

DESIGN EYE FOR FRIGHTFUL UIs

AKA A PRIMER FOR OPEN SOURCE DEVELOPERS ON WORKING WITH DESIGNERS

PRESENTED BY

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Fedora's mission:

To lead the advancement of free & open source software and content as a collaborative community.

... Fedora consistently seeks to create, improve, and spread free/libre code & content.

How do we do that?

We need design.

Question...
How do we
get it?



TODAY'S TOPICS:

- #1** Figure out your story.
- #2** Prepare to share.
- #3** Attract designers' attention.
- #4** Negotiate.

#1

Figure out your story.

Once upon
a time, in a
galaxy far, far
away...

Tell me
more!



What problem are you trying to solve?

(What's the "villian?")

It's too hard to get a network connection!

DAN WILLIAMS, circa 2004,
RE: NETWORK MANAGER? :)



What kind of help do you need?

EXAMPLES:

EXISTING SOFTWARE

"Users are complaining it's hard-to-use. I want to know how I can improve it for better usability."

Usability test & redesign with mockups.

EXISTING SOFTWARE

"My software is ugly and has bad icons. Can you make it pretty?"

Icon design, logo design, maybe illustration.

NEW SOFTWARE

"I have a great idea, and I want to do it right with a designer at the beginning."

User research, Brainstorm, task analysis, mockups.

NEW SOFTWARE

"I want my software to do X, but I'm not sure how it should work. What do you think users will like?"

User research, Brainstorm, task analysis, mockups.

What's your scope?

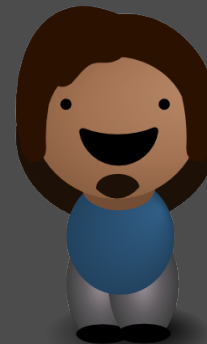
My server will have a admin CLI. The client will be a GTK+ app.



My web app will have an admin and end user UI.



My app is a small panel applet.



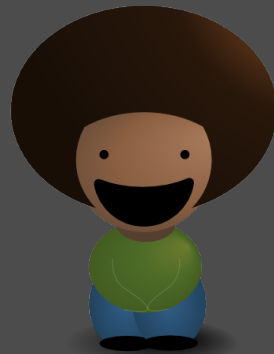
Who is it for?



Who is it for?

What's their technical experience?

I've been using computers for a long time but I'm not a programmer.



I just got my very own computer. I'm most comfortable using GUIs.



I'm pretty technical. I know perl and python and write scripts that use APIs to get my job done.



Why use it?

What will they be able to accomplish with it?

How will it change their lives for the better?

Where's the action?

Where should someone go to get involved?



We work on it together. We are in IRC during EU daylight hours.

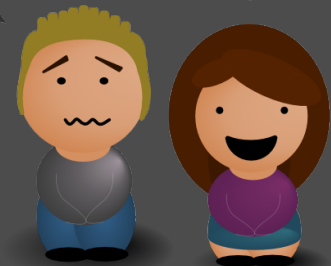
We have a mailing list, too!

#2

Prepare to share.

What are we
preparing to
share?

Our story,
silly!



Document your story

#1 What problem are you trying to solve?

#2 What is the scope of your project?

#3 Who is it for?

#4 What can they accomplish with it?

#5 What design help do you need?

#6 Where's the action?

Write a top 5 task list

What are the 5 most important things users should be able to accomplish using this application?

Top 5 Task List

- 1** I want to get a cool Fedora shirt or hat to wear around and show my support.
- 2** I want to hand out Fedora shirts, stickers, and other bling at a conference booth I am running.
- 3** I want to order Fedora bling I am paying for and ship it out to an ambassador to use.
- 4** I want lots of Fedora media to hand out at an install fest.
- 5** I want to design a cool new piece of Fedora bling and submit it to be considered.

Prepare a demo

EXISTING SOFTWARE

Sketch out your ideas and scan them in. Make a wiki page.
Take screenshots of the features you like from other apps.

NEW SOFTWARE

Make a screenshot slideshow.
Record a personal tour of the interface using screen capture.
Create a pre-installed virtual machine for demoing.
Schedule a live demo using VNC.
Install a live test environment for folks to check out.

Where's the action?

We work on it together. We are in IRC during EU daylight hours.

We have a mailing list, too!



#3

Attract designers'
attention.

You attract them
and I will
catch them!



Silly-head!
That is NOT what
she means! Put the
net away!!

Get the word out

Make a call-for-help blog post.

Create a ticket in the Fedora Design queue:

<https://fedorahosted.org/design-team/>

Send a note to the Fedora Design team:


design-team@lists.fedoraproject.org

Designers are visual!

HELP ME

PROJECT A

HELP ME



PROJECT B

Ooh pretty pictures! Project B looks fun to work on!



Designers aren't as technical as you!

MY PROJECT

My project is about ADSLRGq##\$ and @%#TLKT and it enables users to ##JKGJSGAKq and it is TRGDGTK#JHY# #KJT#K\$JY.

PROJECT A

MY PROJECT

My project is about LKEG54%q. That is a method of working with video on the computer. It also involves ESRLGTK#L\$KG. That means it works fast.

PROJECT B

I understand project B a lot better. I'll work on that one!



Designers are pressed for time!

MY TIMELINE

I have a grand vision that will obviously take years to achieve. I work slowly. There aren't many people helping me.

PROJECT A

MY TIMELINE

This project has a well-defined scope and I have a well-defined roadmap. I need help with the first phase. This is a 2 month project.

PROJECT B

It looks like I'll have time to work on project B!



Designers are pressed for time!

WHAT I NEED

I need design help. Look how bad this is. Oh my do I need design help. Help me. With design. Help.

PROJECT A

WHAT I NEED

I would like a usability test of feature A - it's new and I'm not sure how users are receiving it.

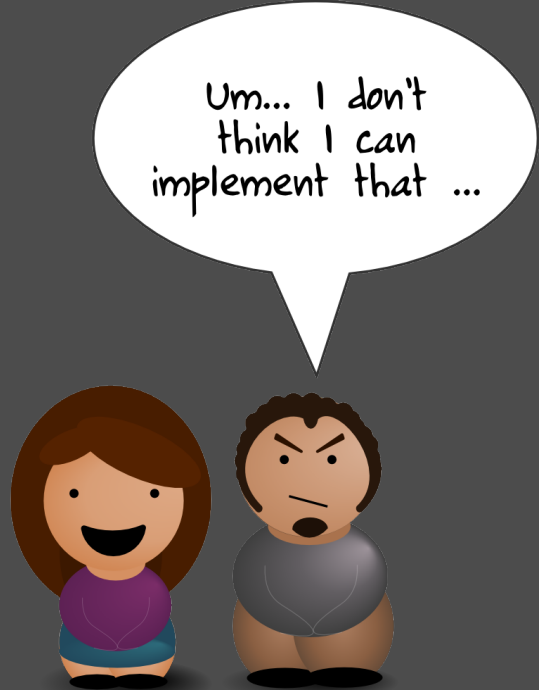
PROJECT B

It's clear what project B needs. I'll help them.



#4

Negotiate.



So, we really need a flashy clickable map that glows and pans and zooms...

Um... I don't think I can implement that ...

Developers are not designers.
Be open-minded.

Design is a conversation.



So, I really
can't implement
that.

Okay!
Let's figure out
another way to
achieve the same
goal!

The solution is in the middle.

There are tech constraints. I don't want to waste time/effort for something not needed.



REALITY

I want the best experience possible for the end users.



BLUE SKY

Make clear and agree on work items.

MOCKUPS

USER INTERVIEWS

ICONS

OTHER ARTWORK

USABILITY PLANS

USABILITY TESTS

USABILITY ANALYSIS

And of course, time frames.

Questions?

