Writing for the Web

A quick-and-dirty introduction for some of my friends at UX Russia

6 October 2010





About me

- Writer (Honeymoon Trail, Marionettes)
- Stage director (Det Kgl. Teater)
- Writer (The Compleat Talking Machine)
- Marketer (Bergsøe 3, Cross-Border Comm.)
- Writer (Practical Information Architecture)
- Web strategist (E-Reiss, FatDUX)
- Writer (Web Dogma '06)
- Evangelist (IA Institute, EuroIA, IE Madrid)

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No Brain

Him write good.
Him help companies do stuff.
Him smell ok.

Shamelessly stolen from



Why are we here?

- 1997
 - <2% of all text was for interactive media
- 2000

>32% of all text is for interactive media >71% of all text is read on screen

Sources: Nielsen, Gartner, Forrester, guesswork

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Reading a book is relaxing



Photo: Flickr

FatDU

Relaxing? Romantic?



Photo: Flickr

Why is text important?

- Because "content is king" and most web content is text
- A picture isn't always worth a thousand words
- (Although sometimes it is...)



People read as much as necessary to achieve a state of "shared reference"

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Do we have a shared reference?

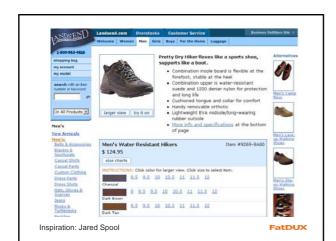






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And what are YOU looking for in a shoe?







Let's play the

Bright Idea Game



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The keys to creating shared references

- Don't take anything for granted
- Anticipate the questions people may have
- Answer questions they didn't think to ask
- Examine content in the context of scenarios
- The communication environment will affect the information needed at any given time

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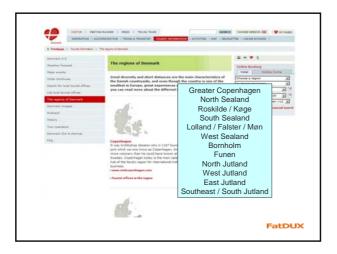












What do we want to achieve?

- Build shared references
- Create trust
- Establish sense of history
- Meet the needs of the target audience(s)
- Define the site's USP
 - Unique Selling Proposition (Rosser Reeves)

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Rosser Reeves



"Find the USP."







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Text is text...but...

- The reader has changed!
 - o Their purpose is different
 - o Their needs are different
 - o The environment is different
- People read 25% slower from a screen
 - But they want information fast
- People scan and skim
 - Less than 37% actually read carefully
- People *don't* come to linger over your text

People read slower

Text on a page has sharp edges

sharp

- The eye perceives greater contrast
- Text on a screen is fuzzy by comparison
- The contrast is relative to screen brightness

fuzzy

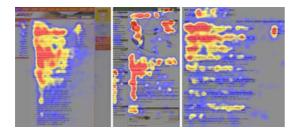
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Scan and skim

- Scan page to find physical areas of interest
- Scan subheads to zero in on subjects
- Skim copy for keywords and phrases
- Read to get detail
- Click to interact
 - o And they ALWAYS read your links

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"First word after the bullet"



Source: useit.com/alertbox/reading_pattern.html

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,			



Why do visitors come?

- Look for a particular type of product, service, or information
- Look for a specific type of product, service, or information

Also:

- Merely curious
 - o Because your site turned up in a search
 - o Because another site suggested the link
 - Because they already know about you for some other reason

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And they come back to...

- Take a closer look at something they saw the last time they visited
- Check to see updates
- Use a site service

What do they know?		
■ We never really know		
 Did they use a search engine to get here? But we know where they've maybe been 		
 The previous page, for example Our writing must reflect our site structure 		
We must create levels of detail		
Fa	atDUX	
		1
Levels of detail		
	atDUX	
re	atbox	
Levels of detail		
NewspapersHeadline		
LeadFull story		
WebsitesLabel		
Short summary Detailed presentation		
Supporting evidence (contextual links)		
_	-ABIE:	
Fa	atDUX	

Levels of detail in action

- 1.0 About us (general label)
 - 1.1 Management (specific label and short summaries)
 - 1.1.1 John Doe (detailed description)

1.1.1.1 Doe CV (supporting evidence)

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Levels of detail according to Carl



Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Subphylum: Vertebrata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Probosidea

Superfamily: Elephantoidea

Family: Elephantide

Gray, 1821

Source: Wikipedia

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The dangers of granularity

Let's make pasta...



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Defore serving.

CONVENTIONAL OVEN:

• Preheat oven to 350°F / 188°C /
Gas Hark 4.

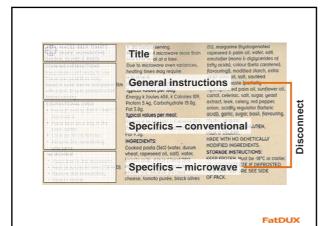
• Place bowl on a tray in the

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So, what should I do first?

"Place bowl in the microwave."





More about levels of detail

- Visitors should be able to anticipate levels of detail
- Make it easy on visitors who found the page via a search engine
- Make sure you have something to say on the pathway page
- Make sure you have something to say on every page!







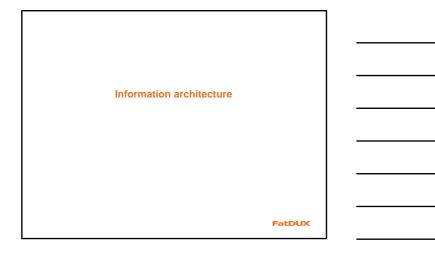




Golden Rule #1

 You can't write good web-copy if you don't know where and how it is going to be used.

(You need to understand the navigation and architecture of the site)



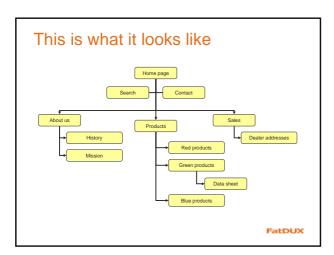
What is "information architecture"?

 The arrangement and labeling of browserbased information so visitors find what they're looking for quickly and with the least possible effort.

It's about fulfilling goals

And usability?

 Making sure everything works the way you intended it to.









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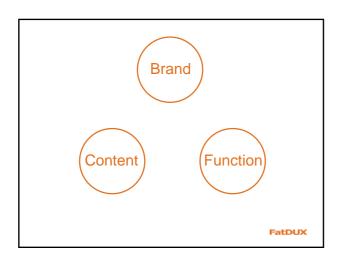
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	,
Information architecture creates value through organization	
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We take pieces of information and:	
Gather them so they create value	
Call them something recognizable	
Put them where they can be found	
FatDUX	-
ration	
One man and it illulates	
Core responsibilities	
 Define content 	
Arrange content	
Label content	
Why is 2	
Why us? Because we already <i>understand</i> the content.	
Decause we alleauy understand the content.	
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Organizing is organizing (...isn't it?)

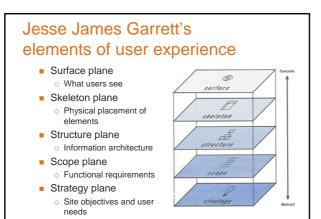
- Books and brochures are linear
- Websites are not!
- The concept of a brochure is *how it looks*
- The concept of a website is *what it does*
- Websites are software applications.

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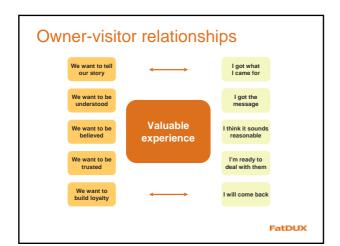
The Creation (of a meaningful experience)





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Source: jjg.net





"Good" experience? **JUSTICE** Al Qaeda Training Manual Enhancing user experience How we write (specific type of reader) o Create levels of detail o Improve skimming and scanning What we write (specific reason) o Build shared references Build trust Build sense of history Where we put our words (specific result) Make navigation more effective FatDUX George Orwell's Rules Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech that you are used to seeing in print. 2. Never use a long word where a short one will do. 3. If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out. 4. Never use the passive voice when you can use the active 5. Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a

jargon word if you can think of an everyday equivalent.

6. Break any of these rules sooner than say anything

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outright barbarous!

Common myths Text shouldn't be longer than 10 lines Text should be as long as it needs to be People don't read on the Web People DO read on the Web, just a little slower Don't interrupt the flow of reading with text-embedded hyperlinks. Use embedded hyperlinks, but don't overuse them. Readers are unwilling to scroll If it's worth reading, they will scroll FatDUX Relevant statistics Longer text outperforms short text by 40.5% Short-copy ROI = -14% Long-copy ROI = +21% Source: Marketingexperiments.com, 2004 Over 75% of readers scroll before they do anything else on a page o Readers feel compelled to scan o Most readers scroll at least 50% of a page Source: Avenue A | Razorfish, 2008 FatDUX Little-known facts Cute labels/links are often counter-productive Shorter sentences are better than long ones One idea per paragraph

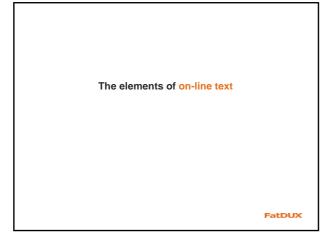
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Subheads help readers scan

Convenience text (alt and help)

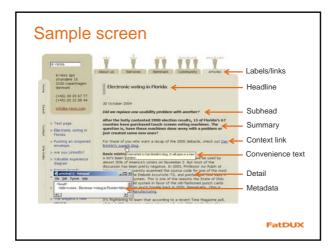
Meta data

Bulleted lists help readers gain overview
Many people ONLY read your links
About 10% of all web text is for machines



Basic types of text

- Labels and links
- Headlines
- Subheads
- Executive summaries
- Detailed descriptions
- Contextual navigation
- Convenience text
- Metadata



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	-
A few words about SEO	
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Goals of SEO (the bad reasons)	
Get to the top of GoogleGet a zillion hits	
FatDUX	
]
Goals of SEO (the real reasons)	
Get properly indexed by:Google	
o MSN	
Yahoo!Specialized search engines	
Turn up in <i>relevant</i> searchesGet people to click on your site first	
Get people to click on your site first	
FatDUX	
Patrox	

Let's kill two myths about SEO	
 Forget keyword density. You cannot bore your visitors into buying your product. 	
 Forget page rank. In theory, you want to be the only page that turns up for a specific search. 	
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Four keys to SEO	
 Write worthwhile content Build shared references Answer questions 	
 Create value Write relevant metadata Title 	
Keywords Description Alt text for graphics	
■ Write clean code o <h1>Headline tags</h1> <h1></h1> Close "if" and "while" statements	
Get listed:Open DirectoryYahoo!	
LookSmart FatDUX	
Let's get down to business	
FatDUX	

Before you write – think!

- Web culture
- Context
- Screen
- Skim-reading
- Keywords
- Search engines
- Links and interaction
- International

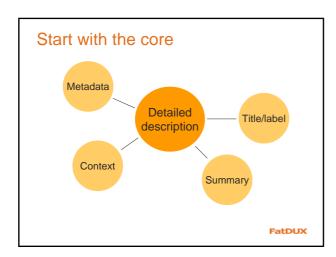
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Then ask yourself...

- WHY am I writing this?
- WHAT is my main message?
- WHO am I talking to?
- HOW do I want them to respond?







Short is better

- Cut out unnecessary words. (fewer words makes it easier to spot important info)
- Keep sentences short.
- Eliminate "happy talk"
- Instructions must die!

Scary observation:

The User Manual for a Mazda is 37 times as long as the United States Constitution.



Instructions must die!

The following questionnaire is designed to provide us with information that will help us improve the site and make it more relevant. Please select your answers from the drop-down menus and radio buttons below. The questionnaire should only take 2-3 minutes to complete.

Source: Steve Krug

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A classic example...

About this website

Help
This website is a website for F.L. Smidth. At this site you can read more about how you use this site. If you have any questions about the website, please feel free to contact the webmaster.

Navigation
The maiglicin bur for this website is located in the top of the site. By using the search engine you easily find what you are looking for. If you would like to use a sitemap for navigation, this can be found under at the top right corner

You can return to the home page for the F.L. Smidth Group company for each individual site by clicking the company logo in the upper left hand corner.

Screen Resolution
The screen size of this website is optimized for 800x600 pixels. If you have any problems viewing the full-size screen, please check your "Display Properties" and "Settings" and reset to 800x800 pixels.

GNOtometrics.com Welcome to the website of GN Otometrics, the world's leading supplier of audiologic, otoneurologic and vestibular GN Otometrics develops, manufactures and markets computer-based audiological and vestibular measurement instrumentation under the Madsen, Danplex, Rastronics, Hortmann and ICS Medical brand names in over 70 countries worldwide. This website provides you with direct links to the individual websites of the following GN Otometrics' brands: AuditData, Madsen, Danplex, Hortmann and ICS Medical. Please click on one of the brand logo's above to access more detailed information about each line of products. Happy talk Welcome to the website of GN Otometrics, the world's leading supplier of audiologic, otoneurologic and vestibular instrumentation. GN Otometrics develops, manufactures and markets computer-based audiological and vestibular measurement instrumentation under the Madsen, Danplex, Rastronics, Hortmann and ICS Medical brand names in over 70 countries Workwide. This website provides you with direct links to the individual websites of the following GN Otometrics' brands: AuditData, Madsen, Danplex, Hortmann and ICS Medical. Please click on one of the brand logo's above to access more detailed information about each line of products. FatDUX Unnecessary instructions Welcome to the website of GN Otometrics, the world's leading supplier of audiologic, otoneurologic and vestibular instrumentation. GN Otometrics develops, manufactures and markets computer-based audiological and vestibular measurement instrumentation under the Madsen, Danplex, Rastronics, Hortmann and ICS Medical brand names in over 70 countries worldwide. This website provides you with direct links to the individual websites of the following GN Otometrics' brands: AuditData, Madsen, Danplex, Hortmann and ICS Medical. Please click on

FatDUX

one of the brand logo's above to access more detailed information about each line of products.

The "core" message	
Welcome to the website of GN Otometrics, the world's leading supplier of audiologic, otoneurologic and vestibular instrumentation.	
GN Otometrics develops, manufactures and markets computer-based audiological and vestibular measurement instrumentation under the Madsen, Danplex, Rastronics,	
Hortmann and ICS Medical brand names in over 70 countries worldwide.	
This website provides you with direct links to the individual websites of the following GN Otometrics' brands: AuditData, Madsen, Danplex, Hortmann and ICS Medical. Please click on one of the brand logo's above to access more detailed	
information about each line of products.	
FatDUX	
Make it scanable.	
Make it usable.	
GN Otometrics develops, manufactures, and markets computer-based audiological and	
vestibular measurement instrumentation in over 70 countries worldwide. Our brands include:	
AuditData	
o <u>Danplex</u> o <u>Hortmann</u>	
ICS Medical Madsen	
FatDUX	
How much text?	

Blaise Pascal's comment

I have made this letter longer than usual, because I lack the time to make it shorter



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The BIG message

- Keep your text as short as possible ...but...
- The *message* limits the number of words, not some arbitrary rule.
- Impose your own rules for the sake of editing, but reject everybody else's

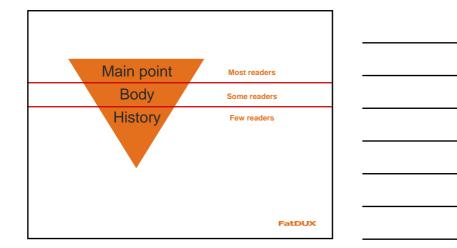
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Churchill to the Royal Navy

Pray this day, on one side of one piece of paper, explain how the Royal Navy has prepared to meet the coming conflict.

Sept. 1, 1939





Be direct

- Don't put the most important information in the third paragraph
 - Visitors don't want to wade through several paragraphs to find out they're on the wrong page!
- Write "front-loaded" paragraphs
- Don't be afraid to spend as much time on the intro as you do for the rest of the page.
- Do practice Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.

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WWWWW & H

A special tax on automobiles will be used to finance road safety improvements throughout Portugal. The Prime Minister made the announcement yesterday at a press conference in Lisbon in response to the drastic rise in road fatalities.

WWWWW & H

- Who = Prime Minister
- What = announced special tax on autos
- When = yesterday
- Where = in Lisbon
- Why = reduce road fatalities
- How = finance safety improvements

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Tone of voice

- Be objective
 - o Drop the hype
- Be personal
 - o Lighten up!
 - o More "you" than "we."
- Be concise
 - o Get to the point. Let folks grab-and-go.

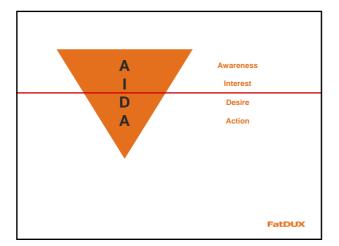
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Lewis Carroll on directness

Begin at the beginning, and go on till you come to the end. Then stop.



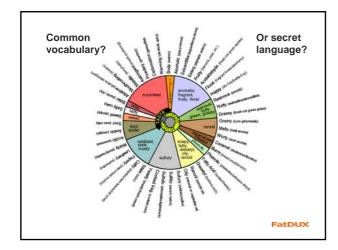
Choosing your words	
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These boots have everything you need for stability and support in demanding conditions — and a comfortable, lightweight design you'll appreciate in any circumstances. Rugged, puncture-and abrasion—resistant synthetic-fabric upper and polyurethane-coated leather rand reduce wear from rocks and roots. Waterproof, breathable Gore-Tex® lining keeps water out while allowing heat vapor to escape. Internal support board is ergonomically shaped for superior stability and flexion. External heel counter helps your foot stay centered on uneven terrain. Exclusive Vibram® Orbit sticky rubber outsole for traction.

Description vs. hype

Wouldn't it be nice if your warm, heavy snow boots were as comfortable as your summer tennies? Our 400-gram snow boots may not be exactly as comfortable, but they're heaps more flexible than last year? Copying the comfortable construction of an athletic shoe, we replaced last year's heavy vulcanized outsole with a lighter weight (and still fully waterproof) model made up of a cushioning EVA midsole and a rugged TPR outsole. And for those days when you've got to bend to shovel, or try to sprint up a hill with a sled for "one more ride," we've given this boot a combination insole board, so if smore flexible at the forefoot (where your foot bends) and stable at the heel (to keep ankles steady in deep powder). If you spend a lot of time working or sporting in the snow, this is your boot. And don't think we've forgotten the warmth factor. The 400-gram Thinsulater³⁴ Insulation blocks cold, while the TPR vamp—now with a waterproof full-grain leather, unbuck, and suede shaft — keeps out wet, slushy weather.



Common vocabulary?

Or foreign language?

hire vs. rent sack vs. fire tyre vs. tire

Literary vs. colloquial	
accelerate	speed up
anticipate	expect
corpulent	fat
famished	hungry
humourous	funny
ill	sick
intelligent	smart
manufacture	make
subsequent to	since
terminate	end
wealthy	rich
youthful	young
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Keyword vs. trigger scratch-resistant easy-to-use kid-friendly safe on-time affordable FatDUX Redundant redundancies closed fist true fact foreign imports revert back convicted felon past experience end result classic tradition free gift duplicate copy FatDUX Scanable, skimable, usable Identify trigger-words and make them easy to spot (consider **bolding** them) Bulleted lists are easier to skim than sentences Hyperlinked bulleted lists are even better! Use subheads



About bullets

- Bullets improve overview
- Bullets can also provide navigation
- In general, upper-level pages will feature more bullets than deeper pages.
- Use bullets for features/subjects/ideas
- Use numbered bullets for:
 - sequential tasks
 - o lists where the total number of items is relevant
 - o for ranking

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It looks nice...but...



Source: danmarksakvarium.dk

To bullet or not to bullet...

Skoletjenesten i Danmarks Akvarium tilbyder undervisning i en række forskellige emner relateret til livet i vand, herunder fødekæder, camouflage, svømning, levesteder, tilpasning, adfærd, evolution, fiskeribiologi, koraller og dyregrupper. Udgangspunktet er mulighederne i udstillingen, men alle emner forberedes med elevaktiviteter i skoletjenestens forundringsrum.

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Bulleted and hyperlinked

Skoletjenesten i Danmarks Akvarium tilbyder undervisning i mange vand-relateret emner:

- > fødekæder
- > camouflage
- > svømning
- > levesteder
- > tilpasning
- > adfærd
- > evolution > fiskeribiologi
- > koraller
- > dyregrupper

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But don't overdo it!

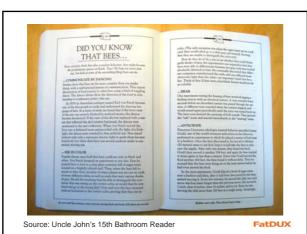


- The EV crusher reduces limestone boulders from quarry size to mill feed size in only one stage without primary crushing.
 Easy access to the interior is ensured by hydraulic opening of the top part of the crusher.
 The hammers remain serviceable down to 75% of their initial weight.
 Maintenance of the drive arrangement is facilitated by using a gear unit instead of a V-belt.
 The outlet grate excellently controls the top size of the crusher product and ensures a consistent flow to the conveyor.
 Adjustable outlet grate enables compensation for hammer wear.
 The EV crusher requires little floor space and reduces building height, it simplifies plant layout and lowers civil engineering cost.

Source: flsmidth.com

Subheads

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Use subheads

- Subheads improve scanability
- They break up long texts
- Subheads should signal "it gets even better"

Rule #1:

A subhead should always be visible on-screen.

Rule #2:

Don't be afraid to break this rule.



Customised Training Customise

A couple of dos and don'ts

- Adding subheads to an existing text is a good way to start editing
 - o But don't stop there
- Consider using questions as subheads
 - o But don't make your site a FAQ
- Use more on the web than you would in print
 - But don't get carried away

Editing	
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MI (II and I and II and	
Why "less is more" (ersometimes)	
 John Morkes and Jakob Nielson cut text by 54% - and people thought the subject was better presented. But 	
The study is from 1998The sample site was crap:	
 Original: Facilities management also portend high growth. To be sure, microprocessors can be found today in electronic thermostats, intercom systems, automatic sprinkler systems, stand-alone light 	
timers and alarm systems that themselves are linked to a central monitoring station. But picture a home network that ties all these things-and more-together into a coordinated facilities and	-
environmental control system o Rewritten: Facilities management also will rely on new devices. Electronic	
thermostats, intercom systems, automatic sprinkler systems and alarm systems all will be tied into a coordinated control system linked to a central monitoring system	
Source: www.useit.com/papers/webwriting/rewriting.html FatDUX	
Cut it out. Clean it up.	
Is this clear?	
Is there a simpler way to say this?	
Is there a shorter way to say this?Is this even necessary?	
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How can we improve this?

Welcome to Ambu's Jobsite (at present valid for Denmark only)

€ ∞ €

Welcome to Ambu's Jobsite!

This jobsite is only valid for our Headquarter in Denmark (located in Ballaru) and Øitrykke). Later the jobsite will be developed to include Ambu undfluids, but at present you will have to contact our companies outside Denmark directly for further information regarding local job opportunities:

The information provided on the Ambu Jobsite will give you an idea of what Ambu, Denmark, is like as a place to work. This site gives you a chance to read about our values and the opportunities for growth and development that we offer our employees.

The site contains important information about how to apply for a job at Ambu, and about the information that we will need in order to consider you for a position.

Enjoy!

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Subheads for scanability Links for convenience

The Ambu Job Directory

Jobs outside Denmark You are invited to contact any of our our companies directly for further information regarding local opportunities.

Sales offices Germany - Ambu GmbH - Friedberg xxx@ambu.com

Italy - Ambu S.R.L - Vignate (Mi)

Finland - Ambu - Espoo

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Whose history?



The size of programme is the property of the p

Source: virogates.com

Find ViroGates In 1999, researchers at the Clinical Research Unit, of Hvidovre Hospital in Copenhagen, Denmark discovered that the amount of the soluble form of a cell surface protein, suPAR (soluble urokinase Plasminogen Activator Receptor), had a strong predictive value in HIV/AIDS disease progression and mortality. The results were first presented in 2000 at the 13th International /IDIS Conference in Durban, South Africa and the first scientific paper detailing the discovery was published that same year in the scientific journal "Blood". After having existed as a development project since 1999 ViroGates was founded in 2001 in order to commercialize the results achieved by Dr. Jespeh Togon Osson (Director of Laboratory Research at the Clinical Research Unit of Hvidovre Hospital) and his co-workers studying biochemical markers and HIV progression. A first attempt was initiated to create a novel prognostic tool to monitor patient disease progression, and in 2006 efforts resulted in the creating of ViroGates' first product - suPARnostic[™] - a prognostic kit designed to improve HIV disease management. Since the first discovery, further studies have revealed that suPAR also carries strong prognostic value in other serious infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis. These results were made public at the first International AIDS Society Conference in Buenos Aires in 2001, at the Medicon Valley Bio-Conference in Copenhagen in 2001 and at the HEP-DART Conference in Hawaii in 2001 as well as in socientific publications. Editing puts things in focus (786 characters) ViroGates was founded in 2001 in order to commercialize the results achieved by Dr. Jesper Eugen-Olsen, Director of Laboratory Research at the Clinical Research Unit of Hvidovre Hospital. He and his co-workers were studying biochemical markers and HIV progression. Back in 1999, they discovered that the amount of the soluble form of a cell surface protein, suPAR (soluble urokinase Plasminogen Activator Receptor), had a strong predictive value in HIV/AIDS disease progression and mortality. Other studies have since revealed that suPAR also carries strong prognostic value in other serious infectious diseases such as tuberculosis In 2006, their efforts resulted in the creation of ViroGates' first product - suPARnostic™ - a prognostic kit designed to improve HIV disease management. FatDUX Editing puts things in focus ViroGates was founded in 2001 to commercialize the biomarker research of Dr. Jesper Eugen-Olsen, Director of Laboratory Research at the Clinical Research Unit of Hvidovre Hospital in Denmark. In 1999, Dr. Eugen-Olsen and his team discovered that the amount of the soluble form of a cell surface protein, suPAR (soluble urokinase Plasaminogen Activator Receptor), had strong predictive value in HIV/AIDS disease progression and mortality. Studies have since shown that suPAR has strong prognostic value for other serious infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis. In 2006, their efforts led to ViroGates' first product - $suPARnostic^{TM}$ - a prognostic kit designed to improve HIV disease management.

Editing puts things in focus ViroGates was founded in 2001 to commercialize the biomarker research of Dr. Jesper Eugen-Olsen, Director of Laboratory Research at the Clinical Research Unit of Hvidovre Hospital in Denmark. In 1999, Dr. Eugen-Olsen and his team discovered that the amount of the soluble form of a cell surface profein, sulPAR (soluble urokinase Plasminogen Activator Receptor), had strong predictive value in HIVAIDS disease progression and mortality. Studies have since shown that sulPAR has strong prognostic value for other serious infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis. In 2006, their efforts led to ViroGates' first product - $suPARnostic^{TM}$ - a prognostic kit designed to improve HIV disease management. FatDUX Get out your red pens... (621 characters) Travel on special theme-based tours Switzerland is a holiday and travel destination packed with variety. There's always something new to discover and explore. And now Switzerland Tourism is preparing a number of special experience theme tours through the spectacular Swiss countryside. Broken down into stages, our tours will take you to impressive buildings, hotels, restaurants, production facilities, events, trails and introduce you to people associated with the relevant theme, your mode of transport is up to you. Whether you go by train, coach or in your own car, you will find all the information you need dearly set out and illustrated with a map. FatDUX Get out your red pens... John Doe, Chairman of XYZ Corporation, is responsible for the financial side of the business. Being a true Virgo, the financial records at XYZ look like the glif department at Bloomingdale's. Every accountant who has ever consulted for us claims he or she has never seen such organized systems, even at the largest companies. Numbers are a hobby for Mr. Doe. That's why it's easy for him to run an efficient, well-organized company. It's not a challenge, it's a way of life. The passion for numbers extends itself to his long-running collection of stamps, coins, miniature train and car sets, antique cameras, comic books, trading cards and all kinds of memorabila. He has spent many a winter night assembling 5,000 piece jigsaw and three-dimensional, free-standing puzzles, which have been donated to hospitals all over the city. An avid reader, Mr. Doe is the trivia king. It's a rare person who can beat him at Trivial Pursuit. In the last several years, he has also become a big basketball fan. Mr. Doe is president of his co-op, and he serves as a consultant in the real estate and financial industries.

However, there is very much an artistic side to this numbers man. He studied architecture at the prestigious ABC Institute and is a skilled craftsman. He found his favorite passion, photography, while at college. His photographs have been published in leading magazines and his special series of abstract shots of skyscrapers was exhibited in the lobby of the PDQ building to celebrate its 50th anniversary over 15 years ago. The collection also traveled to various galleries and museums. Many of the photos are exhibited in the hallways of XYZ Corporation.

Samuel Johnson on editing

Read over your compositions, and wherever you meet with a passage which you think is particularly fine strike it out!



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William Faulkner's advice

Kill your darlings.



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Editing and emotional impact

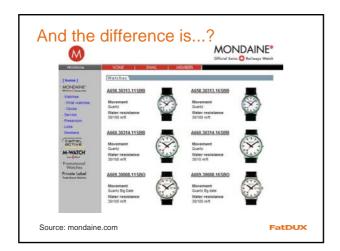


Executive summaries Poor: Employee share issue completed XYZ Corp has now completed its employee share issue. Better: Employee share issue completed XYZ Corp's Board of Directors have decided to offer the employees the opportunity to subscribe B shares in XYZ Inc. FatDUX And how many do YOU recognize? 6 Mazda A6 Audi C6 Citroën X6 **BMW** XJ6 Jaguar Mk6 Volkswagen FatDUX Purpose of summaries Let people know where they're going before they get there (shared reference) Help them differentiate between similar pages Don't try and close the sale Short, truthful, hyperlinked Use keywords to improve the "scent" of the label Don't be afraid to repeat the summary on the lowerlevel page ■ The essence of all dynamic billboards, such as archived news and site search FatDUX











Summaries should reflect the actual page content





Labels 'n Things



Scene of the crime







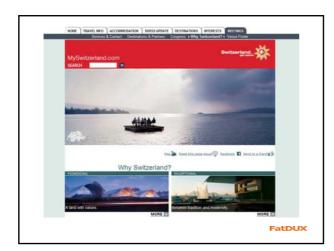






Write labels that work

- Page labels AREN'T headlines
- Links to articles ARE headlines (but also function as labels)
- Keep page headlines short and direct
- Include 1-2 keywords in each news headline
- Think twice about "cute" headlines
- Example: "Microsoft, earnings"
- "Microsoft earnings lower than expected" YES
- "Much ado about nothing" NO





Keys to good label-writing

- Call things by their right name
- Be consistent
- Don't use internal company language
- Speak your audience's language
- Keep menus homogeneous
 - Men, women, children
 - o Men, women, tall people
- Keep labels clear
 - Humerous greeting cards
 - o Make someone smile

Menu or organisation chart? Reporting to the Director-General (DGREPORTS) > ILO Office in Japan (ILO-TOKYO) > Department of Communication and Public Information (DCOMM) > Director-General's Office (CABINET) > Ethics Office (ETHICS) > Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (PARDEV) Bureau for Gender Equality (GENDER) > International Institute for Labour Studies (INST) > International Training Centre (TURIN) > Legal Services (JUR) New York Liaison Office (NYLO) > Office of Internal Audit and Oversight (IAO) > Policy Integration and Statistics Department (INTEGRATION) > Bureau of Statistics (STAT) ILO Office in Washington D.C. (ILO-Washington) FatDUX Think in parallels Members of the MIT community interested in borrowing library materials not held by the MIT Libraries should contact the Interlibrary Borrowing Service. Document Service lends original materials owned by the MIT Libraries to other institutions. It also provides photocopies, including copies of dissertations and theses. Better: Interlibrary Loans If you are a member of the MIT community interested in borrowing materials from other libraries, use our Interlibrary Borrowing Service. If you are not a member of the MIT community and wish to borrow our materials, see our Document Services Department. FatDUX Source: http://libstaff.mit.edu/webgroup/writing/index.html Golden Rules #3a, 3b, 3c Don't make your audience think. Don't make them worry. Don't make them doubt.

(Semi) Golden Rule #4

- The headline of the page should be the same as the label of the link from which the page was accessed.
- If you click on <u>Light bulbs</u>, it's disturbing to land on "Spare Parts".

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Contextual navigation





Contextual navigation

- Uniquely labeled links that relate directly to the other content on the screen
 - o Download Annual Report (PDF, 347kb)
- Embedded hyperlinks
 - o Don't hesitate to contact us for further details.
- Bulleted lists
 - Find out more about:
 - Products
 - Services
 - References

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The "home" page

Priorities according to best guess (this is what folks usually do) 1. Home page Category pages 3. Detail pages 4. Forms/checkout 5. Landing pages FatDUX Priorities according to ROI (this is what folks should do) 1. Forms/checkout 2. Landing pages 3. Detail pages 4. Category pages 5. Home page FatDUX The home page is unique Spell out the big picture Put contact info and other useful stuff right up A good tagline is worth 1000 words "Thousands of DVDs at impossibly low prices"

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Rule #1

Web taglines explain what the site is about. Don't get cute or inventive. Improve and inspire.









Don't believe this nonsense!

- We don't need to explain the big picture. It's obvious.
- After people have seen the explanation once, they will find it annoying.
- Anybody who really needs our site will know what it is.
- That's what our advertising is for.
- We'll just add a "First-time visitor" link.

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What the home page does

- Establishes the brand
- Sets the tone
- Defines the tasks
- Gives visitors a push in the right direction

And text consists primarily of:

- A descriptive tagline
- Lots of links with short descriptive summaries

The hidden text	
FatDUX	
Important yet invisible (to most people)	
Meta dataMeta titles	
Meta descriptionsMeta keywords	
Convenience textAlt tags	
Help text	
FatDUX	
	ı
What is metadata?	
Machine-readable informationThree classes (organizational):	
IntrinsicAdministrative	
 Descriptive Three types (HTML) 	
Meta title Meta description	
Meta description Meta keywords	
FatDUX	
FALDOX	

Intrinsic:

Type: JPEG Size: 53 KB

Proportions: 600 x 800 px Taken: 18 June 2008

Administrative: Photographer: Mike Reilly Use: Christmas brochure 2008

Descriptive: teddy bear, steiff, plush toy, brown velour, red satin ribbon



Source: Flickr

Taxonomy

(hierarchical relationships in a controlled vocabulary)

Preferred term	Variants	Parent (broader)	Children (narrower)
car	automobile	transportation	Ford
	auto	personal transport	Toyota
	vehicle		subcompact
			SUV
			hybrid
			hot-rod

(plus associated terms: highway, road, limousine, detroit)

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Meta titles (keep 'em short and specific)

<TITLE>IE Business School</TITLE>



Meta titles are primary text! Search engines record this first It's the first text seen in the results list It's the text shown in Bookmarks and Favorites ■ The first word is the "killer term" Don't start with the name of your organization (except on the home page) Include important keywords Create Power Combos of 2-3 words Max. 69-75 characters FatDUX Meta description (140-200 characters) <META NAME="description" CONTENT="IE is an international higher education institution based in Madrid, Spain offering Doctoral degrees, Master degrees (MBAs, LL.M.s, Masters in Management, Executive MBA programs and Specialized Masters), Undergraduate, and Executive Education programs."/> IE Business School → - [Oversæt denne side] Instituto de Empresa Business School has built an international reputation based on its prestigous one-year Master Programmes and Executive Education ... www.ie.edu/business/ - 20k - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Lignende sider</u> FatDUX Meta descriptions generate interest! Search engines display this first It's the main text seen in the results list Include important keywords Include important trigger words Will often be identical to the first two lines of text on the target page. Max. 140-200 characters with spaces

Meta keywords (about 25 words)

<meta name="keywords" content="balance, disorder, equipment, audiologist, auditory, evoked, potential, dizzy, dizziness, vertigo, vestibular, diagnostics, disorder, chartr, eng, diagnostic, instrument, instrumentation"/>

ICS Medical Corporation-Leaders in vestibular diagnostics ...
Leaders in Otoneurologic Diagnostics. ICS provides otolaryngologists, neurologists and audiologists with balance and audiologic assessment capabilities. ...
Description develops and manufactures vestibular testing systems used in diagnosing ba Category: Business > Healthcare > ... > Medical Equipment > Manufacturers www.icsmedical.com/ - 11t. - Cached - Similar pages

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML ... of CHARTR technologies places ICS' CHARTR OAE with Tymp in ICS' trusted suite of CHARTR technologies places ICS' CHARTR in the forefront of comprehensive toneurologic diagnostics. ... www.pedihear.com/PDFs/OAE.pdf - Similar pages

Meta keywords (oops...banned for spamming?)

<meta name="keywords" content="IE Instituto de Empresa Business School Madrid Spain MBA programs M.B.A programmes executive mba master in management Executive masters specialized masters master of laws Ilm doctoral programs executive education MBA in Europe top mba ranking mba casestudy method key account manager global network learning communities"/>

FatDUX

Meta keywords (oops...banned for spamming?)

<meta name="keywords" content="IE Instituto de Empresa Business School Madrid Spain MBA programs M.B.A programmes executive mba master in management Executive masters specialized masters master of laws IIm doctoral programs executive education MBA in Europe top mba ranking mba casestudy method key account manager global network learning communities"/>

Proper meta keyword format

- Word or short phrase
- Comma
- Space
- New word <meta name="keywords" content="euroia, copenhagen, denmark, ia, information architecture, workshop..."/>

Source: Inktomi





Alt tags



- Usually used to explain a shorter label
- Can also function as pop-up help
 - O Click here for information about XXX.
- Great for labeling really stupid icons.
 Search engines index alt tags
- Needed by automatic screen readersRequired by ADA 508

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flsmidth.com in text-only mode



Source: flsmidth.com





Three keys to long-term visibility

- Text components

 - Visible content (use the cut-and-paste test)
 - Metadata
 - Alt text for all graphics
- Link components
 - Make sure your links have words
 - Problems: Poor HTML, image maps, Flash, frames, JavaScript, dynamic content (? & \$ = + %)
- Popularity components
 - Link popularity (quality outweighs quantity)
 - Click-through stats

One out of three may do the trick...but probably not

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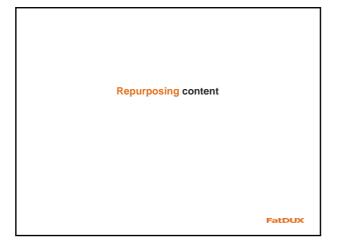
Tips for getting good reader results

- Examine your site in text-only mode
- Use descriptive headings
- <h1 id="title">Usability Tips</h1>
 Use descriptive link text
 Not just "Click here"

- Use descriptive Alt text

 "Link to JAWS product description page"
 Create lists using the tag
- Use logical linearization
- Start to finish, top to bottom, left to right
- Write clear page titles (meta titles)
- Write "front-loaded" paragraphs
 - Put the conclusion up front

Help text A convenience for users Often triggers a pop-up window Great for function-rich sites FatDUX Dialog boxes (error messages) Deal with technical issues First draft almost always provided by programmer ■ Too many "first-drafts" make it to the finished Don't be TOO helpful o "Are you sure you want to do this?" ■ 404 error – "Page not found" – should be first on everyone's "to do" list! FatDUX Common error messages Usually means the syntax used in the URL is incorrect. Example : uppercase letter should be lower case letter or wrong puctuation marks. 400 Bad File Request The server is looking for some encryption key from the client and is not getting it or a wrong password may have been entered. Try again and pay close attention to CaSe LeTtErInG. Similar to 401. Special permission is required to access the site (usually a password or username). Another instance may be caused by not having the proper permissions set up on the server. Forbidden/Access Denied The server cannot find the file (web page) you requested. The server cannot find the file (web page) you requested. 404 File Not Found Client stopped the request before the server finished retrieving it. A visitor will either hit the STOP button or close the browser or click on a link before the page loads. 408 Request Timeout



Repurposing print content

- Cut out the fluff
 - o all brochures are "written to fit"
- Get to the point fast
- See if anything should be moved to a subpage (increased granularity)
 - o But don't lose important data!
- Double the number of subheads
- Look for lists that can be bulleted
- First priority: create a shared reference

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However, and the product of the prod

On-line guides	
 People don't really want a user manual – They want an answer to a specific question! Not anwers to everyone else's questions! 	
 People don't want a PDF They want a specific chapter or page Secret to success? 	
Bulleted hyperlinked topics FAQ Searchable text	
 Alphabetical index 	
FatDUX	
	7
Landing page considerations	
FatDUX	
AdWord folks have two choices	
Buying more traffic	
 Buying traffic is subject to the law of diminishing returns 	
 Conversion optimization Is the only viable long-term option 	
 Which is why we're talking about this in a writing course and not a statistics course 	
(It's still all about creating shared references)	
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Five rules of web design

- Easy to read
- Easy to navigate
- Easy to find (external = Google, internal = IA)
- Consistent layout
- Fast download

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The golden rule of landing pages

• It answers the promise of the link leading to it.















The golden rule of landing pages

• It answers the promise of the link leading to it.

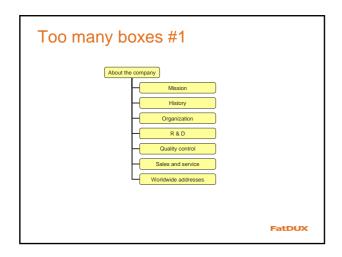
FatDUX

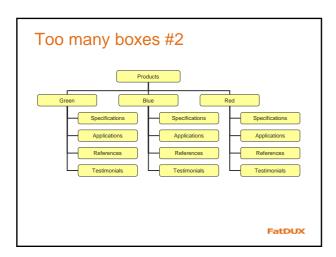


Source: zacjohnson.com

CALL TO	ACTION TEXT HERE
CALL TO ACTION IMAGE	"BEST CALL TO ACTION HEADER . KEY POINT TWO . KEY POINT THREE . KEY POINT FOUR CALL TO ACTION HERE Try IL Free Today! SOME TYPE OF REMANDER OR LIMITED TIME PROMOTION TEXT
[LEGITIMA	CY IMAGE OR "AS SEEN ON"]
TESTIMONIAL TEXT OR PRODUCT INFORMATION	TESTIMONIAL PICTURE OR PRODUCT PLACEMENT HERE
REASON TO PURC	CHASE OR ACT NOW! - Try It FREE Now

Seven rules of landing-page design	
Mirror your ad	
Keep your message simpleStraightforward headline (or even same as ad)	
Straightforward copyVisible trustbuilding devices	
Clear call to action3. Don't take over the browser	
4. Limit the response options (but provide options)5. Keep registration forms simple	
6. Use your encore page proactively7. Take nothing for granted	
FatDUX	
Information architecture reprise	
information architecture reprise	
FatDUX	
	_
Information architecture - again	
You need to give feedback to others on the web	
team You are the "first line of defence" against bad	
decisions Your opinion can make a BIG difference	
. I II. I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	
FatDUX	







A few parting comments	
	-
	-
FatDUX	
Refining the language	
 Are we still talking to our primary target 	
audience? Are our labels accurate and informative?	
Can any of our labels be misinterpreted?Are we speaking a language our audience	-
understands? Have we established effective shared	
references? • Are we an organization to be trusted?	
FatDUX	
Falbux	
Maguand F. LISZT SOCIETY, BUDAPEST Liszt Ferenc Társaság, Budapest V., Verdemety u. 35., H-1064, Hungary Phone/Fax + 26.1 49.1 1973. 37.	
hambinum@auniero.hu Bank account OTP Bank, Budspest VI, Andrássy út 83, H-1062, Hungary. Account No. 11705016-20419661. SWIFT CODE: OTP-HIJHE	-
E THE TANK	
History and structure. The Society, which bears the name of the great Hungarian composer and planist Franc Lisst (1811-1896), was founded in 1993, after initiatives dating back to the	
FatDUX	

In English

LISZT FERENC TÁRSASÁG, BUDAPEST 1064 Budapest, Vörösmarty u. 35.7/F: (361) 342 1573

hambryan Bankszámia: OTP 162 Andrássy út 83, 117 066 016-204 419 66



Történet, szerkezet. A Liszt Ferenc (1811-86), a nagy magyar zeneszerző és zongoraművésznevét viselő Társaság több, még a Mestere felsében formálósó kezdeményezés után, 1993-benalalut. A 2. világháborúg kisebb-nagyobb szönetekkel működött. 1973-ban pártfüggettenegyesületkent, újjászületett. A rendszerválás ó tal tüggetten, osallól, magyar

FatDU:



Feng Yang

11/10/09

10-11-09

10/XI-2009

10 Nov 2009



VAT MOMS MVS TVA IVA BTW

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Refining structure

- Do we really have something to say on each of the main category pages (or are they merely glorified menus)?
- Have some pages been created merely for the sake of completeness?
- If someone has submitted information or placed an order, are all the appropriate "Thank you's" and other encore pages indicated?

Your e-mail has been successfully sent.	
Already on «Bay user? From sign information is not sold. Please by again. View all your bedding and selling activities in one location. «they then to press	
Service 100 years, All allows from preferred and detac core services from left from the first fr	
FatDUX	
Refining goals and growth	
 Does the structure live up to our primary goals? Is the site meeting the goals of our target audience? Have we given people a reason to come back and visit again? 	
 Is the site prepared for growth and/or change in the future? Have we found our site's USP? Is our product the hero? 	
FatDUX	
	1
Basic reading	
Web Word Wizardry Rachel McAlpine (Ten Speed Press, 2002)	
Information Architecture for the WWW Peter Morville, Louis Rosenfeld (O'Reilly, 2006)	
Don't Make Me Think! Steve Krug (New Riders, 2000)	

Advanced reading Letting Go of the Words Janice (Ginny) Redish (Morgan Kaufmann, 2007) Hot Text: web writing that works Jonathan and Lisa Price (New Riders, 2002) Web Copy That Sells Maria Veloso (Amacom, 2005) FatDUX Style guides Chicago Manual of Style 14th edition (University of Chicago Press, 1993) Web Style Guide, 3rd edition Patrick J. Lynch and Sarah Horton (Yale University Press, 2009) Web Content Style Guide Gerry McGovern, Rob Norton, and Catherine O'Dowd (FT, 2002) FatDUX On-line resources http://www.fatdux.com/resources.html FatDUX bibliography and key links http://libstaff.mit.edu/webgroup/writing/layer.html Very good writing guide from MIT http://www.useit.com/papers/webwriting/ Jakob Nielsen's "Writing for the web" http://www.sun.com/980713/webwriting/ Sun Microsystems web-writing guide

http://www.library.yale.edu/eli/instruction/webwriting.html
 Excellent links and initiatives from Yale University

You can (usually) find Eric at:

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Twitter: @elreiss er@fatdux.com www.fatdux.com

