

# M. Nicholas Hoyt

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Interaction Designer, Front-End Developer  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Sep. 2005 – Sep. 2023

My work at UIUC was centered around designing and building open source software tools that foster awareness and better understanding of web accessibility.

These tools included a web application, several browser extensions, and a suite of JavaScript bookmarklets, all of which evaluate and/or reveal web accessibility features of web pages that are otherwise hidden from view.

- Designed and co-developed the [Functional Accessibility Evaluator](#), a web application that evaluates websites for accessibility based on the entire range of WCAG 2.1 'A' and 'AA' Success Criteria.
- Designed and co-developed the [AInspector for Firefox](#) browser extension, which performs the same type of accessibility evaluation as 'FAE' for a single web page, with additional features for dynamic content.
- Designed and developed the [SkipTo Landmarks & Headings](#) browser extension for Chrome and Firefox, which enables users to easily navigate to the headings and landmark regions on a web page.
- Designed and developed the [Page Structure](#) browser extension, which facilitates comprehensive manual checking of the headings and landmarks structure and labeling on a web page.
- Developed navigation menu prototypes and interaction models for improving the accessibility of web components being developed by a cross-functional campus group.
- Designed and co-developed the [A11yFirst plugins for CKEditor](#), which proactively guide web authors in producing accessible content with proper heading structure, link text and image descriptions.
- Designed and co-developed the [Accessibility Bookmarklets](#), which provide visualizations of headings, landmarks, image alternative text and form control labels, and are easily installable in any browser.

User Interface Designer, Front-End Developer  
Contractor – Boston, MA | Chicago, IL

Aug. 1997 – Aug. 2005

Provided design and development services to various clients, including ABN AMRO, Accenture, Allstate Insurance, Bank One, Fidelity Investments, HOLT Value Associates and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

- Served as lead designer in the user interface redesign of 'NetBenefits', Fidelity Investments' flagship web application for institutional investors, resulting in a major increase in customer utilization of the app.
  - Designed and developed the 'Contribution Calculator' for Fidelity Investments, a financial planning tool for retirement savings account investors, featured on Fidelity's 'NetBenefits' website.
  - Authored an ebook on XML documents and XSLT programming for Accenture software developers.
  - Led the user experience design of a mission-critical web application for call center representatives at Allstate Insurance, greatly improving their speed and efficiency in finding answers to customer questions.
  - Designed the user interface and created an interactive prototype of a financial analysis application used by investment portfolio managers for HOLT Value Associates.
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B.A. in Computer Science, University of Massachusetts Boston

Summa cum laude

Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA

Jazz Composition & Arranging major