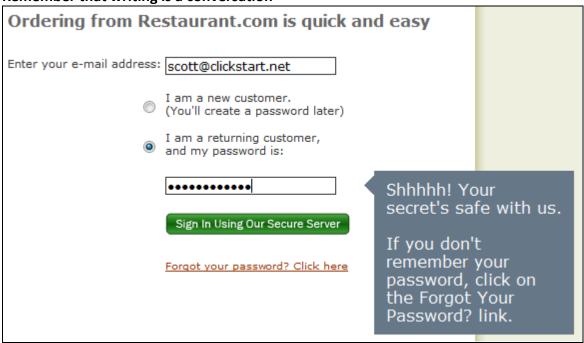
# Writing guidelines

## Persuade, motivate, and communicate



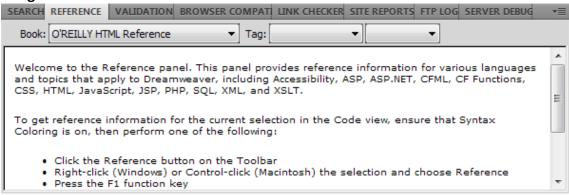
www.bankofamerica.com - overview text set expectations and establishes trust, "Help Center" predicts common user questions

## Remember that writing is a conversation



www.restaurant.com – uses an informal and friendly writing style to match their corporate image

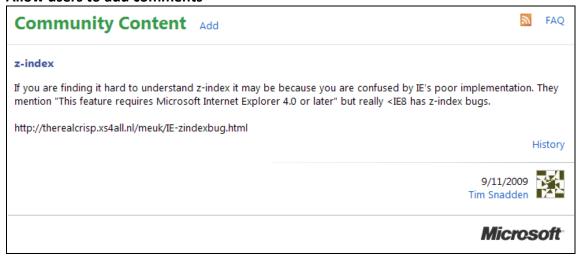
#### Integrate content from other sources



Dreamweaver CS5 – includes content from O'Reilly guides

# User feedback guidelines

#### Allow users to add comments



msdn.microsoft.com - allows users to add comments, even if they highlight bugs

## **Provide other UA options**

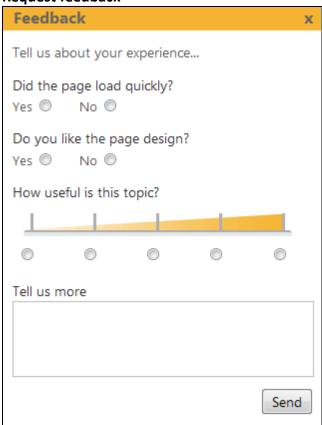


www.americanexpress.com - provides chat and phone options



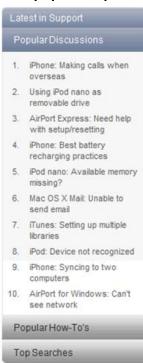
www.download.com – provides instructional videos while users download applications

## Request feedback



msdn.microsoft.com – provides a link for users to comment on UA topics

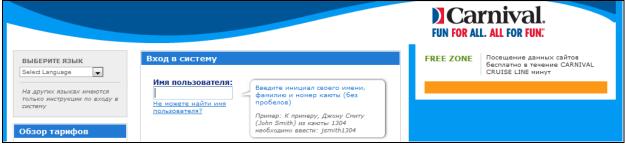
## Rank popular topics



www.apple.com – automatically ranks popular discussions, topics, and search terms

# **Customization guidelines**

Allow users to select a language



www.carnival.com - allows user to translate content

#### Back to English | Translate to Arabic | Translate to French | Translate to Russian

و36 مكتبا (10 المحلى ، 26 دولية) ، أكثر من 900 المحطات المحلية التابعة لها ، والعديد من التبكات الإقليمية واللغات الأجنبية في جميع أنحاء العالم. أدلى نجاح التبكة قطب حسني النية من نيد نيرنر مؤسس ومهدت الطريق لاكتساب تكثل تايم وورنر في نهاية المطاف من نيرنر البت

ركان أول الفارسي حرب الخليج في عام 1991 حدثًا فاصلاً لتبكة سي ان قفزت تبكة الماضية "الثلاثة الكبار" التبكات الاميركية للمرة الاولى في تاريخها ، ولوس انجليس

img.labnol.org/files/translation.html - uses Google's AJAX Language API

## Allow users to ask their own questions



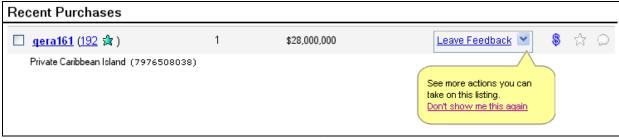
www.washingtonpost.com - uses a third-party application (Apture) to provide additional information

### Allow users to reuse content



kb.madcapsoftware.com - provides links to post content on Facebook or Twitter, save to favorites, or print

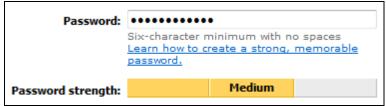
#### Allow users to turn off automatic user assistance



www.ebay.com – users can turn user assistance popups off/on

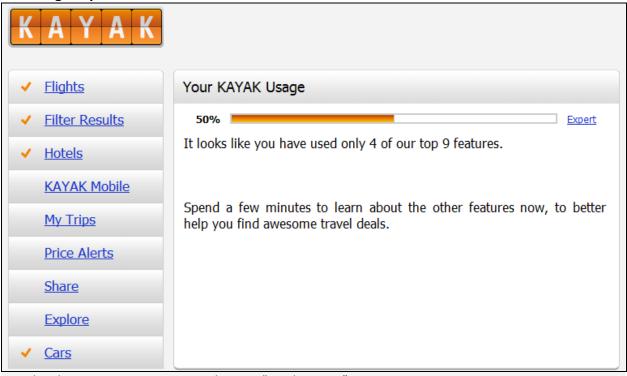
# User learning guidelines

#### **Encourage success**



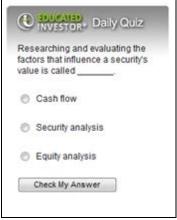
explore.live.com – Windows Live uses UA link wording to encourage users to learn

## **Encourage exploration**



www.kayak.com - encourages users to become "Kayak experts"

## **Challenge users**



qlc.intuit.com - encourages users to test their knowledge

## HTML5 techniques

I will demonstrate these techniques during the session.

### Adding subtitles to instructional videos

You can use Jan Gerber's jQuery-based script to match an srt subtitle document to an HTML5 video.

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="jquery.js"></script>
<script type="text/javascript" src="jquery.srt.js"></script>
<video src="video.ogv" type="video/mp4" id="video" controls></video>
<div class="srt" data-video="video" data-srt="subtitles.srt" />
```

### **Editing content**

You can use the contenteditable attribute to allow users to change content.

Beckenbauer is the best soccer player of all time.

### Saving content

You can use the WebStorage API to save the user-provided content.

```
<form name=myForm>
<label>First Name: <input name=fName></label>
 <label>Last Name: <input name=IName></label>
<input type=button value="Add Player" onclick="addPlayer()">
 <input type=button value="Get Player" onclick="getPlayer()">
 <input type=button value="Remove Player" onclick="removePlayer()">
 <label><input type=button value="Clear Team" onclick="clearAll()"></label>
</form>
<script>
function addPlayer() {
var fName = document.forms.myForm.fName.value; var IName = document.forms.myForm.lName.value;
localStorage.setItem(fName,IName);
showAll();
}
function getPlayer() {
var fName = document.forms.myForm.fName.value; var IName = document.forms.myForm.IName.value;
localStorage.getItem(fName,IName);
document.forms.myForm.fName.value = fName; document.forms.myForm.lName.value = lName;
showAll();
}
function removePlayer() {
var fName = document.forms.myForm.fName.value;
localStorage.removeItem(fName);
showAll();
document.forms.myForm.fName.value = ""; document.forms.myForm.lName.value = "";
function clearAll() { localStorage.clear(); showAll(); }
function showAll() {
var key = ""; var players = "FirstLast\n";
var i=0; for (i=0; i<=localStorage.length-1; i++) {
  key = localStorage.key(i); players += ""+key+"\n"+localStorage.getItem(key)+"\n";
}
if (players == "First\n") { players += "empty\nempty\n"; }
document.getElementById('team').innerHTML = players;
} </script>
```

#### **Forms**

HTML5 provides numerous built-in user assistance options for forms.

#### Requiring user input

<label>First name <input name="fname" required> </label>

#### Validating email addresses

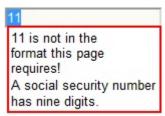
<input name="myEmail" type="email">

#### **Validating URLs**

<input name="myURL" type="url">

#### Validating custom form elements

<label>SSN: <input pattern="[0-9]{9}" name="ssn" title="A social security number has nine digits." > </label>



#### Spellchecking user input

type your favorite city here
City: <input type="text" spellcheck="true" >



## **Examples**

#### **Windows applications**

Dreamweaver CS5 MadCap Flare

#### Websites

www.bankofamerica.com
www.restaurant.com
msdn.microsoft.com
www.americanexpress.com
www.download.com
www.apple.com
www.carnival.com
img.labnol.org/files/translation.html
www.washingtonpost.com
kb.madcapsoftware.com
www.ebay.com
explore.live.com
www.kayak.com
qlc.intuit.com

www.html5tothepoint.com

# About the presenter

Scott DeLoach is the Founder of Click**Start**, where he provides training and consulting for MadCap Flare, Adobe Captivate, embedded user assistance, CSS, and HTML5. He has been developing browser-based help systems since 1997, and he has received four Best in Show awards for his work from STC.

Scott is a certified Flare and Captivate instructor, and he is the author of *MadCap Flare Developer's Guide*, *CSS to the Point*, and *HTML5 to the Point*. For more information about Scott's books see <a href="https://www.lulu.com/clickstart">www.lulu.com/clickstart</a>.

You can reach Scott at <a href="www.clickstart.net">www.clickstart.net</a> or by email at <a href="scott@clickstart.net">scott@clickstart.net</a>.

