

## Scenarios, Storyboards, and Wireframes

# Creating a written story that explains how a person will use a product, service, or system to achieve a goal.

#### A GOOD SCENARIO/

- 1. Acts as a bridge between an initial design idea or problem, and a solution
- Advances the fidelity of an idea
- 3. Stands on its own, without explanation
- 4. Does not prescribe interface elements in any great detail
- 5. Includes a rich description of a person
- 6. Includes a rich description of a goal
- 7. Is **credible**

#### 1. Identify the people involved.

What are their names?

Where do they work?

What level of technical experience do they have?

What level of technical competence can you assume with this system, specifically?

It's often helpful to write a three or four sentence introduction to each person, describing their background and helping to humanize them.



#### 2. Identify the starting state/context

Where will the people using your system be, physically, when they encounter it?

What state is the actual product or service in when they first acknowledge it?



3. List the goals a user may have, as they pertain to your product or service.

A goal is about a fundamental want, need, or desire that is presently unattained. Goals rarely change, even as technology progresses.

For example, when using a printer, my goal is not "to print" – it is "to communicate my intent to other people when I'm not there through a lasting artifact."

List as many goals as you can think of.



4. Prioritize the goals, based on your understanding of your users.

Stack rank the goals, putting them in order from "most important to achieve using this system or service" to "least important to achieve using this system or service."



#### 5. Craft stories.

Using the people, context, and goals as a starting point, craft a narrative that explains how a person will use your system to achieve their goals. Don't try to achieve all goals in a single epic story; instead, create multiple stories, one for each goal. Keep the conversation at a high, behavioral level, rather than a low, user interface level:

#### Good

Fred grabs his phone. He opens the beerfinding app, and locates a beer nearby. He chooses to have it delivered, enters his payment information, and completes his order.

#### Bad

Fred grabs his phone. He tabs the beer-finding app. He taps the zipcode input box, and the onscreen keyboard appears. He taps the numbers for his zipcode, and then taps "find beer." An hourglass appears on his screen, and after several seconds, search results begin showing up....

# Scenarios – Recap

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#### WRITING SCENARIOS/

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- Identify the starting state/context
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Let's try it..



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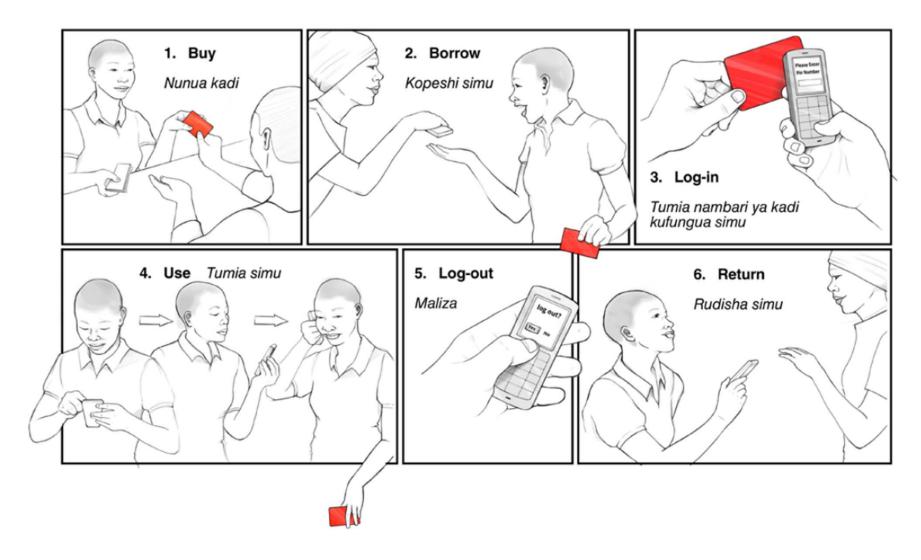
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#### A GOOD STORYBOARD/

- 1. Emphasizes screens over scenes
- 2. Advances the fidelity of an idea
- 3. Stands on its own, without explanation
- 4. Dedicates one panel to one idea, and uses panels generously

#### **MXShare Testing Assets: Concept Storyboard**

Used by the frog research team to explain the concept to users Ideally used by the Movirtu small business owner to explain the concept to customers.







s packing for n; he's going to ras, where he's g on meeting iends.

As they wander the streets, they keep bumping into new and interesting people – and because they have our software installed, they are able to both find new parties, and log the experiences they have easily and seamlessly.

When Melvin's having a particularly intertime at a party, he grabs his phone and pat the crowd. A number of the people at the start to crowd around..



#### 1. Sketch the frame.

Each sentence in your scenario becomes a frame in the storyboard. Using your scenario as a starting point, draw empty boxes (approximately 4" x 4") for each sentence. Number the boxes.



#### 2. Transfer the scenario.

Directly below each box, write the sentence from your scenario.



#### 3. Sketch.

Inside of each box, sketch what happens in the scenario.

When you sketch people, emphasize their hands and eyes.

When you sketch human touchpoints, show both humans in the frame at once.

When you sketch digital products, first introduce the product in context (in someone's hand), and then sketch what the user actually sees on the screen.



#### 4. Enhance with selective use of color.

Use color only to make a point – to emphasize a particular element in each frame (such as a device or handoff of information), or to differentiate characters from one another.



# Storyboards – Recap

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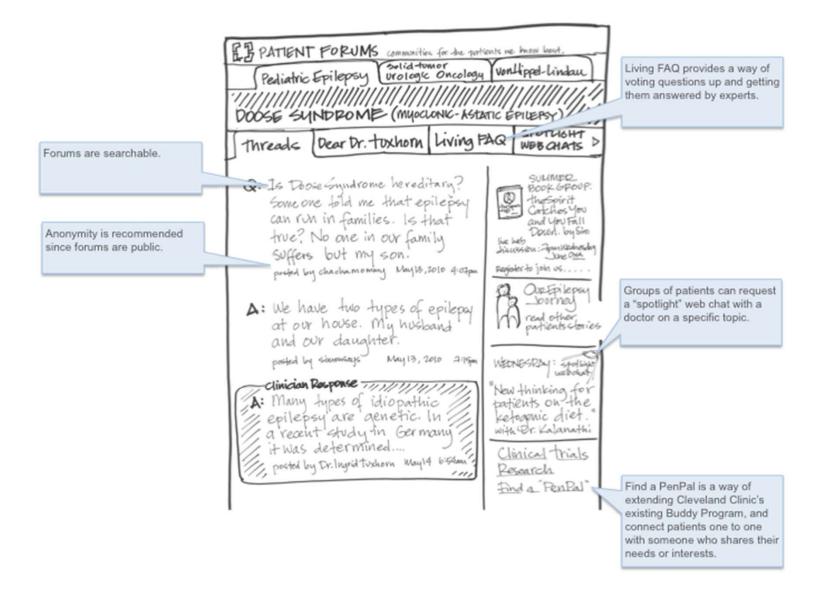
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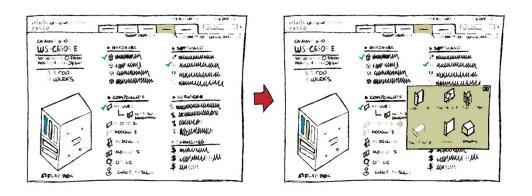
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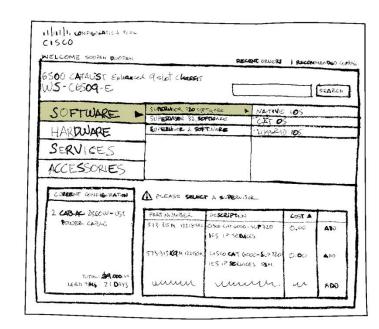
#### A GOOD SET OF WIREFRAMES/

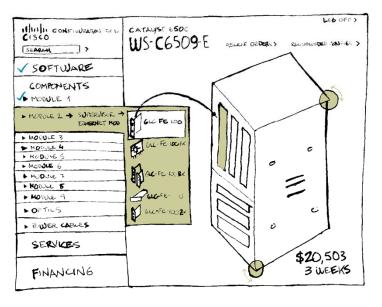
- Advances the fidelity of an idea
- 2. Stands on its own, without explanation
- 3. Describes *every* control
- 4. Uses actual content, not "filler" or "placeholder" content
- 5. Uses space in a realistic manner

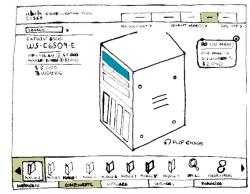


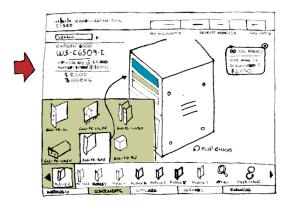








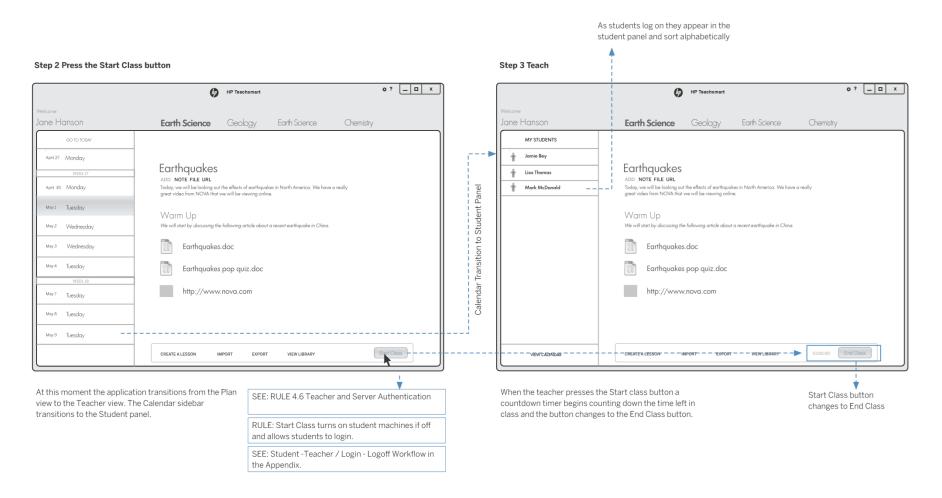




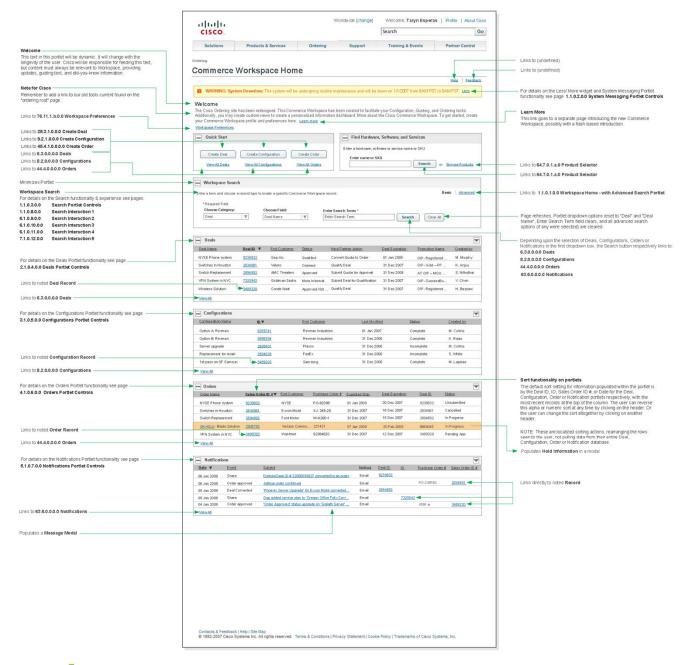


#### **Core Application User Flows**

#### Flow: 4.7 Start a Class - continued



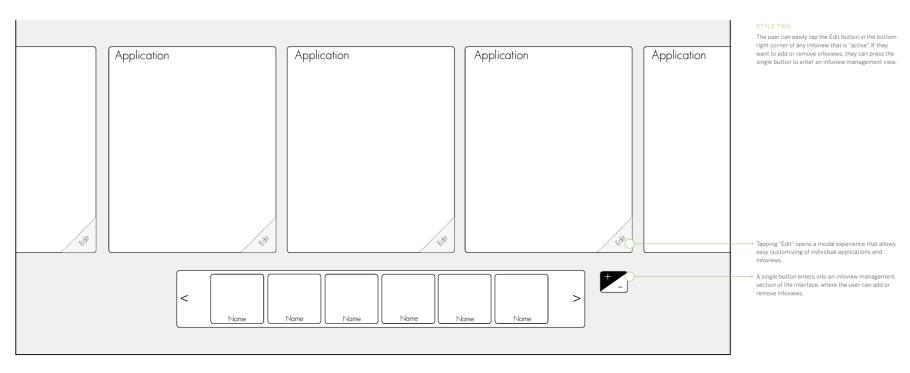




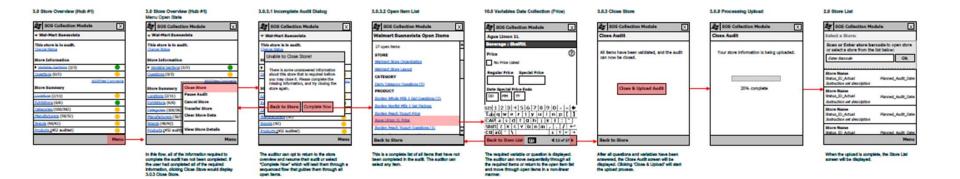


#### Workstream Two: Personalize, Entry Point

#### Style Two: Minimal, and Individual Entry

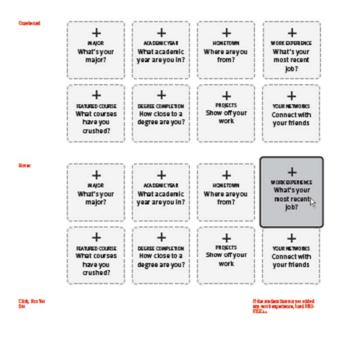


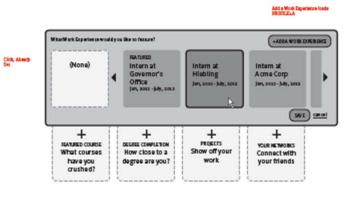


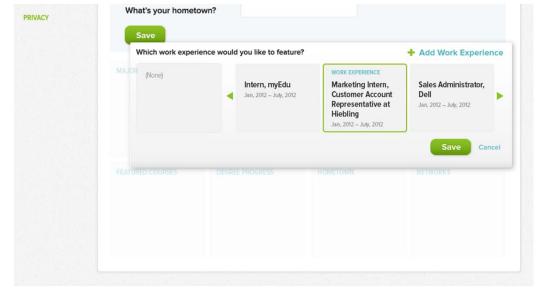




#### PROFILE1.8 Quick-Add Tiles - Work Experience









1. Start with your scenarios and storyboards.

Using the storyboards as a starting point, sketch a loose wireframe for each screen the user will encounter. Acknowledge that this is a scrap copy and will be thrown away.

Consider elements that show up on every page (navigation, framing devices) as anchors for understanding, and make sure that the user can understand where they are, where they've been, and where they're going.



#### 2. Sketch the story again.

Redraw the entire flow, increasing your attention to detail. Make your lines crisper and stronger, and make sure things line up clearly.

As you redraw the flow, begin to notice paths that haven't been clearly defined – buttons, links, or controls that "lead nowhere". Make a list of these dead ends.



#### 3. Sketch the dead ends.

Draw the screens that don't exist. This will force you to extend your scenario; at this point, you no longer need to conform to the story, as you are completing the designed system.



#### 4. Refactor and revise the flow.

Look at the entire set of wireframes, arranged on the wall in front of you.

Are there elements that you didn't account for on some screens, that became important on other screens?

Is the navigation consistent?

Will someone know what to do on each screen?

Can someone find their way back?

Redraw the entire set of wireframes, again.



## Level of effort & fidelity

Key pages, functions, and states Few or no annotations Simple wires, few details All pages, including edge-cases and errors Full annotations ("detailed specification")

Complicated wires: all content, all features, all details, etc.

Early stages of design Simple product or service Small quantity of stakeholders Control over implementation Final stages of design Complex ("large") product or service Large quantity of stakeholders Limited or no control over implementation

Fast and Cheap Lack of planning can be detrimental later Slow, tedious, and expensive Forces thought for every design detail



# Wireframes – Recap

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#### **CREATING WIREFRAMES/**

- 1. Start with your scenarios and storyboards.
- 2. Sketch the story again.
- 3. Sketch the dead ends.
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Let's try it..



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Download our free book, Wicked Problems: Problems Worth Solving, at http://www.wickedproblems.com