

The Trunk Test & Navigation.

Reading Pages 50-93.

Trunk Test: What & Why?

Krug describes a strategy called the trunk test, for analyzing a site for navigability. Modifying a site to pass the trunk test will create a site that is comfortable to users and therefore more likely to be used for its intended purpose.

Conducting a Trunk Test

To perform this test, find a site and click around within it until an internal page is obtained. Then, look for the following descriptors:

Site ID

Location Navigation

Page Name

You Are Here Indicators

Section & Subsections

Search Options

“Site ID”

Every page within a site should have a graphic or text identifier that tells users to what site the page belongs.

This graphic/text usually acts as a link, taking users back to the homepage. The graphics are often shrunken versions of opening page graphics or contain some component of it that makes them create site identity.

Example:

The Logo/Company Name and/or Top Header Image design

“Page Name”

Every page within a site should contain a brief heading that accurately describes the content of the page. This helps users identify what the page is all about.

Example:

“About Us”

“Products”

“Contact Us”

“Sections and Subsections”

To assist users with navigation, you should place links that point to other sections and subsections within the site. This helps users find all the information within a site, especially in the case they get lost.

Example:

> Products

Software

Hardware

“Local Navigation”

Within sections of a site (eg. Products), there are usually subsections (eg. Software & Hardware) or a list of other more specific pages that are related to the section or subsection for which we should provide Local Navigation in order to enable users to easily find those pages. The list on the right shows an example of local navigation that would be available on the Software subsection page.

Example:

Operating Systems
Word Processors
Spreadsheets
Presentation
Database
Photo Editors
Desktop Publishing

“You Are Here Indicators”

There are many types of indicators that designers use to indicate a section is being viewed. Some designers stylize the text or button of a section navigation (by changing color, case or text style), or by using a different color button or placing an arrow or graphic next to a section that is in use, while some designers use tabs.

Example:

About Us

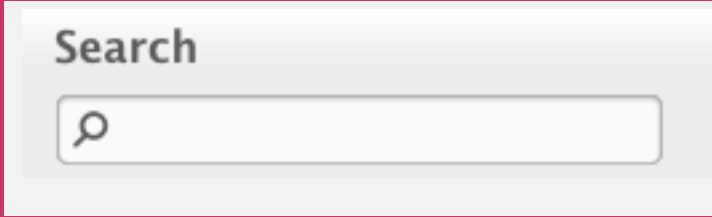
*** PRODUCTS**

Contact Us

“Search”

Every page should contain the ability to search the site. In the case that users do not find what they are looking for, they can operate the search feature to aid them on their quest.

Example:

A search input field is shown within a white rounded rectangle, which is itself centered on a larger, rounded magenta rectangle. The white box has the word "Search" in a bold, dark grey font at the top left. Below it is a horizontal input field with a thin grey border. On the left side of this input field is a small, dark grey magnifying glass icon.

Trunk Test

Example



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Site ID
Sections
Subsections

You Are Here Indicators

Page Name

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Search Option

Local Navigation