

Web Design and Databases WD: Class 2: Layout and writing for the web

Dr Jamie Gabbay Dept of Computer Science Heriot-Watt University



Last time

- Pre-production
- Navigation
- Layout
- Writing

Distinctly Global www.hw.ac.uk

Last Time

- Theme
 - Represents the site's purpose and content
- Visual metaphor
 - Design or visual elements that help to reinforce the site's theme
 - Images, icons, colours, fonts
 - Interface elements
- Information Architecture





Homework reminder



- Find 3 websites with clear themes/metaphors
- Discuss these themes, metaphors and use of colour.



Today's Class: Web Design Basics

- Pre-production
- Navigation
- Layout
- Writing



Layout

- 1. Symmetry
- 2. Compositional balance

Getting the layout right







Different Types of Symmetry

- Symmetrical balance
- Asymmetrical balance



Symmetry

- Symmetrical websites can be beautiful and harmonious
- Symmetry conveys balance, harmony, unity, stability, consistency, elegance, and classicism- good for e.g. wedding websites
- Sometimes can be a bit boring and static
- Asymmetry is often lacking in inherent beauty but is more interesting and dynamic
- Can combine the two





Different types of symmetry





Reflection symmetry



- Mirrors an element around a central axis.
- This axis can be in any direction or orientation
- Natural forms that grow or move across the earth's surface develop a reflective symmetry.



Reflection symmetry example





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Reflective symmetry example





Watch the keynote





Watch the iPhone 4S video

Watch the iCloud video



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Rotational symmetry



- Rotational symmetry (or radial symmetry) is when an object is rotated in a certain direction around a point.
- Rotational symmetry can be used in design to portray motion, speed, and dynamic action.



Rotational symmetry





Translation symmetry



- Is when an element is relocated to another position while maintaining its general or exact orientation
- Is used to create rhythm in designs and is also used to show motion, speed, and dynamic action.



Translation example



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We can combine different types of symmetry











Asymmetrical Balance



- Asymmetry is the lack of symmetry
- Implies lack of balance but....
- Compositional balance can be achieved through clever design
- More common, more interesting and dynamic, but more difficult to achieve



Asymmetric example



Asymmetrical but has compositional balance



THE man

HOME

ABOUT HEMINGWAY

"As you get older it is harder to have heroes, but it is sort of necessary."

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

... THE legend ... THE journey

Welcome to the official home of the Ernest Hemingway collection of products. For over ten years the collection has represented the lifestyle, personality, and enthusiasm for adventure espoused by one of America's most celebrated literary masters.

WHAT

PRODUCTS

Ernest Hemingway is truly an iconic figure, a man who lived large on the world's stage. Not just his writing, but his lifestyle too has become the stuff of legend. A willing ambassador for the Lost Generation, the globe trotting, prize-winning author was wounded in WWI, cavorted with Hollywood stars, tracked game through the African bush, fished the Gulf Stream, survived two plane crashes, and even once hunted German Uboats in the Caribbean.

When not watching a bullfight in Spain, or exploring the streets of Paris, Hemingway was writing. He changed the modern literary landscape with his short prose and definitive style, earning both the Pulitzer and Nobel prizes. Loved by critics and adored by fans, his works have since become staples of American literature. As an award winning author, avid outdoorsman, and a true citizen of the world, his spirit lives on today as one of the great personalities of the last century.

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Symmetrical- well almost





prilosophy thereis about contant

Combining symmetrical and asymmetrical



- Symmetry (particularly transitional) is great for patterns, backgrounds, the general layout, content, and anything else that is meant to be visually passive.
- Asymmetry is effective in drawing attention and breaking monotony.



Example of mixed

Asymmetrical website

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ACCELLAR DESCRIPTION ACTUALING



Combining symmetry and asymmetry

Asymmetry introduced by irregular pattern





philosophy thanks about instant

Design tips and best practice

- Designs that need more stability, a strong organizational structure, and a classic and trusting message, tend to use more symmetry in the design.
- For those wanting to take a bit more of a risk and want to enforce a message use asymmetry

Compositional balance



• Important design principal in web design



Symmetrical designs and compositional balance





The (1) weight of the various elements on either side of the axis and their (2) distance from the axis will determine if your design is balanced.

Asymmetrical designs and compositional balance





Asymmetrical designs and compositional balance





Visual Weight in Design Elements



TEXTURE SIZE SHAPE

COLOUR

VALUE





Balanced by Size





Larger elements carry more weight

Balanced by Colour



Some colours are perceived as weighing more than others. Red seems to be heaviest while yellow seems to be lightest.

Balance by Value





A darker object will have more weight than a lighter object

Balance by Shape





A small complicated shape can balance a large simple shape. A large uncluttered area can balance a small busy area containing many shapes.
Balance by Texture





A busy, high contrast texture on a small shape will balance a larger shape with a smooth, matte surface.

Balance by Density





Packing more elements into a given space, gives more weight to that space

Balance by Position



A smaller object farther away from the center will balance a larger object that is closer to the center.

Graphics from

Distinctly Global www.hw.ac.uk

http://www.siggraph.org/education/materials/HyperGraph/design/composition/balance_in_composition.htm



Summary

- Size As you would expect larger elements carry more weight
- **Colour** It's not fully understood why, but some colours are perceived as weighing more than others. Red seems to be heaviest while yellow seems to be lightest.
- Value A darker object will have more weight than a lighter object
- **Density** Packing more elements into a given space, gives more weight to that space
- Shape, texture, position.....

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http://www.vanseodesign.com/web-design/web-design-balance/

Size: lots of smaller items balance out large block

Density: items packed closely together balance out large block

Value: Smaller, more intense, full cup of coffee balances out large amount of light colour

> Shape: lots of different shapes balance square large block

EmestHeininguran





"As you get older it is harder to have heroes, but it is sort of necessary."

1502 m

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Welcome to the official home of the Ernest Hemingway collection of products. For over ten years the collection has represented the lifestyle, personality, and enthusiasm for adventure espoused by one of America's most celebrated literary masters.

Ernest Hemingway is truly an iconic figure, a man who lived large on the world's stage. Not just his writing, but his lifestyle too has become the stuff of legend. A willing ambassador for the Lost Generation, the globe trotting, prize-winning author was wounded in WWI, cavorted with Hollywood stars, tracked game through the African bush, fished the Gulf Stream, survived two plane crashes, and even once hunted German Uboats in the Caribbean.

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> Texture: texture of wood balances out smooth block



Next: Tips and tools to getting the layout right

Interface Elements







Humans like things to be lined up









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wellbeing of the population.

Canada shows a profound lack of commitment to halting climate change.

- Green MEP Warns Durban Agreement Falls Short Of Stemming Climate Change
- · Green Party calls for sustainable economics that puts society, democracy and jobs first.
- Climate Change Summit: Will Durban **Disappoint?**

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How wide should my grid be? Introducing The Golden Ratio



The longer part (a) divided by the smaller part (b) Is also equal to The whole length (a+b) divided by the longer part (a)

http://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/golden-ratio.html





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Graphic from photoshop.com









	62cm	n content	38cm- sidebar, Navigation etc.
00cm			Distinctly Pro

Grid Theory



38cm- sidebar, Navigation etc.	62cm content
100cm	Distinctly Proba



Let's short cut this



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HERIOT

Elements at the top align with elements at the bottom

Grids

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12 column grid

Grids can be used for translational symmetry



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- Most websites are 960 pixels long. <u>http://960.gs/</u>. This website provides templates and grid overlays.
- <u>http://peol.github.com/960gridder/</u> grid overlay tool.
- Grids available on these sites include
 - 9 columns
 - 12 columns
 - 16 columns
 - 24 columns

Activity: add the following elements to your grid



Title/Logo	NAV	NAV	NAV	NAV

Photo	
Text	Text
	Text
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Summary on layout



- Humans like things lined up and in proportion- use a grid to do this.
- Golden ratio seen in nature and art should be used in web design to achieve this.
- Humans like things to be in 1/3 and 2/3
- Grid overlays can help design.

Before we talk about writing

- HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY
- We need to understand who the audience is.
- Think about age.
- Average time spent online.
- Interests and occupation.







Audience?



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Audience?





3 for 2 on all ColourMatch



Mix and match to suit your personality with our extensive range from ColourMatch. Cheapest item free. Subject to availability. Offer ends 04/02/2014.

See our best deals



Browse our best selection of unmissable deals. Subject to availability.

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Writing for Web: What's wrong here?



Welcome to Helen Hastie's Homepage



discussion during the #ParlanceProject kick-off meeting this week @HeriotWattUni. 3 years of exciting collaboration ahead!

fbactio Hariot-Watt is

About me

I am a Lecturer in the Computer Science department and a member of in the Interaction Lab in the School of MACS (Mathematical and Computer Sciences) at Heriot Watt University. Before that I was at Informatics at the University of Edinburgh and before that I was at ATL, Lockheed Martin, NJ, USA and AT&T Research Labs, NJ U.S.A.. My research interest include evaluation of spoken dialogue systems and evaluation, Natural Language Generation and Health Informatics. I am keen to be involved in any knowledge transfer activities including consulting. I am also career's officer for Computer Science students at Heriot-Watt. Finally, I am a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Young Academy. The School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences (MACS) is a flagship School of Heriot-Watt University, leading in research and research-led teaching. The Department of Computer Science is an active member of the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA), a major Scottish Funding Council supported research pool. MACS wins extensive national and international support for its research, with projects advancing frontiers in telecommunications, safety critical systems, virtual characters, games design, image processing, data mining and automated mathematics. It was a partner in the FP6 projects eCircus and HUMAINE and is a partner in the FP7 projects LIREC, eCute and CLASSiC. The Intelligent Systems Laboratory, where this project is based within the Department of Computer Science, is involved in agent based and knowledge based systems, affective computing, artificial neural networks and evolutionary computing for a range of applications such as computational neuroscience, computer based diagnosis and classification, intelligent user interfaces and fault-tolerant robotics. Staff members Dr Helen Hastie is a lecturer in the School of MACS at HWU and a member of their Interaction Lab, where her current research includes statistical Natural Language Generation for the FP7 CLASSIC project. She was previously a lead member of engineering in the Artificial Intelligence Lab at Lockheed Martin in New Jersey, U.S.A. where she managed large, multi-site projects with customers such as DARPA, US Marine Corps and the CIA. She successfully managed and inspired a team of engineers, completing key deliverables across entire project life cycles on schedule and within budget. Prior to this she worked at AT&T Research Labs, New Jersey, U.S.A. where she received 2 patents for her work on multi-modal city guides and worked on automatic evaluation for the COMMUNICATOR challenge. She has extensive experience running experiments and evaluations of spoken dialogue systems. She holds a PhD from the Centre of Speech Technology at

Writing for web



- **Book**: read left right
- Web: users scan text for keywords and concepts
- **Book**: users spend hours reading
- Web: users spend very little time on an individual page



Check list



- ✓ Clearly written headers
- ✓ Small(ish) paragraphs
- ✓ Use bold/italics for emphasis
- Use lists (ordered or unordered) for appropriate context

Writing for Web: What's right here?



Tiger, the largest and heaviest living

(edit)

[edit]

species of the cat family

Short

Bullet

points

Clear

headers

rough the larvnx on the way from the lungs, the cartilage walls of the larvnx vibrate, producing sound. The lion's larvnx is longest, giving it the most robust roar [edit] paragraphs cipal threats to big cats varies upon geographical location, but primarily are habitat destruction and poaching. In Africa many big cats are persecuted by pastoralists or government 'problem animal Certain protected areas exist that shelter large and exceptionally visible populations of lions, hyenas, leopards and cheetahs, such as Botswana's Chobe, Kenya's Masai Mara and

is rather outside these conservation areas where persecution poses the dominant threat to large carnivores.[3][dead link]

In the United States, 19 states have banned ownership of big cats and other dangerous exotic animals as pets, and the Captive Wildlife Safety Act bans the interstate sale and transportation of these animals.^[4]

She ability to roar comes from an elongated and specially adapted larvnx and hyoid apparatus.^[2] (However, the snow leopard cannot roar, despite having hyoid morphology similar to roaring cats.) When

Species

Family Felidae

Big cat

Asia, and Europe Contents [hide] 1 Roaring 2 Threats

3 Species

Evolution eferences 6 External links Roaring

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Redirected from Big cats)

- · Genus Panthera (roaring or great cats)
- Tiger, Panthera tigris (Asia)
- Lion, Panthera leo (Africa, Gir Forest in India; extinct in former range of southeast Europe, Middle East, much of Asia, and North America)
- Jaguar, Panthera onca (the Americas; from the Southern United States and Mexico to northern Argentina) Leopard, Panthera pardus (Asia and Africa)

Genus Acinonyx

· Cheetah, Acinonyx jubatus (Africa and Iran; extinct in former range of India)

Genus Puma

- Coupar, Puma concolor (North and South America)
- Genus Uncia
- · Snow Leopard, Uncla uncla (mountains of central and south Asia)

Genus Neofelis

- · Clouded Leopard, Neofelis nebulosa (southeast and south Asia)
- · Sunda Clouded Leopard, Neofelis diardi (Borneo and Sumatra)

Evolution

A 2010 study published in Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution has given insight into the exact evolutionary relationships of the big cats.^[5] The study reveals that the snow leopard and the tiger are sister species, while the lion, leopard, and jaquar are more closely related to each other. The tiger and snow leopard diverged from the ancestral big cats approximately 3.9 Ma. The tiger then evolved into a unique species towards the end of the Pliocene epoch, approximately 3.2 Ma. The ancestor of the lion, leopard, and jaguar split from other big cats from 4.3-3.8 Ma. Between 3.6-2.5 Ma the jaguar

diverged from the ancestor of lions and leopards. Lions and leopards split from one another approximately 3.1-1.95 Ma.^[6]

3 9 Ma 3 2 Ma now leopard **Distinctly Global** www.hw.ac.uk

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Panthera

[edit]

Activity



- Reorganise the text in the hand out to be more readable:
- Remember:
 - Clearly written headers
 - Small(ish) paragraphs
 - Use bold/italics for emphasis
 - Use lists (ordered or unordered) for appropriate context

School Aims

Curriculum

To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum that provides young people with the best possible learning opportunities and experiences.

Attainment

To ensure that all pupils are able to realise their full potential through the promotion and recognition of achievement and excellence.

Learning and Teaching

To provide effective support systems for all pupils which promote personal and social development and underpin academic achievement.

Support for Pupils

To provide effective support systems for all pupils which promote personal and social development and underpin academic achievement.

Ethos

To provide a welcoming, safe and caring environment in which each pupil is valued and supported.

Resource Management

To improve the quality of learning and teaching, through the effective organisation and management of resources.

Management and Leadership

To ensure that the school's promoted staff provide high quality leadership, management and support.

Professional Development

To improve the quality of educational experiences through a programme of continuing professional development for all staff.

Partnership

To build and maintain effective partnerships between the school and its' parent body, external support agencies and its' wider community.

Learning for Life

To equip pupils with the foundation skills, attitudes and expectations required to prosper in a changing society and to encourage creativity and respect for others.

Health

To actively promote healthy attitudes and behaviours in the whole school community.



This is the special mosaic made by the whole school.

Thumbnail School

more

Events

« January 2013											
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fn	Sat	Sun					
	1	2	3	4	5	6					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
28	29	30	31								

Upcoming events

No upcoming events available
 More

HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

Distinctly Global

• Layout:

Summary

- Think about your audience
- Symmetrical or Asymmetrical Balance depending on the look and feel of the website
- Must have compositional balanced
- 2/3 and 1/3 rule
- Line things up using a Grid Overlays
- Writing:
 - People scan text rather than read
 - Chop it up with clear headers

Homework for next Monday



- Find 3 really bad websites
- Tell us why they are so bad and how they can be improved

Part 1 Assignment due Friday week 2



- Work in pairs- each person submits through TurnItIn. Put BOTH names on the document.
- Document should contain:
 - 1. screenshots of your website design,
 - 2. description of any design decisions you made,
 - 3. your IA diagram.
- For 1. one screenshot is the minimum required, but try to aim for 2-3 screenshots of your website design.
- We will be looking for good, well-balanced design (e.g. use of 2/3-1/3 rule) and a theme expressed through visual metaphors, good explanation of design decisions and a well thought through IA.

Today's Lab



- Work on layout and writing for the School website
- Use collaborative mock-up software Balsamiq.

Meet Balsamiq Mockups, our Rapid Wireframing Tool



Next Time (Monday)



- Usability
- Reading: Don't make me think Ch 1-2