

# Building Websites People Can Actually Use

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VP Consulting Services, High Monkey Consulting

MARCH 13, 2013





## Introduction

- Welcome & thanks to Kentico for hosting the Webinar
- Please ask questions during the Webinar
- High Monkey Background . . .
  - Certified Kentico Partner (on the path to Gold)
  - Designing and building websites since 1998
  - Web and Interface design core competency
  - User Experience focus for all web projects
  - We've worked with many CMS' Kentico powers our site
  - Clients throughout the US and Canada
  - With a name like ours . . . we have a good sense of humor



# What We Will Cover Today

- Understanding the value of usability studies and when to conduct them
- What goes into creating a user-centric Information Architecture
- New ways to think about (and re-write) your content
- Why design matters: Less is more than you think
- Selecting a Content Management System: It doesn't have to hurt
- "To Mobile or not to Mobile" . . . enable your website
- How to gain buy-in for your website design and Information Architecture

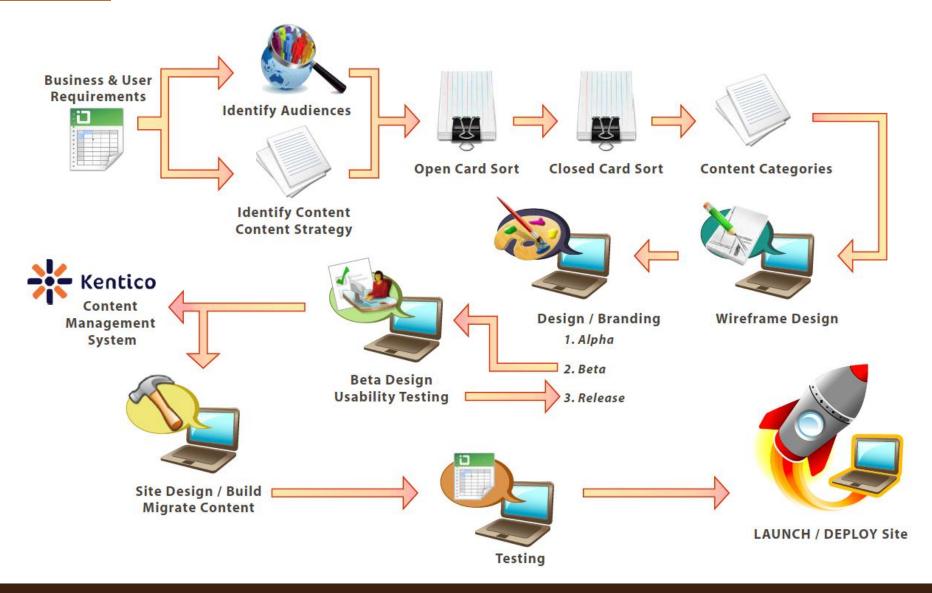


# Typical Tasks to Build a Website

- Project Planning
- Define Information Architecture
  - User and Business Requirements
  - Develop Web & Content Strategies
  - Open and Closed Card Sorts
  - Wireframe Concept Designs and Screen Mockups
- Usability / User Experience Testing
- Design & Branding
- CMS Criteria / Evaluation / Implementation
- Website Build / Content Migration / Testing
- Documentation & Training



# The High Monkey Methodology





### Information Architecture

- 1. IA is a practice not a strategy
- 2. In IA, there is no single right answer
- 3. We thought Org Chart = Site Map
- 4. We thought everyone thinks about information the same way we do
- 5. We thought it was about "putability" not findability
- 6. So . . . why isn't search the answer?



### **Before & After IA**

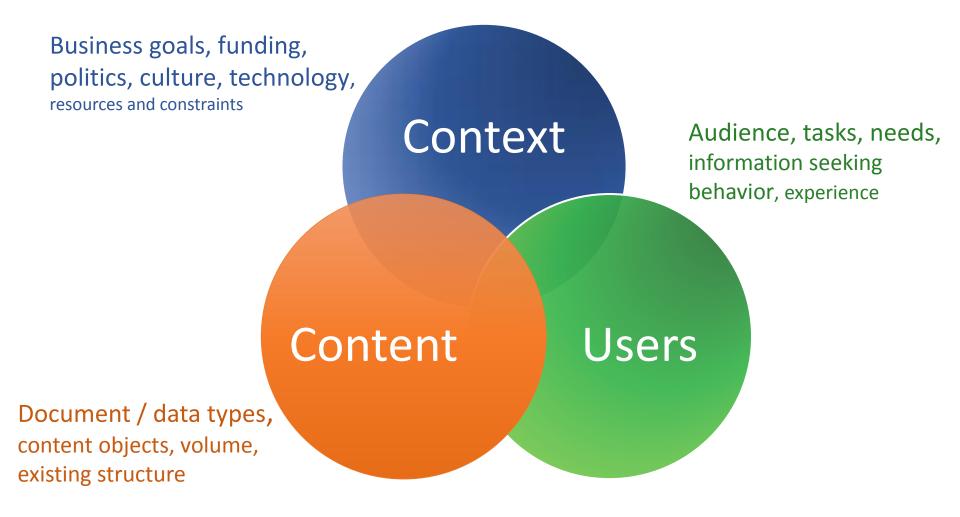




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### How is IA Broken Down?





## Context

 All web sites and intranets exist within a particular business or organizational context

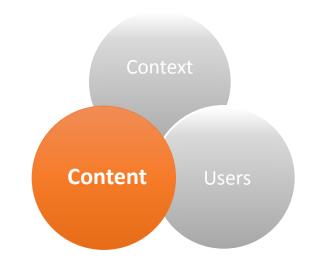
- Context

  Content Users
- Each organization has a mission, goals, strategy, staff, processes and procedures, physical and technology infrastructure, budget, and culture
- the key to success is understanding and alignment



### Content

- Includes documents, applications, services, schema, and metadata that people need to use or find on your site
  - How much content do you have?
  - What are the formats your content is in?
  - Who owns your content?





## **Users**

- Every user has different experiences and abilities to draw from
- Context

  Content

  Users
- Every user has different needs and wants
- Do you know how your users use your site now?



### What Feeds An IA?

- Current Site Usability Test Results
- User Requirements
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- Web Strategy
- Content Strategy
- Open Card Sort Results
- Closed Card Sort Results
- Wireframe Design
- Wireframe Usability Test Results



# **Usability**

MORDAC, THE PREVENTER OF INFORMATION SERVICES.

SECURITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN USABILITY.







# **What Goes Into A Usability Test?**

- Learnability how easy can the user accomplish basic tasks?
- Efficiency How quickly can tasks be performed?
- Memorability After a period of non-use, how easily can a user reestablish proficiency?
- Errors How many errors does the user / system make?
   How severe? Can the user recover?
- Satisfaction How pleasant is it to use the design?



# Why Usability Matters



- Representative mix of audience members
- Scenario based behaviors
- Video recording of computer screen and PIP of tester
- It's very hard to argue against the cold hard facts of a usability test (especially the videos)
- It is a LOUD and CLEAR voice of your audience(s)



# Requirements & Strategy

- Business and User Requirements
  - What do internal users of the website need from it?
  - What do external visitors of the website need?



- Audiences
  - Who are your web audiences? How do you know?



- Content
  - Relevance What about generational differences?
  - When text is good When you should go visual
  - Make it real tell a story that engages visitors





# **Audience Examples**



### **College or University**

- High School Seniors
- Parents of Students
- Veterans
- "Non-Traditional"
   Students
- Online Students
- Guidance Counselors
- Alumni
- News Media
- Elected Officials

### **For Profit Company**

- Product Buyers
- Product Reviewers
- Warranty Holders
- News Media
- Compliance Agencies
- Philanthropic
   Organizations
- Employees
- Suppliers
- Distributors

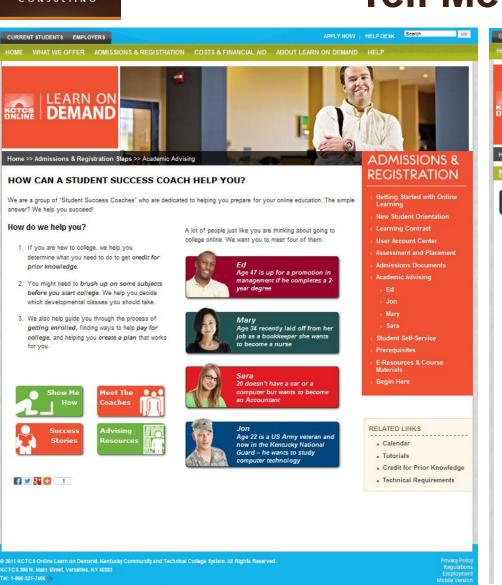


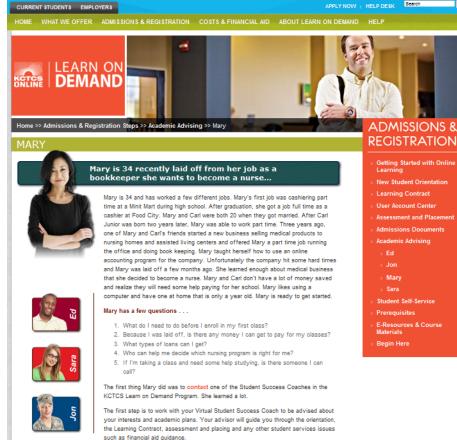
# **Content Strategy – Why It Matters**

- Search, search Can people find information?
  - Misspellings & Alternate Spellings
  - People don't care what you think it should be called . . .
- Teens and 20-somethings have some pretty bad information finding behaviors
- 40-50 year olds actually read content and are usually patient enough to find what they need
- Tell me a story! Engage me and make me care.
- Show me a picture! When words are not enough.



# Tell Me A Story!





Students can apply for Subsidized Direct or Unsubsidized Direct loans. Financial aid for the Learn on Demand program functions a little differently than financial aid for courses on campus or online through Learn By Term. Contact the Go KCTCS! Student

Learn on Demand provides every student with a network of Virtual Student Success Coaches that will guide you through the decision making process. You will be assigned

Students can enhance their academic success by taking advantage of course-specific

tutoring available through Learn on Demand. Course-specific tutoring is provided at no

your own personal Coach who will guide you every step of the way.

Service Center for more information.

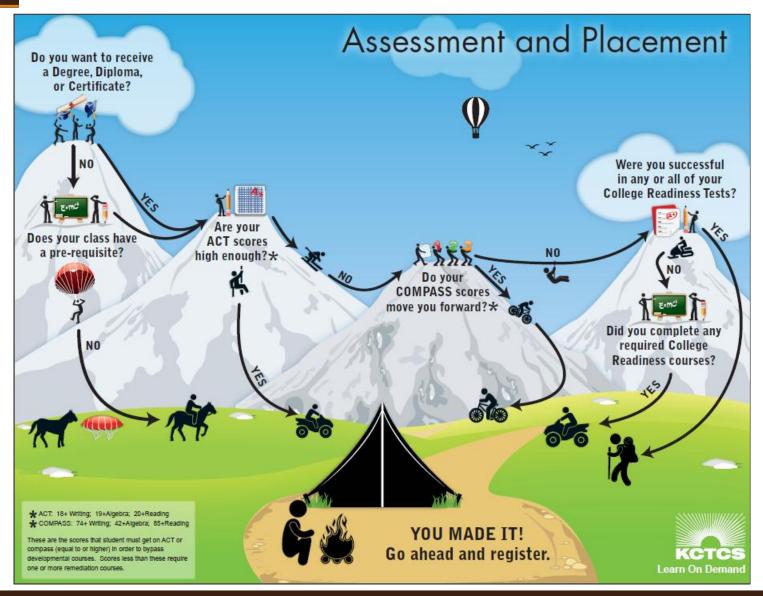
additional cost to Learn on Demand students.

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KCTC & is an equal educational and employment opportunity institution.

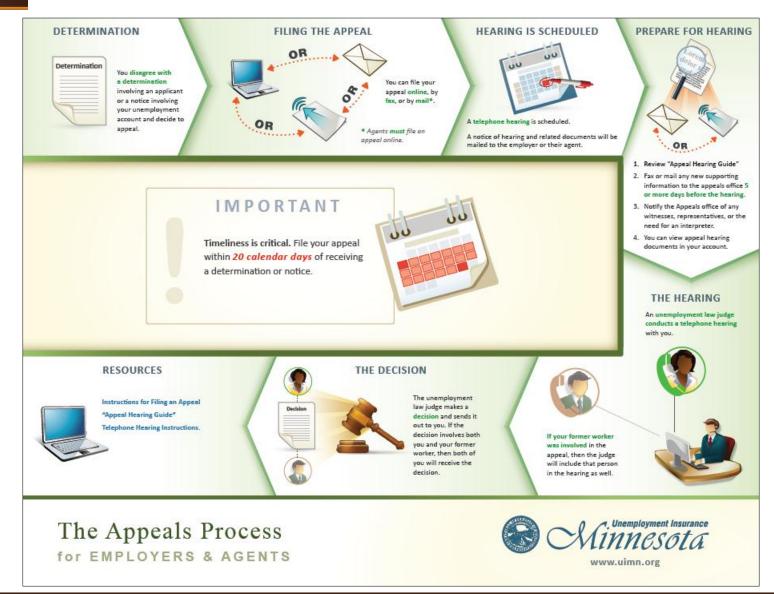


## **Show Me A Picture!**





# **Show Me A Picture!**





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# **Open & Closed Card Sorts**

- Usually 10 audience members per sort
- Open Sort
  - 75-100 index cards containing information
  - Sort and group information in a way that makes sense
  - Audience member labels the groups
  - Evaluate statistical relevance of groupings
- Closed Sort (validation)
  - Provide group labels
  - Audience members sort the same cards under the groups
  - Evaluate and refine statistical relevance of groupings
- Science (and some art)





### **Pros & Cons of Card Sorts**



### **Pros**

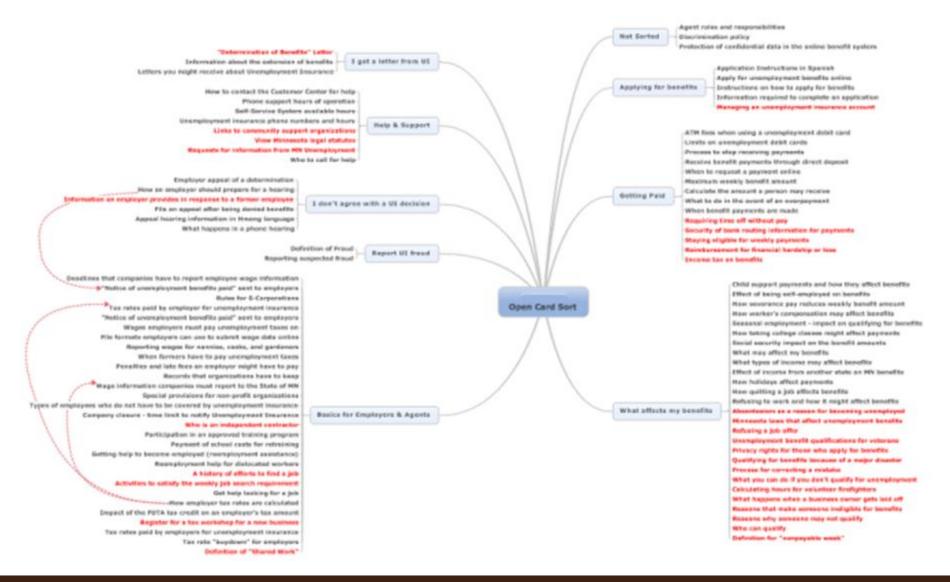
- Simple
- Cheap
- Quick to execute
- Established process
- Involves users
- Provides a good foundation

### Cons

- Doesn't consider user tasks
- Results may vary
- Analysis can be time consuming
- May capture "surface" characteristics only



### **Card Sort Results**



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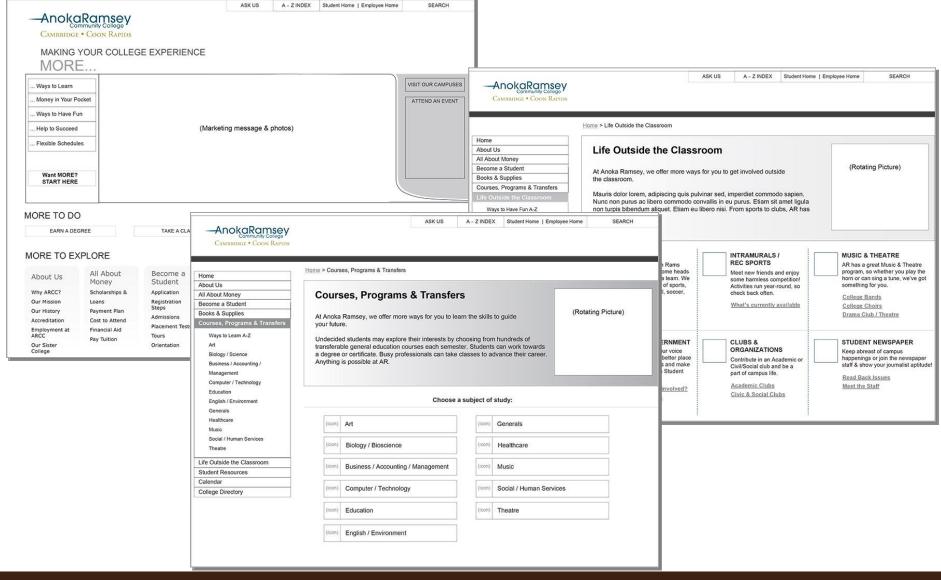
### On To Wireframes



- NO color or graphical design elements
- Wireframes show the layout and organization of content on website pages
- Wireframes provide a visual model of the IA
- Usability testing on wireframes is recommended can be done with printed pages or linked PDF pages
- Wireframes serve as the BUILD GUIDE for the CMS
- Wireframes are also recommended for mobile sites.



# A Wireframe Example



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Save time: come to campus 8 to 10 a.m. or 4 to 6:30 p.m. Wait times increase mid-day.



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MAKE A DONATION

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Alumni Relations

College Jobs

Safety & Transportation

#### All About Money

Cost to Attend

How to Pay

Financial Aid Basics

Types of Financial Aid

Apply for Financial Aid

#### Become a Student

Steps to Become a

Student Placement Testing

Orientation Process

Registration Process

Visit/Tour a Campus

#### Books & Supplies

**Book Charging** Bookstores

Buy Merchandise

Library

#### Classes, Programs & Transfers

Course Schedule

Programs by Interest

Programs A-Z

Off-Campus Locations

Professional Training

Transfer

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Music, Theatre & Art

Athletics

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society

Student Government

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Student Advising

**Tutoring Services** 

Counseling

Career Resources

Student Records & Printable Forms

Student Bulletin

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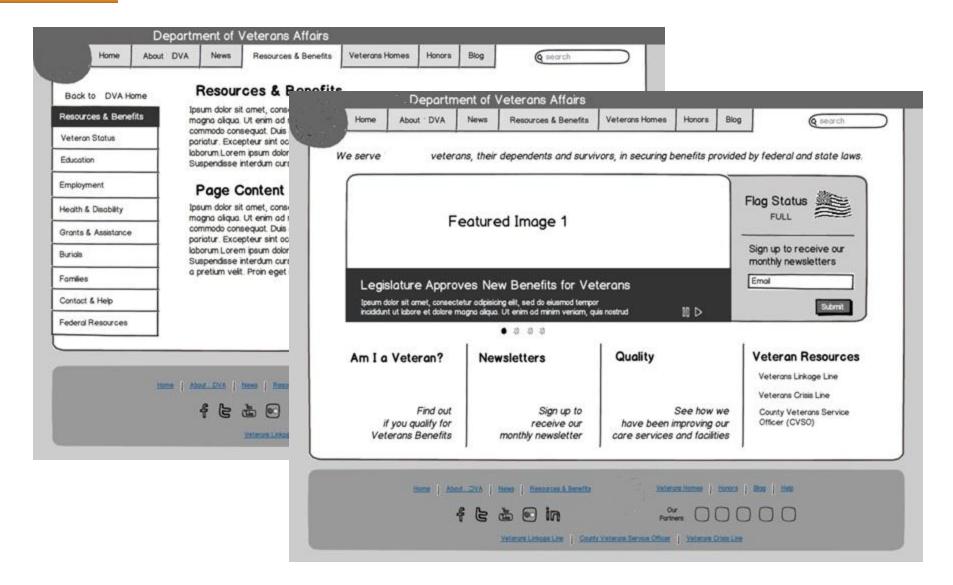
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11200 Mississippi Blvd NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433-3470 Information: 763-433-1100@ TTY: 763-433-1450@

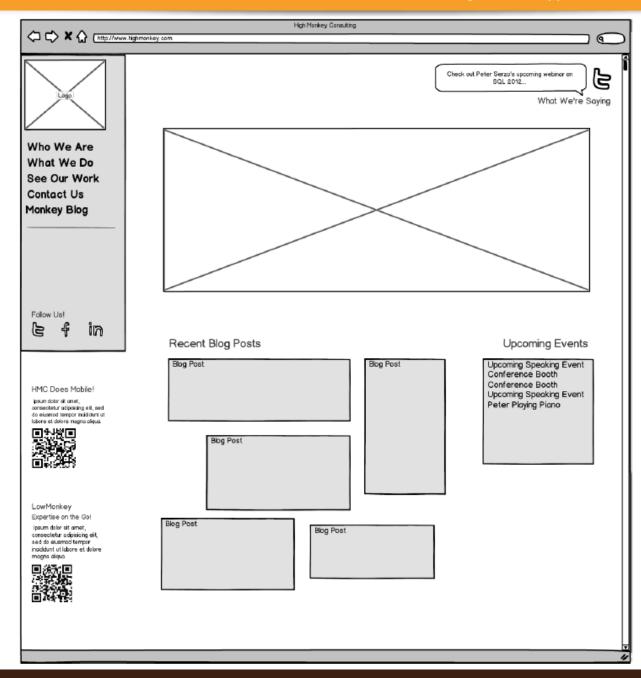


# **Another Wireframe Example**



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Who We Are

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Monkey Blog

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Michigan Office 100 West Big Beaver Road Suite 200 Troy, MI 48084 P: 763.201.6040

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High\_Monkey A simple, effective way to manage your tasks with a Kanban Board in OneNote bit.ly/13TvvQd

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your user experience . . . difficult at best . . . deserves much better

shared frustration . . . contributed by SharePoint ... shouldn't happen

unique . . . you are you . . . not them





small in business . . . large in mind

all is possible

#### **Recent Blog Posts**

Thanks Internet - Everybody is a devinow by Peter Serzo





It's December 2000 - VC money is starting to dry up, new Dot-Com companies are doing layoffs, and the meltdown is just getting started. Here's a slice of bitter web history from when the bubble burst.



#### Best of the 'Net - 1997

What was happening with the internet in 1997? Things were all rosey - the Dot-Com bubble was still inflating with no end of growth in sight. Study a little ancient history (in web years)!



Last week I was in San Francisco and had 4 sessions that I gave at SPTECHCON. It is a terrific conference with lots of great speakers and great content. In the next few days I will be blogging about the content I covered which will be of value to you. My promise - A High Monkey promise.

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### Kentico Webinar - Building Websites People Can Actually

Coming on March 13 - this fast paced webinar will take you through the stages of how a website gets built the right way based on a solid Information Architecture ("IA") and delivering what users actually need from a website.

#### Peter Serzo Speaking at SharePoint Fest Denver

Our Senior Technical Architect. Peter Serzo, is speaking at SharePoint Fest Denver in March.

#### Virgil Carroll Speaking at SharePoint Evolutions 2013

High Monkey's President and Principal Technical Architect, Virgil Carroll will be speaking at SharePoint Evolutions Conference 2013.



Usability Testing seems to be more and more common in web projects, yet at the same time when the budget gets tight it is often the first line item to be cut. Why is this? My experience has been that clients love the idea of usability testing, but don't necessarily see it as a critical component.



# Wireframes for Mobile (our own site)



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# The High Monkey Methodology





# **Design & Branding 101**



- Design should support your website's key messages
- Design should enhance the visitor's experience
- Design simplicity is often difficult to achieve
- Design should follow an iterative review process (but not too many reviews) – We like Alpha, Beta, Release
- You should NOT involve too many people in the design process (everyone has an opinion)
- Branding standards may need to be evaluated after a new IA has been developed



### **CMS Evaluation & Criteria**



- Product Maturity (how long has it been around)
- License and software maintenance cost
- Option to separate content and presentation layers
- Support for and integration with social media
- Mobile design and development
- Support from Kentico and Partner Networks
- EASE OF USE for content maintainers
- EASE OF MANAGEMENT for webmaster(s)
- EASE OF DEVELOPMENT for website builders



### Kentico EMS vs. CMS



- · Analytics engine Reporting Conversions · Campaigns
- · Activity tracking Accounts · Contact groups Automatic grouping

Contacts

- · Dynamic evaluation Potential clients
- Score rules
- A/B Testing MVT Testing

Web site

- · Content personalization
- optimization
- · Portal engine integration Newsletters
  - · Open e-mail tracking · Clicked links tracking · Bounced e-mails
- Newsletter subscribers · E-commerce customers
- On-line forms
- Search

Users

· Marketing automation

Integration with other modules







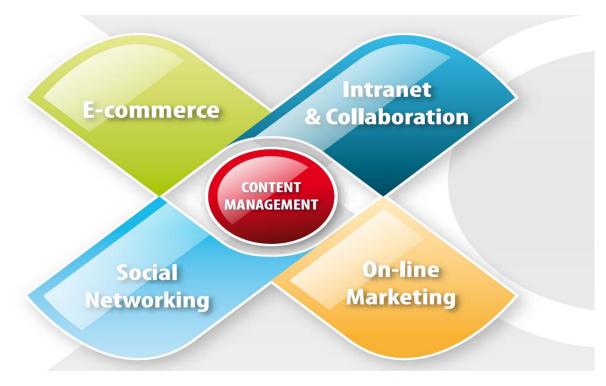
- Web Content management
- E-commerce
- Social networking
- Intranet
- On-line marketing

Kentico CMS 7





# **Kentico Platform & Ecosystem**



In the Cloud

On Premise



## **How Can Kentico CMS Be Used?**

- Interactive Marketing Websites
- Blog Sites
- Magazines, Newspapers
- Intranet
- Community Portals
- E-Commerce Shops
- Self Service Sites
- B2B & B2C Sites
- Member / Directory Sites
- Church / Schools Sites
   And many more...

### **Our Customers Say...**

- Highly responsive support
- Extensibility
- Rapid Development
- Easy Management
- All in one solution for your web site
- An easy to determine ROI
- Intuitive Web Based Editing and Management
- SEO Friendly



### **Website Build**



- Design to your requirements
- Wireframes are your visual build guide
- Templates are a beautiful thing
- Consistency in naming is a best practice
- Build to your audiences technology (browser types, versions, bandwidth, etc.)
- Make things reusable e.g. web part containers
- Organize the site structure and site assets in a way that makes sense
- Test during the build



# **Content Migration**



- Starting yesterday may not be soon enough . . .
- 15-20% of existing content can usually be archived
- Inventory all web content and files
- Manage and track the content review process
- Set content standards for content re-writes
- Plan for accessibility (headers, alt-tags, etc.)
- Implement the "right amount" of metadata
- We use SharePoint to manage the process . . .



# **Testing**



- Create your testing plan based on the original business and user requirements
- Create an tracking list and prioritize issues
- Have people not familiar with the project do testing
- Test for WCAG/508 compliance
- Click like a maniac no, seriously . . . test everything
- Post launch usability testing to show ROI



### **Launch Your Site**

- Hooray!
- Now finish up your mobile site development
- Do more Marketing
- Do more Social Media





# What We Covered Today

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- What goes into creating a user-centric Information Architecture
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- Why design matters: Less is more than you think
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# Thank you for your time and attention!

# QUESTIONS?

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