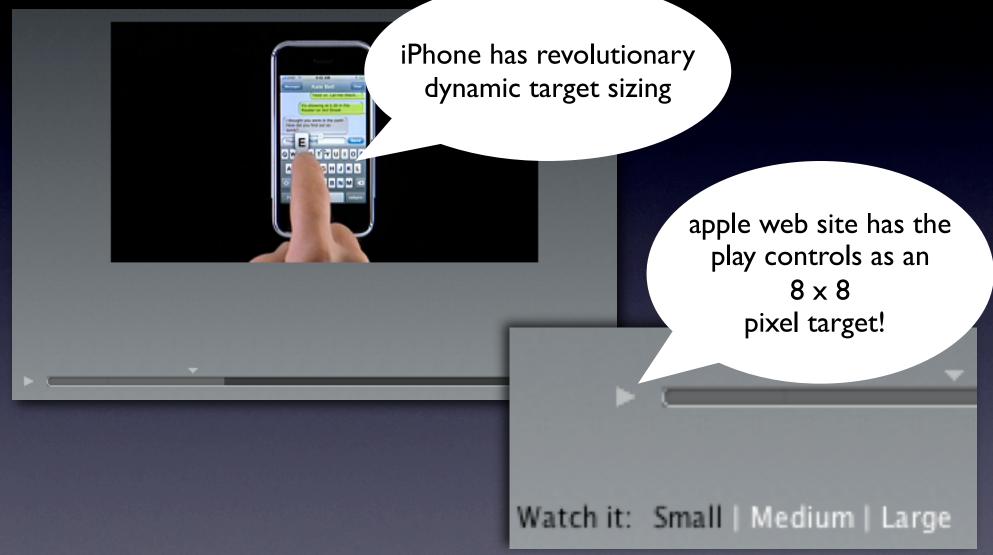
#### anti-pattern. tiny targets

Apple iphone keyboard



### anti-pattern. tiny targets

Apple iphone keyboard



### strategies. tiny targets

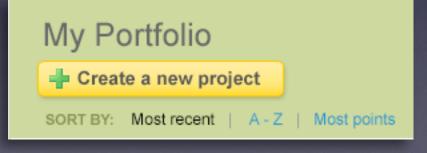
Activation targets and important commands need to be **large enough**, **visually distinct** and in **proximity** to operation.

Use in-context tools to support proximity.

Use "Call to Action" style buttons for most important operations.

If titles will expand/collapse, at least **use hyperlink** underline when hover happens to provide a bigger target.

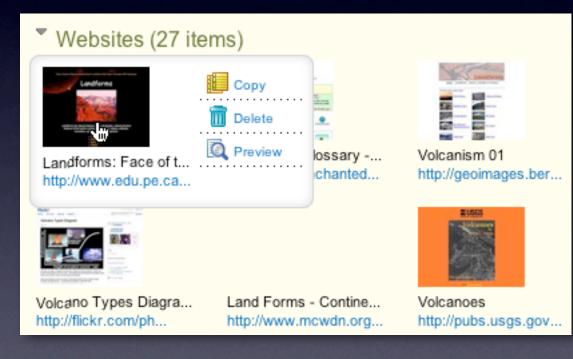
#### Never use 8x8 for targeting



#### summary

Hover reveal of information and actions has become more and more popular. Hover & Cover is when the hover actually hides important contextual information around the object or gets in the way of other actions.

Original hover was extremely annoying as it Covered the item to the right (natural flow is left to right) Partially covers text edit area (bug: sticks open)



Original hover was extremely annoying as it Covered the item to the right (natural flow is left to right) Partially covers text edit area (bug: sticks open)

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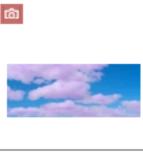
#### Example from plum.com Drop down menu shows on hover and gets in the way. Too easy to accidentally turn it on.

Click to filter by: alternative, alternative & punk, art, da vinci code, example, flowers, flowers%2c%20plum%2c%20crocus, introduction, music, norway, plum, restaurant, rock, san francisco, summer, sunset, travel, vacation, video stamp, youtube more... 1 through 20 of 33,883 results ()) @, രാ @ බ

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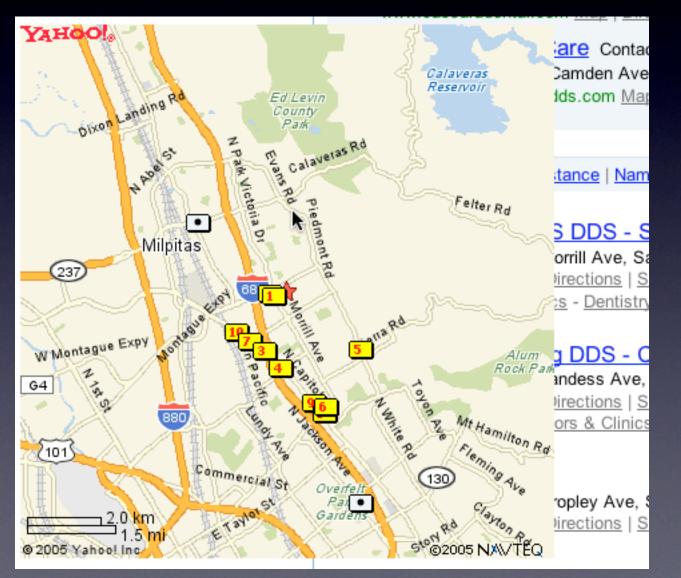


#### CoolBlueClouds



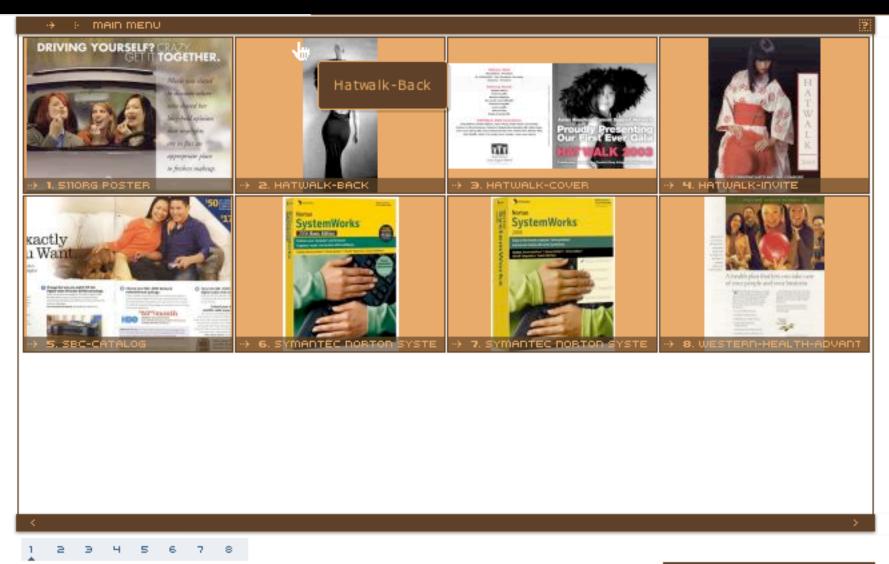
Yahoo! Local orginally had this hover beast.

Thankfully it no longer functions this way :-)



This one almosts leads to a new anti-pattern-- hover madness

#### Seriously what were they thinking?



## refactoring. hover & cover Use click for tools that will cover context SONGZO listen. now.

#### Songza lets you listen to any song or band. Search for it:

sam cooke

#### Search

#### search results:

Sam Cooke (chain gang) Sam Cooke - Touch The Hem Of His Garment Sam Cooke - A Change Is Gonna Come Sam Cooke tribute Bryan Adams and Smokie Robinson Cooke Sam - A Change Is Gonna Come Sam Cooke - You Send Me Sam Cooke - Wonderful World Sam Cooke - A Change Is Gonna Come

#### refactoring. hover & cover Use click for tools that will cover context SONGZO listen. now. the music search engine & internet jukebox

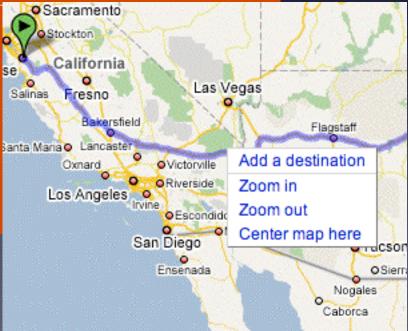
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#### search results:

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#### refactoring. hover & cover

**Reserve same space** for both hovered and non-hovered state

For hover details, allow a slight delay before activation

For hover details don't cover important context.

For in-context tools, show immediately and hide immediately

### refactoring. hover & cover

#### **Reserve same space** for both hovered and non-hovered state

Edit Chips
Orange Juice2

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## refactoring. hover & cover

#### **Reserve** same space for both hovered and non-hovered state

🛱 <u>Edit</u>	Chips
	🗆 Orange Juice2

#### For hover details, allow a slight delay before activation

#### For hover details don't cover important context.

#### For in-context tools, show immediately and hide immediately

My Grade:	Α
	В
Select grade	C
to the right	D
write a review	F
	Rate this Movie! Select grade to the right

Bill, the following movies were chosen based on your interest in: <u>Animal Crackers</u> <u>Something the Lord Made</u> X2: X-Men United



Business Cone of the Marx Brothers' funniest

Monkey

movies, the title of the film says it all as Groucho, Harpo,

Chico and Zeppo stow away on a luxury liner. Before ... Read More



previously viewed title low as \$

<u>Lackawanna</u> Blues



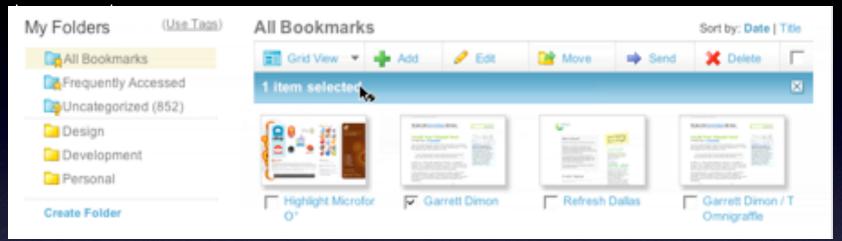
#### summary

Not all idioms play well together. Some idioms are more powerful than others. For example, tree controls, drag and drop, selection mechanisms all set up an "interaction theme".

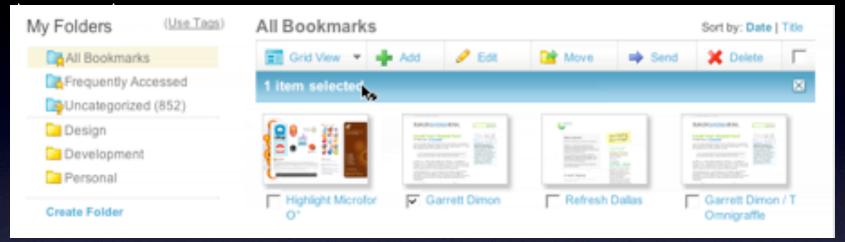
Just like visual styles need to be consistent, interaction styles also need to be consistent throughout the entirety of the interface

**Borg Idiom** is the phenomonon of an idiom (once adopted) assimulating the rest of the interface. Sometimes the assimulation is just the fact that one idiom dominates due to the way the interface clues the user to their presence.

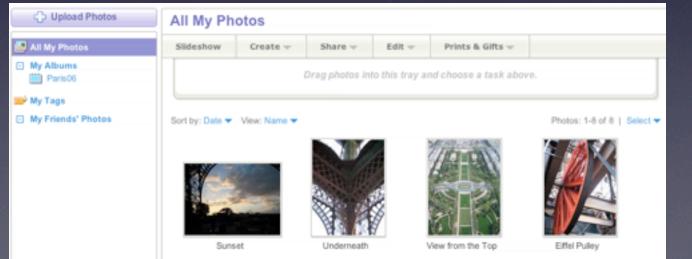
Here was an early attempt on Yahoo! Bookmarks to blend drag and drop with item selection (checkbox idiom). It has odd side effects during the



Here was an early attempt on Yahoo! Bookmarks to blend drag and drop with item selection (checkbox idiom). It has odd side effects during the



In Yahoo! Photos (no longer available) drag selection was implemented well. One issue was the page metaphor + drag selection + a tray idiom.



Three idioms living in parallel with each other. The old style overwhelms the other two.

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Disclaimer * Some taxes and fees additional. Learn More  Weather edit * Dallas TX 49, 62 5	✓ Maps     edit     ★       Select From My Locations or Recently Used clear recent       My Locations       ✓       Or Map a New Address:		thly Program Events Getting Things Done: Teo one week ago		

Three idioms living in parallel with each other. The old style overwhelms the other two.

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From: To: Adults: 1 Search Disclaimer * Some taxes and fees additional. Learn More	Adults: 1 Search Disclaimer * Some taxes and fees additional. Learn More	Play Fantasy Baseball on Yahoo! Sports	ise Vista Beta - 4 Fech - Moving phone iours ago
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Three idioms living in parallel with each other. The old style overwhelms the other two.

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	Gilroy, CA* 4067 F	U.S	Dallas, TX 4962 F	Or Map a New Address: Street Address or Airport Code
			Denton, TX 4761 F	

Netflix recently added drag/drop to their movie queue.

Notice they were able to mix two idioms without one taking over from the other.

DVD	s in Your Queue	5	Update Your Queue				
Priority	Movie Title	Star Rating	MPAA	Genre	Availability	Remove	Move to Top
1	SCTV Network 90: Vol. 2: Disc 1	╈╈╈╈	NR	Television	Now		X
2	SCTV Network 90: Vol. 2: Disc 3	Series Disc	NR	Television	Now		X
3	SCTV Network 90: Vol. 2: Disc 4	Series Disc	NR	Television	Now	Γ	X
4	The Truman Show	<b>☆☆☆☆</b> ☆	PG	Comedy	Now		X
5	SCTV Network 90: Vol. 2: Disc 5	Series Disc	NR	Television	Now		X
6	Take the Money and Run	★★★☆☆	R	Comedy	Now		X
7	The Gathering Storm	★★★☆☆	NR	Drama	Now		X

Two approaches. Object selection (highlight idiom). Item selection (checkbox idiom). Is it possible to marry the two?

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Two approaches. Object selection (highlight idiom). Item selection (checkbox idiom). Is it possible to marry the two?

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	Sender	Subject		Date		Size
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	SketchUp	SketchUpdate December 2	20th	Wed Dec 20,	2006	31k
🗹 🔖 🖬	Larry Mason	🖉 Can you recommend a posi	tion ?	Wed Dec 20,	2006	68k
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	Amazon.com Paymer	Your Amazon Mar	ketplace Purcha	ise Thu, 12/14/06	5 1:03 AM	6KB		•
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Current Yahoo! Mail successfully married the two interaction idioms. It did it in a way that you can use either idiom as both have their advantages.

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		Derek	[teachersofmerit] July 24 Update: Yahoo! Teachers	Tue, 7/24/07 1:37 PM	
	e	Derek	[teachersofmerit] Road Report: Yahoo! Teachers on the	Tue, 7/24/07 1:30 PM	
		5969Van Scott	Pirate master	Tue, 7/24/07 11:03 AM	11
		Lauren Orsi	RE: Bill Scott: Invitation to Present at AJAXWorld West	Tue, 7/24/07 8:35 AM	11
		iain.lamb@yahoo.com	This toy is being made for the extreme priority the good	Tue, 7/24/07 8:15 AM	11
		KBtoys.com	Bargain Toy Closeouts - Up to 55% Off	Tue, 7/24/07 7:20 AM	1
		Cheaper Insurance	Discount insurance. Auto, health, home, life, you	Tue, 7/24/07 6:45 AM	11
		UK NATIONAL LOTTER	Contact Mr Dale Hamilton.	Tue, 7/24/07 5:50 AM	11
		ixd-owner@dojotoolkit.	Ixd post from ljc@carlislecommunications.com re	Tue, 7/24/07 5:48 AM	11
		The Little Tikes Compan	Save up to \$100 on these Little Tikes Favorites!	Tue, 7/24/07 5:35 AM	41
		mlamb@NUMBER1EXPE	Latest Listings	Tue, 7/24/07 4:15 AM	11
		lechouwie	[ycarousel] Re: Clearing the list	Tue, 7/24/07 2:37 AM	11
		ilovethsgam	[ycarousel] Re: can these buttons be replicated?	Mon, 7/23/07 8:32 PM	
	<b>4</b>	Iain Lamb		Mon, 7/23/07 7:31 PM	11
	4	Talbot, Kelli	Ajax - hoping to get your slides tomorrow or wednesday	Mon, 7/23/07 7:18 PM	
		Bill Scott	Re: Bill Scott: Invitation to Present at AJAXWorld West	Mon, 7/23/07 5:44 PM	Ŧ

## refactoring. **borg idiom**

**For content-oriented** rich sites, **avoid** becoming **control-heavy**. Stay away from the tree control and other strong desktop style controls.

Make your content interactive, thus making the content the control.

Before adding any interaction style, **make sure it will scale** across all know parts of your interface.

Watch out when mixing drag and drop with checkbox style selection.

Avoid mixing selection styles.

#### summary

Creating a new interface for a common idiom that is more confusing than the original. Sometimes it is just misusing a component for a new purpose.

#### examples

Using drag and drop for simple attribute setting; using odd navigation schemes for some supposed effect

This is just bizarre. Especially the "Search Jobs" link. And it plays music ;-)



Home

About us

Corporate Assistance Candidate Assistance

Search Jobs

Contact Us

This is just bizarre. Especially the "Search Jobs" link. And it plays music ;-)



Home

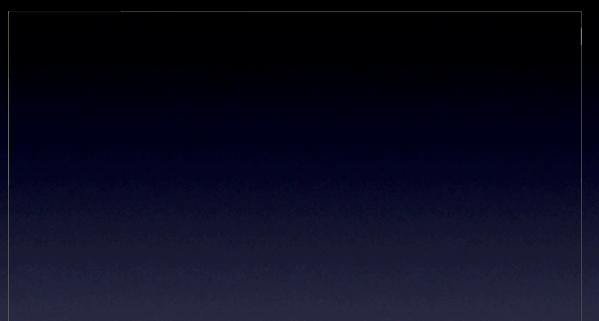
About us

Corporate Assistance Candidate Assistance

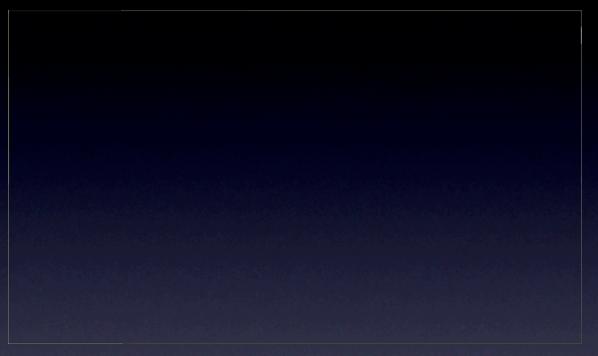
Search Jobs

Contact Us

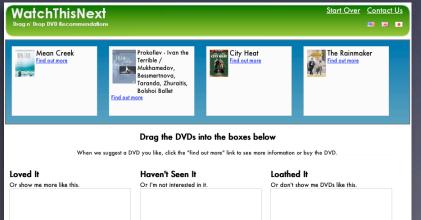
This guy won an award! Look it's just marking stuff as 'favorite'.



This guy won an award! Look it's just marking stuff as 'favorite'.



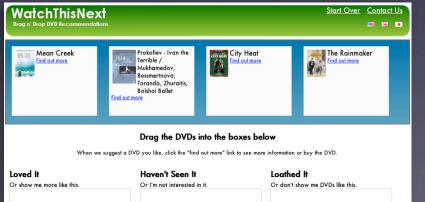
#### And this is yet another novel approach to favorites



This guy won an award! Look it's just marking stuff as 'favorite'.



#### And this is yet another novel approach to favorites

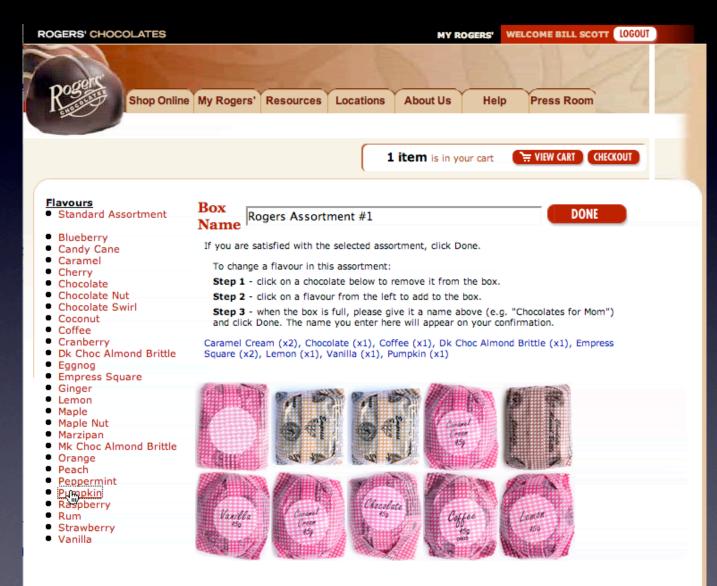


#### Featured Subg CLASSIC CC **High Plains Drifter** Not Interested Amid shoot-outs and existentialism, a mysterious stranger (Clint Eastwood, who also directs) is hired to protect a Add Add small town from outlaws. But his recipe Jane, two up-a for defense could be a deal with the yuppies who ex devil, and soon, even the enigmatic lifestyle before gunslinger's ... Read More name for it. But his lucrative job The Great Escape Read More \*\*\*\* S Not Interested Director John Sturges's Oscar-nominated GREATESCAP adventure classic follows the true tale of a group-escape attempt from one of Add Germany's toughest prisoner-of-war camps. Hundreds of Allied POWs join Roger "Big X" Bartlett (Richard Attenborough), Danny "The ... Read More Add



again -- this tim the life and time Perhaps the mo

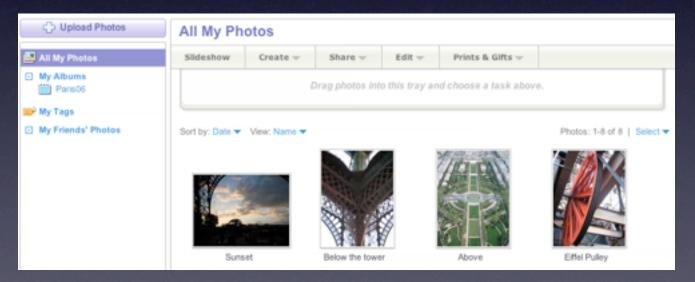
novel approach to putting candy in a box... how about drag and drop?



Yahoo! Photos (going away) tried a novel approach to selection. It involved the new concept of a "tray" for holding temporarily selected items.

Technically perfect. But design-wise misguided. Created two targets for commands: selected items and items in the tray.

As a result the menu commands were duplicated for the tray and for the current selection. Confusing.



editors have some graphic capabilities, they're L limitations. Buzzword, however, can flow text around To place a graphic into this document, open the Image the Insert Image icon. Or, you can select Image... from

G hat

rag

on

the age et a



5

### refactoring. novel notion

#### Understand the purpose of each type of component

- Carousels do not replace scrolled lists
- Drag and drop is not for single attribute setting

**Don't construct an artificial interface** to support an idiom (don't create the house for the nail)

# A **novel approach will work if it is intuitive** (but what is intuitive?)

If you think you need something never created before, **think twice** about it

### anti-pattern. linkitus

#### summary

The syndrome of having no idea where a link will lead you. could be an in page action, could reveal information, could take you to new page, could popup something, could engage on hover. Can also be aggravated by inconsistent use of links on the same page.

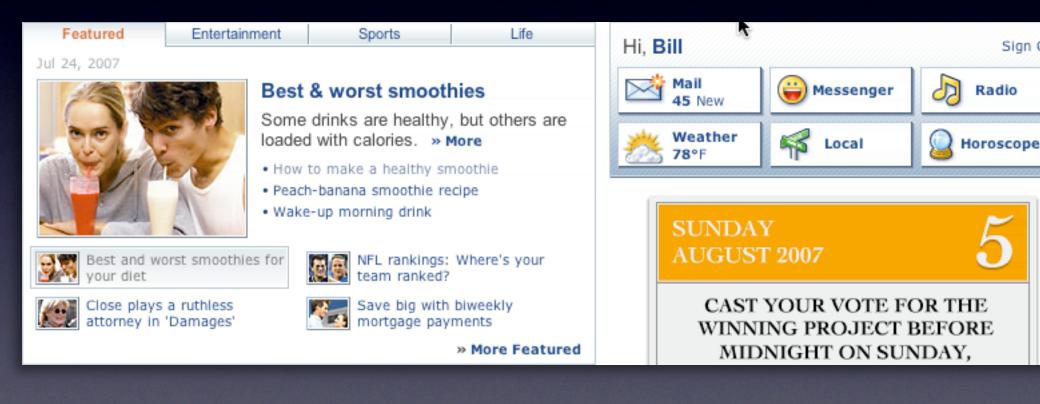
#### examples

yahoo.com inconsistent use of links on main page, teachers.yahoo.com around id card

## anti-pattern. linkitus

On the home page, there are three kinds of links:

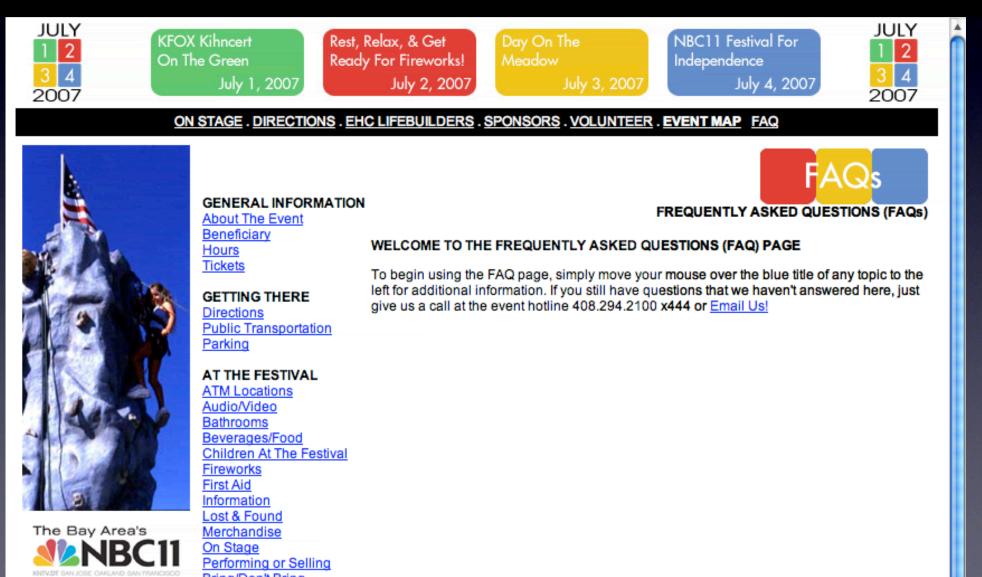
- Reveal other content in context
- Take you to the article
- Expose area (hover to reveal, click to go to tool)



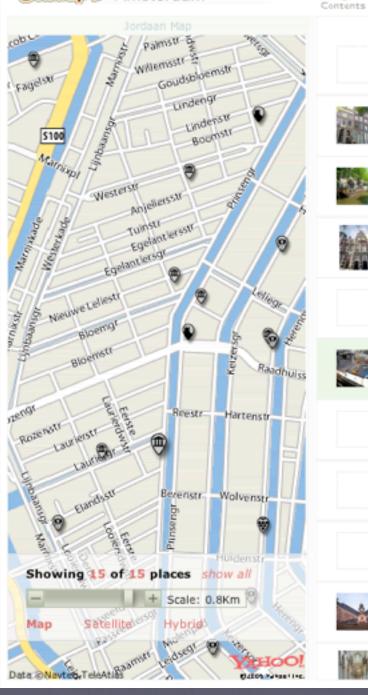
## anti-pattern. linkitus

Bizarre use of links. Hover reveals information. Click does nothing.

### Very close to being a candidate for Novel Notions.



#### Schmap!! Amsterdam



#### Places Admiraal Cheers! print - zoom in Anne Frank House Anne Frank's Hideaway print - zoom in Brouwersgracht Canal at the city centre print - zoom in **Dutch Theatre Institute** Theater, museum and library print - zoom in Het Huis met de Hoofden House of heads print - zoom in Houseboat Museum Living on Water print - zoom in

Marcel Wanders Wander & Wonder! print - zoom in

Pianola Museum History of the planola print - zoom in

Spiegelkwartier Picturesque neighbourhood print - zoom in

The North Church In the Jordaan print + zoom in

The West Church Amsterdam's Most Famous Church



obtains information on the nature of th special lifestyle, living on a boat that never moves, which is so unique to Amsterdam. The deckhouse, where the shipper's family resided, is still in place including the cupboard bed. The former cargo hold has now been converted into comfortable living space. Ship's models photos and slides complete the tour. See website for photos, routes, visitor details and more.

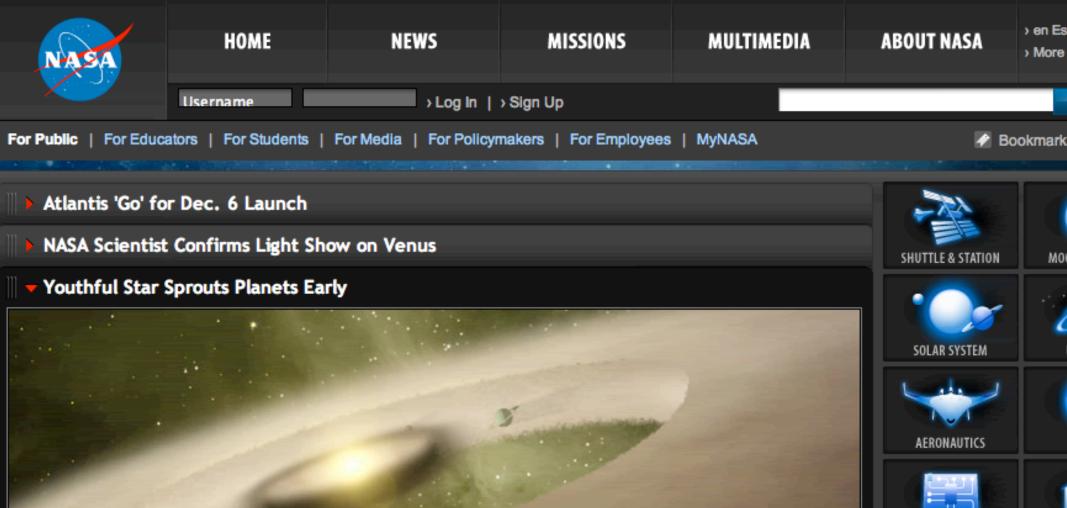
Review © 2007, Wcities



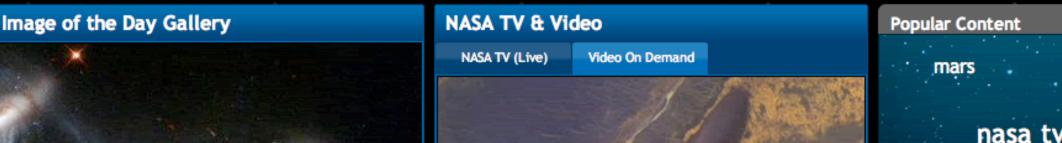
Share

Download

Sights & Attractions - Jordaan (Change...)



NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope has spotted a stellar prodigy which may provide insight into when planets began to form in our own solar system. > Read More



TECHNOLOGY

NASA PEOPLE

NAS

N/

### anti-pattern. windows aplenty

### summary

The practice of throwing up unnecessary idiot boxes. So many reasons this is just wrong...

Welcome, b.scott [Sign Out, My Account]												
Home Prints	& Gifts 🛒 View	Cart 🥬 S	ettings ?	Help 🔻	Search My Tag							
C Upload Photos	All My Ph	otos										
🔝 All My Photos	Slideshow	Create 🤝	Share 👻	Edit 👻	Prints & Gifts 👻							
My Albums Paris06		Drag photos into this tray and choose a task above.										
📄 My Tags												
My Friends' Photos	Sort by: Date	at	Underneath		View from the Top							

### summary

Animation effects that become the central focus instead of being part of reinforcing a message.

### examples

amazon carousel, tab animation, (stuff from transition talk)

Why the extra little slide in?



#### Step Eleven

Water thoroughly so the soil is moist to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.



#### Step Twelve

Keep the seed bed moist (but not soggy) until sod roots knit with soil below. In hot weather, you may have to water more than once a day.

#### Tips & Warnings

1			
6		- 1	
	-		
۰.			

Lay the sod on dry soil to avoid a muddy mess.



When laying sod, kneel on a piece of plywood so you don't disturb soil or damage sod, and use kneepads to keep your knees from getting sore.



Laying sod is hard work. Enlist the help of friends, and use a wheelbarrow to cart pieces around.

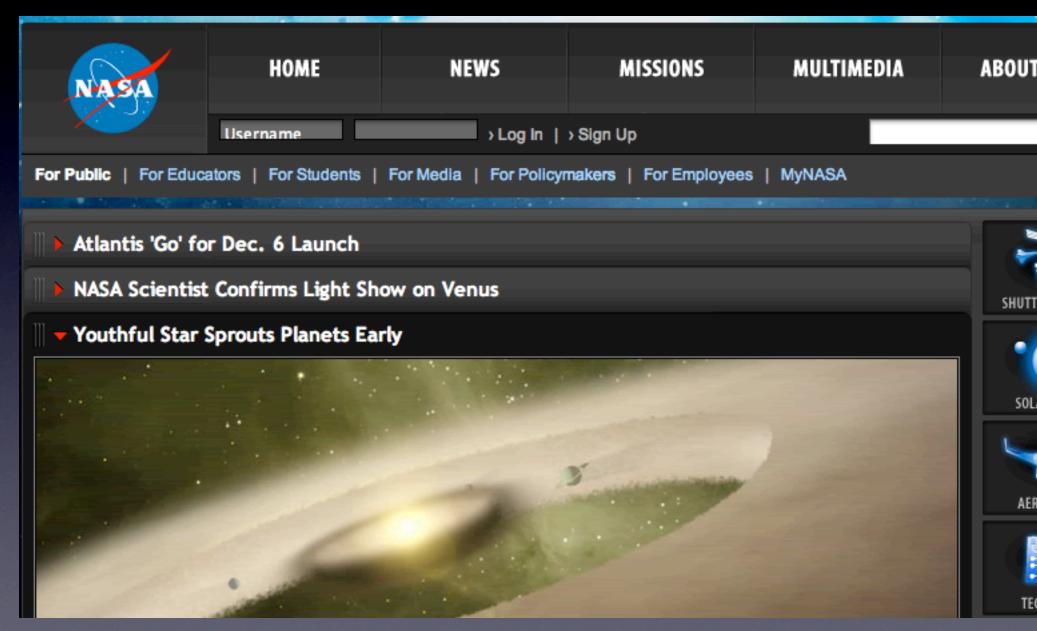


Keep <u>pets</u> and kids off your new lawn by enclosing it with stakes and string.



Avoid letting sod dry out, whether it's stacked in a pile or already laid. Occasionally sprinkle with water from a handheld hose to keep it moist,

#### animated menus... so 90's



Help

В

#### too many things animating on hover

Edit

.

#### Buzzword

Minion Pro

Document

buzzword

Font

#### The First Real Web-Based Word Processor

Insert

12 🔽

Welcome to Buzzword, Virtual Ubiquity's Flash-based word processor. Virtual Ubiquity is a Boston-based startup made up of industry veterans whose goal is to raise the bar on the quality of web-based applications.

<u>U</u>

//A 🔻

#### **First Things First**

#### Thanks.

Thanks for taking a look at Buzzword. You're one of the first people to get your hands on it, and we appreciate your time and your comments.

#### Get Buzzword

Buzzword is on the web at *http://preview.getbuzzword.com*. You might want to bookmark the URL so that you can return to it easily.

#### Lots of Cool Features, But More to Come



| ▲ |



100%

Wow! What more can I say?

Seems to be either a pixel at a time or going so fast you can't use it

#### **Our Favorites for Summer (Re)Reading**



More from the gratuitous animation department...



Not sure how much animation does for a tab control -- tab-o-sel? Candidate for Novel Notions



#### Terminal: built right in.

OK, it's not very sexy. In fact, it's quite the opposite. But Coda is all about the little things that make your web development a squidgeon easier. If you need to SSH into a server and run some MySQL queries, or restart Apache, or debug some PHP in real time, there's only one way you're gonna do it: terminal. **Coda's got a terminal one mouse click away.** 

	HOME		
20	2010.00		
30	GOTO	10	
RUB	8		
			=

#### egrep 'bellslwhistle' /usr/share/dict/web2

Features? Our terminal has 'em. Connect to a local shell or connect via SSH to a remote server. Put a Terminal in a split, or put a Terminal in its own tab. Copy and paste from the output, or scroll back into the buffer. It's a terminal! And it's convenient!

### export CLICOLOR=1

Wait! There's kind of more! ANSI colors also work! You can also, via the preferences, change the font and background colors, or the terminal font itself. Unfortunately, you can't yet set the background to a picture of Arwyn. But e-mail us, we'll always consider it.



.

### the stalker pattern. can also see an example from Netflix community.

<u>Yahoo! My Yahoo! Mail Help</u>			Search:	Web Search
City Guide My Local Direct				
City Guide My Local Direct	ory			17** 1999 · T*
drain repa	ir S	an Jose, CA		← Search
San Jose City Guide > drain repair				
C & K Drain Plumbing Repair - W (408) 483-1044, 3560 Flora Vista Ave Get directions				Zoom in and search the map
Results 1-10 out of 318 total (About these results)				In Alto
Narrow your search by category, i	rating, and more.			
Sorted by: top results   distance			🖹 Print results	Sumyvale Dante 11
Yahoos: Report bad local results of	or ads for this query.			Cupertino
Plumber by Lalos Sewer & Drai Services (408) 590-6547 471 N 18th St, San Jose, CA Get Directions www.zoneprofiles.com/plumberinsanjose.	⊘ Write a		0.87 mi	Saratoga 17 87 Los Catos 10.0 km 5.0 mi eYahool2007,Data@Navteq.X07
<ul> <li>Sunnyvale Storm Drain Repair (408) 730-7510</li> <li>221 Commercial St, Sunnyvale, CA</li> <li>Get Directions</li> </ul>	🖉 Write a		6.22 mi	SPONSOR RESULTS Smart Plumbers & Rooters Get professional services. warranty and fixing right now. www.SmartPlumber.org
<ul> <li>C &amp; K Drain Plumbing Repair</li> <li>Merchant verified</li> <li>(408) 483-1044</li> <li>3560 Flora Vista Ave # 204, Santa</li> <li>Get Directions</li> </ul>	⊘ Write a Clara, CA		5.10 mi	Rescue Rooter Plumbing Get \$25 off any plumbing service. Schedule an appointment today. www.rescuerooter.com Plumbing <b>Repair</b> Affordable Plumbing <b>Repairs</b> and Installations in Windsor, CA.
Alum Rock Hardware (408) 258-6084 2243 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose, C @ Get Directions www.acehardware.com/	A and	(2) arc55- "Wayne was very informative. They know t" more v	2.49 mi	<u>SimeonePlumbina.com</u>
YOUR PLUMBING SPECIALIS (408) 832-1445	ST 📩 📩 📩			



Select a provider to								Selec
choose your favorite channels.	Tue	Mar 20	Wed Mar 21	Thu Mar 2	22 Fri M	lar 23	Sat Mar 24	
	<b>4</b> 10:0	0am		11:00am		12:00pm		•
ABC				The View TV14 (CC)		Local Program (CC)	nming	:
CBS				The Price Is Righ TVG (CC)	it	Local Programming (CC)	The Young a TV14 (CC)	and the l
FOX				1		1		
NBC	Loca (CC)	ıl Programmiı	ng					!
PBS	Loca Prog (CC)	ramming	Between the Lions TVY (CC)	the Lions Sesame Street TVY (CC)		Mister Rogers Neighborhood TVY (CC)		orge .
cw								
MNT								
ΡΑΧ	Loca Prog	ramming	Local Programming (CC)	Local Programming (CC)	Local Programming (CC)	Local Programming (CC)	Local Programmin (CC)	g
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Select a provider to								Selec
choose your favorite channels.	Tue	Mar 20	Wed Mar 21	Thu Mar 2	22 Fri M	lar 23	Sat Mar 24	
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FOX				1		1		
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PBS	Loca Prog (CC)	ramming	Between the Lions TVY (CC)	the Lions Sesame Street TVY (CC)		Mister Rogers Neighborhood TVY (CC)		orge .
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<ul> <li>Display My Favorite Channels Only Select Favorites</li> </ul>	Tuesday, July 24 💌 7 pm 💌 Go Jump to: Now   Primetime Tonight										
	-	7:00pm		8:0	0pm		9:00p	m		•	
245 TNT	[	The Closer TV14 (CC) HDTV			<b>thout a Trace</b> '14 (CC) HDTV		Without a Trace TV14 (CC) HDTV				
<b>247</b> твз		MLB Baseball (CC)									
248 FX	FX				Damages TVMA (CC)			That '70s S TV14 (CC)		That '70s > Show TV14	
249 COMEDY		Mind of Mencia TV14 (CC)	American Body Shop TV14 (CC)	Jo	ily Show With n Stewart 14 (CC)	Colbert Report TV14 (CC)	Majest	dney Carrington Live at the ijestic 14 (CC)			
254 АМС		Patriot Games TV14 (CC)				1			Buffa TV14	lo Soldiers ) (CC)	
<b>256</b> тсм		Flying Tigers (CC)				Air Force (CC)			>		
265 A&E	1	Criss Angel: Mindfreak TVPG (CC)	Criss Angel: Mindfreak TVPG (CC)	Mi	i <mark>ss Angel:</mark> ndfreak 'PG (CC)	Criss Angel: Mindfreak TVPG (CC)	Dog th Hunte TVPG		Dog t Hunte TVPG		
266 вю		Breaking Vegas TVPG (CC)			Mobsters TVPG (CC)			Notorious TVPG (CC)			
<b>269</b> нізт		Ice Road Truckers TVPG (CC)	1		Modern Marvels TVPG (CC)			Mega Disasters TVPG (CC)			
273		Kathy Griffin: My	Life on the D-List	F	ipping Out	Kathy Griffin: M	y Life or	the D-List	Kath	y Griffin:	



<ul> <li>Display My Favorite Channels Only Select Favorites</li> </ul>	Tuesday, July 24 💌 7 pm 💌 Go Jump to: Now   Primetime Tonight										
	-	7:00pm		8:0	0pm		9:00p	m		•	
245 TNT	[	The Closer TV14 (CC) HDTV			<b>thout a Trace</b> '14 (CC) HDTV		Without a Trace TV14 (CC) HDTV				
<b>247</b> твз		MLB Baseball (CC)									
248 FX	FX				Damages TVMA (CC)			That '70s S TV14 (CC)		That '70s > Show TV14	
249 COMEDY		Mind of Mencia TV14 (CC)	American Body Shop TV14 (CC)	Jo	ily Show With n Stewart 14 (CC)	Colbert Report TV14 (CC)	Majest	dney Carrington Live at the ijestic 14 (CC)			
254 АМС		Patriot Games TV14 (CC)				1			Buffa TV14	lo Soldiers ) (CC)	
<b>256</b> тсм		Flying Tigers (CC)				Air Force (CC)			>		
265 A&E	1	Criss Angel: Mindfreak TVPG (CC)	Criss Angel: Mindfreak TVPG (CC)	Mi	i <mark>ss Angel:</mark> ndfreak 'PG (CC)	Criss Angel: Mindfreak TVPG (CC)	Dog th Hunte TVPG		Dog t Hunte TVPG		
266 вю		Breaking Vegas TVPG (CC)			Mobsters TVPG (CC)			Notorious TVPG (CC)			
<b>269</b> нізт		Ice Road Truckers TVPG (CC)	1		Modern Marvels TVPG (CC)			Mega Disasters TVPG (CC)			
273		Kathy Griffin: My	Life on the D-List	F	ipping Out	Kathy Griffin: M	y Life or	the D-List	Kath	y Griffin:	

### refactoring. animation gone wild

Transitions should mean something. They communicate.

#### Understand the hierarchy of transition communication

Rapid movement Rapid color change Slow movement Slow color change

If you are refactoring a wild interface, simply **turn off all animations** and start by communicating fully without it, then **add it back in one at a time**.

### summary

Not providing feedback throughout an interaction. These missed moments can confuse the user about what to do.

### examples

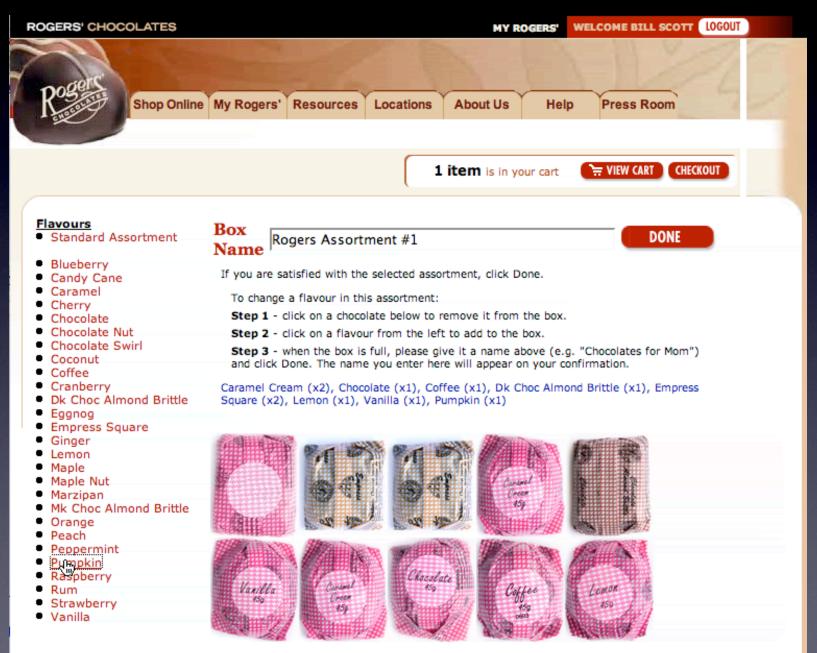
Drag and drop is classic example.

### solutions

Use interesting moments grid to think through each moment

	Page Generation	Mouse Hover	Drag Initiated	Drag over Valid	Drag over Invalid	Drag over Original	Drop Accepted	Drop Rejected	Drop on Original
Page Content	Hint	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cursor	Normal	Move Cursor	Move Cursor	Move Cursor	Move Cursor	Move Cursor	Normal	Normal	Normal
Drag Object	Normal	Normal	Reduced Opacity & Tracking	Reduced Opacity & Tracking	Reduced Opacity & Tracking + Invalid Badge	Reduced Opacity & Tracking	2. Modules animates into the area just below insertion bar 3. Module comes to rest in new area 4. Modules slide up in a self-healing transition to close hole	Normal Opacity + Zoom Back to Original	Normal Opacity + Zoom Back to Original
Orig Location	Normal	Normal	Hole Opens	Hole Remains	Hole Remains	Hole Remains	Hole Remains	Hole refilled with drag object	Hole refilled with drag object
Drop Target	Normal	Normal	Normal	Insertion Bar	N/A	N/A	1. Insertion Bar Removed	N/A	N/A
Drop Target	Normal	Normal	Normal	Insertion Bar	N/A	N/A	1. Insertion Bar Removed	with drag object N/A	object N/A

### no feedback during interaction... less "learnable"







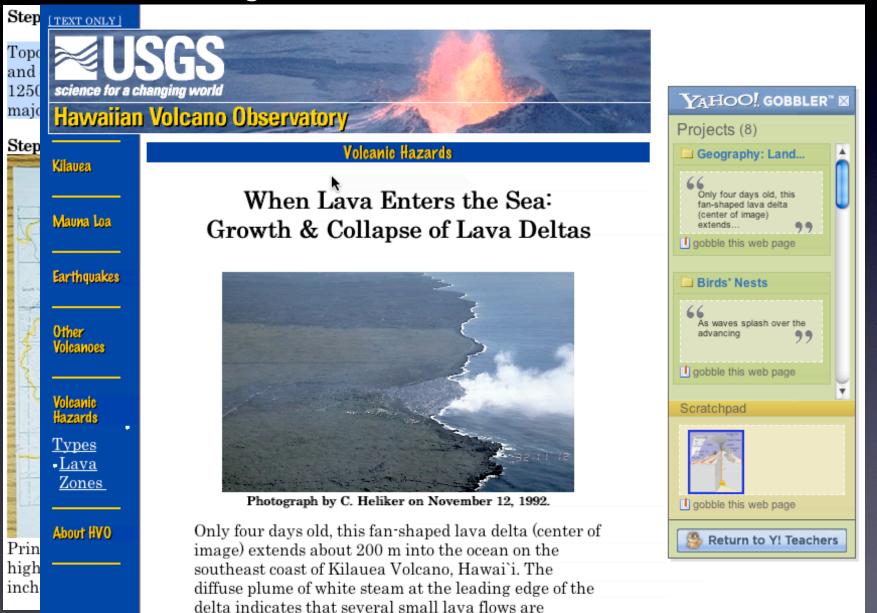




Using Y! Photos as example again. Notice missing feedback at key point piles on the problems.

Welcome, b.scott [Sign Out, My Account]											
Home 🎁 Prints & C	Gifts 🛒 View	Cart 🖉 S	settings ?	Help 🔻	Search My Tag						
C Upload Photos	All My Ph	otos									
🔝 All My Photos	Slideshow	Create 🤝	Share 👻	Edit 🐨	Prints & Gifts 👻						
My Albums     Paris06     My Tags	Drag photos into this tray and choose a task										
My Friends' Photos	Sort by: Date	set	Underneath		View from the Top						

Turns out that a number of events exist during drag and drop that we can use to our advantage.



### refactoring. missed moments

### Map out all the interesting moments.

Use the interaction matrix or other technique to map events to actors on the page.

### Use the moments to communicate.

Its the nuance that matters.

### Think... "interactive directions"

Moment-by-moment directions are the key. Users get lost easily

### summary

When you can only update small pieces of the interface instead of doing things in a group.

## examples

backpackit

Key is what is the workflow? One at a time or mutiple operations allowed.

These kind of interfaces (in context tools) always present a problem for doing operations on multiple items.

#### Pick Up at the Store

- 🗌 Milk
- 🗌 Orange Juice
- 🗌 Tomatoes
- Lettuce
- 🗌 Bread
- Chips
  - Add item

Make a new list Reorder lists

Remove from sidebar, Delete this page, Email me this page Send email to this page: miles12betty@billwscott.backpackit.co



Key is what is the workflow? One at a time or mutiple operations allowed.

These kind of interfaces (in context tools) always present a problem for doing operations on multiple items.

Pick Up at the Store   Milk   Orange Juice   Tomatoes   Lettuce   Bread   Chips   Add Item	Image: Complete: Internet Strategy Group Tal         Image: Complete: Internet Strategy Grou
Remove from sidebar, Delete this page, Email me this page         Image: Send email to this page: miles12betty@billwscott.backpackit.co         Image: Changes Help Text Formatting Weblog Forum Privacy	

Takes one at a time check box to the extreme

	ON CRITIC est television resource		You ar	re logged in as <b>b.sco</b>	tt@yahoo
HOME BREAKING	NEWS SHOWS A-Z	TV ON DVD LISTING	S RANTS & REVIEWS	SUMMER GUIDE	RATIN
MYHOME MYNEWS		MYSHOWS	MYDVD	MYLISTINGS	

<b>Q</b> SHOWATCH					
series	alert me?	date start/end	network	time slot	status
AMAZING RACE, THE		9/5/01 - ???	CBS	completed airing its current season	returning next seaso (2007-2008 season)
AMERICAN INVENTOR	Γ	3/16/06 - ???	ABC	wednesdays (9:00 PM-10:00 PM EST)	returning this summ (yet to premiere)
AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS	<b>Y</b>	1/14/90 - ???	ABC	completed airing its current season	returning next seaso (2007-2008 season)
AMERICA'S GOT TALENT	<b>Y</b>	6/21/06 - ???	NBC	tuesdays (8:00 PM-9:00 PM EST)	returning this summ (yet to premiere)
AMERICA'S MOST WANTED: AMERICA STRIKES BACK	M	2/7/88 - ???	FOX	saturdays (9:00 PM-10:00 PM EST)	currently airing (2006-2007 season)

### refactoring. **one-at-a-time**

Think about what happens when the data/information scales It affects space issues but also affects interaction density.

### Think about doing multiple operations at once

Balance with immediacy

### Watch out for in-context tools, in-page actions

These give immediacy but also will trap you into not handling multiple items at once.

### Don't forget about the lowly checkbox

Not as sexy, but very serviceable.

### anti-patterns

big ball of mud. meandering way. borg idiom. tiny targets. mystery meat. buried treasure. hover and cover. pogo stick navigation. novel notions. against the flow. metaphor mismatch. jabberwocky. double duty. **linkitus.** blind type. windows aplenty. animation gone wild. misguided misdirections. unmarked hazards. missed moments. missing scene. one at a time. non-symmetrical actions.



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this prez. billwscott.com/share/presentations/2008/ebig/
my email. b.scott@yahoo.com

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