

Reorganizing Information Architecture

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Sept 21, 2023

Fall 2023 INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE I (UXD-60101-004)



Logo via: [Cool Tools](#)

Reorganizing Information Architecture

Tasks:

1. **Organization schemes:** Identify as many different organization schemes throughout the site.
2. **Organization structures:** What is the predominant organization structure(s)?
3. **Re-organizing Cool Tools:** Identify at least 3 ways that the organization could be improved.
4. **Justify recommendations:** How will they help the site users?

About the site

Cool Tools is a website that provides recommendations on useful tools, including the best and most affordable options.



COOLTOOLS

TOOLS FOR POSSIBILITIES
Painting

Tools for Possibilities: issue no. 52

Once a week we'll send out a page from Cool Tools: A Catalog of Possibilities. The tools might be outdated or obsolete, and the links to them may or may not work. We present these vintage recommendations as is because the possibilities they inspire are new. [Sign up here](#) to get *Tools for Possibilities* a week early in your inbox.



Comfy spray can gun
Can-Gun 1

Using your index finger to press and steer a can of spray paint gets old very quickly. If your paint job lasts more than a few minutes, you really should use a snap-on pistol grip. It saves your knuckle, keeps paint off your trigger finger, and gives you an easy way to guide the spray. For years I've used an earlier model of this grip (called simply Can-Gun), but that one was only operated with a single finger trigger. This new version uses your whole palm. It's comfortable, quick-on and off, and the only way to spray. I had a 5-can job on a chain-link fence and the Can-Gun made it kind of fun. Even for small spray paint jobs, I slip one of these on. — KK

Today's Review
STOREFRONT
YOUTUBE CHANNEL
EDITOR'S FAVORITES
READER FAVORITES
ARCHIVES BY DATE
PODCAST
WHAT'S IN MY BAG?
ANNOUNCEMENTS
SUBMIT A TOOL
FAQ
ABOUT US
EMAIL LIST
RSS FEED

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Check out the updated book
Recomendo: The Expanded Edition

Identify organization schemes throughout the site.

kk.org/cooltools/

18 September 2023

Painting
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17 September 2023

Totem Word/Life Magnified stamps/Go Hang It!
Recomendo - issue #375
[Sign up here](#) to get Recomendo a week early in your inbox.

Find a daily Totem Word

Cool Tools' posts use a chronological organization scheme, ordered from newest to oldest.

Additional sidebar local navigation also allows users to browse chronologically via a calendar view.

September 2023
M T W T F S S
1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30
« Aug

Editors Favorites

COOL TOOLS SHOW PODCAST

WHAT'S IN MY BAG?

ABOUT COOL TOOLS

After reviews, the homepage is then organized topically:

- Editors favorites
- Cool Tools Show Podcast
- What's in my bag?
- About Cool Tools

Each section's content (aside from the About) is organized chronologically with contextual links.

Identify organization schemes throughout the site. [Cont.]

The site's global navigation is hybrid of task and topical schemes as there are task related links like "submit a tool" and "email list" but also topical options like "What's in my bag?" and "About us."

SEARCH Task (Search)

- TODAY'S REVIEW Topical
- STOREFRONT Task (Shop)
- YOUTUBE CHANNEL Task (Watch)
- EDITOR'S FAVORITES Topical
- READER FAVORITES Topical
- ARCHIVES BY DATE Task (Browse)
- PODCAST Task (Watch/listen)
- WHAT'S IN MY BAG? Topical
- ANNOUNCEMENTS Topical
- SUBMIT A TOOL Task (Submit)
- FAQ Task (Learn)
- ABOUT US Topical
- EMAIL LIST Task (Sign up)
- RSS FEED Task (Follow)

Topics, alphabetically

CATEGORIES

- Announcements
- Aural
- Autonomous Motion
- Backpacking
- Big Systems
- Clothing
- Communications
- Community
- Computers
- Consumptivity
- Craft
- Culture
- Dead Tools
- Deals
- Design
- Destinations
- Dwelling
- Edibles
- Every Day Carry
- Family
- Gardens
- Gareth's Tips
- General Purpose Tools

Local navigation (side bar) "categories" contains a topical list organized alphabetically.

KEVIN KELLY SITES

- Lifestream
- The Technium
- True Films
- Extrapolations
- Screen Pub
- Quantified Self
- New Rules
- Street Use
- Asia Grace
- Silver Cord
- Wink

Kevin Kelly Sites (additional local navigation) is a topical, subjectively-ordered scheme linking to different external sites with specific subject matter.

What is the predominant organization structure(s)?

Cool Tools presents its users the flexibility to navigate through its site using global, local, and contextual navigation methods. These navigation methods utilize various organizational schemes, (chronological, alphabetical, topical and task) and as a result, the predominant structure of the site is a Matrix.

COOLTOOLS

18 September 2023

Painting
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Can-Gun 1
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Extra tough spray paint
Rustoleum Enamel Acrylic Paint

I learned about this new paint a few years ago from an old gent that restores appliances. The paint is a super-hard washable epoxy coating for appliances that have scuffed or discolored surfaces. The spray paint goes on very smoothly. I've used 4 cans worth, and have not had any drips or runs. I used it first on an old refrigerator, the front of a gas stove and the vent above.

Heat doesn't seem to bother it, or at least it hasn't bubbled. The paint dries in about 2 hours to a touchable surface, but it is best to let it sit for a few hours, and it really looks good. Price at Home Depot was \$6.00 a can, same as any other Rustoleum product. It comes in several colors and can also be purchased, separately, in gallon cans. For the price it is hard to beat, and for this application I haven't seen any comparable product that works as well. It is a very easy and practical way to refurbish old appliances. My wife even likes it.

Note: For those looking for higher heat applications, Rustoleum makes a high-heat enamel spray for restoring grills and other hot appliances that withstand a wider temperature range. — Stephen Young

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RECOMMENDADO
Best Budget Drills for advanced power tool enthusiasts

CATEGORIES
Aerial
Automotive/Marine
Backpacking
Big Systems
Climbing
Communications
Community
Competition
Countryside
Drones

BOSTITCH

Hand-size air-compressed hammer
Palm Nailer

A palm nailer is a magic hammer. Like a nail gun, you hook it up to an air compressor, but unlike a nail gun, it can be held in the palm of one hand, appearance doesn't make its usage obvious, but this air tool pounds in nails after nail without hurting my hand at all. Just place a nail exactly where you want it. Press the opening on the nailer over the nail, and BAP! BAP! BAP! BAP! BAP! — compressed air drives a little hammer head inside the sleeve and gently pounds in the nail. It takes about 10+ taps to get a nail all the way in, but in under a second.

I never knew about palm nailers until my brother-in-law clued me in — and I learned from a friend who is a carpenter. They're perfect for working with precise positioning, like if you are putting together something with the previously-reviewed Simpson Strong-Tie connectors. I specifically bought mine to do the siding on a backyard shed with a fort for my kids. I just wasn't know about it when I was doing the framing. I used a lot of Strong-Tie connectors that required a whole lot of manual wrist-busting hammering of nails, because — unlike the palm nailer — a framing nailer just isn't accurate enough for the Strong-Tie holes.

The palm nailer is a total joy to use. I love my air compressor and air tools (and have three nail guns already), but another plus is the palm nailer works with any single nail, not just framing nail-gun feed nails. Also, the size of the palm nailer lets you get into places either a framing nailer or a manual hammer simply can't fit very well. I've only used a Bostitch-branded palm nailer that I picked up at Lowe's. It was like \$80, so not what I'd call cheap, but it's made by a solid manufacturer and it's readily available online and you're walking into a big box hardware store. — Eric Lundquist

Palm Roller Cleaner
Shampoo Roller Washer

This roller brush cleans rollers and to clean paint rollers.

After squeezing and/or scraping as much paint out of the fur of the roller as possible, it only takes the Roller Washer about a minute or two to blast it deep into the roller and rinse away the remaining paint.

I usually then give my rollers a "shampoo" with some liquid soap, and using the roller up and down inside the Roller Washer until the soap bubbles disappear. This is followed by spraying the roller on the frame with an air compressor blow gun to remove the water and fluff the fibers. — Andy McConnell

KEVIN KELLY SITES
LifeHacker
The Toolbox
The Fixer
Entrepreneur
Simple Fix
Guns and Ammo
New Home
Home Vis
Auto Direct
Wire Card
More

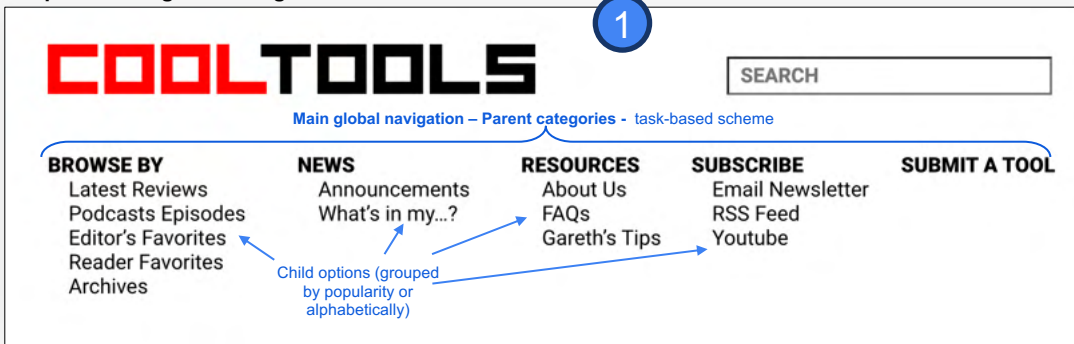
Creative Commons
September 2023
M T W T F S S
1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Identify 3 ways to improve the organization & justify recommendations.

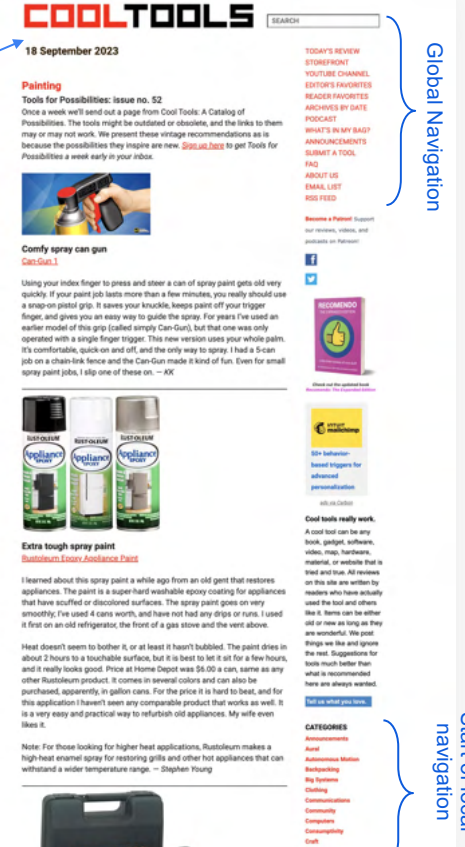
1. To improve the global navigation, it would be helpful to group the task schemes in a more hierarchical structure. To achieve this, create parent categories that are broader in scope and child sub-categories that are more narrowly focused. By establishing this top-down structure, users can find the information they need more quickly. Additionally, introducing a breadcrumb navigation can help users understand their contextual location within the site.

Moving the global navigation to the website's header will make it more distinct from the local navigation in the sidebars. This move will improve its visibility within the hierarchy of the page. By doing so, users can easily comprehend the task-based structure while still having the option to choose their preferred way of browsing and accessing content.

Proposed new global navigation structure



Current site

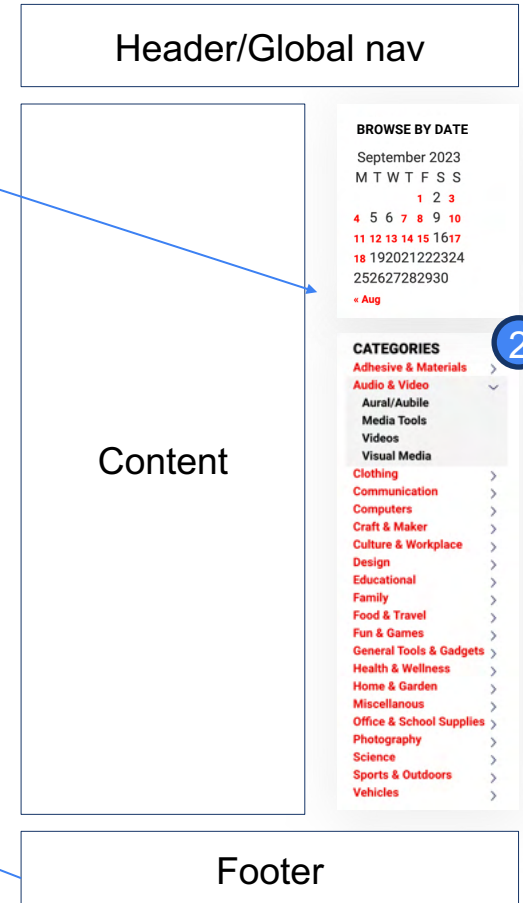


Identify 3 ways to improve the organization & justify recommendations. [Cont.]

2. Move the “Categories” and “Creative Commons” calendar (renamed to “Browse by Date”) options in the local navigation in the sidebar up to the top of the page where the original global navigation used to live. This move will give users better visibility of the category and date tags and make it easier to sort by content type.

Consolidate the Categories tag list into a parent/child hierarchy and focus parent category labeling as general product types with expandable child sub-categories. Rename some category tags for less ambiguity. Users will benefit as browsing content categories becomes more efficient and will experience less redundancy, confusion, and overwhelm.

3. Lastly, move Kevin Kelly’s site links to footer navigation (along with social icons) and away from sorting/browsing options. That way, users aren’t accidentally confusing the external links with other sorting options and navigating away from Cool Tools content.



Proposed Footer Organization

