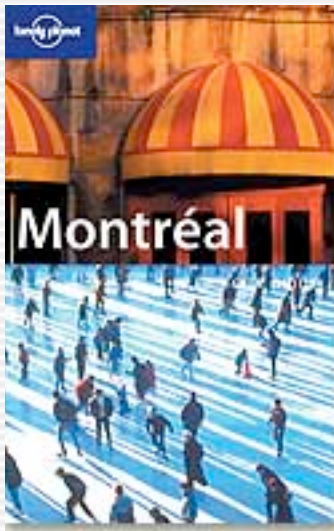


# Document Genres: The Hidden Workhorse of Information Architecture

Peter Merholz [peterme@adaptivepath.com](mailto:peterme@adaptivepath.com)



# What's the interesting difference?



[Directory Help](#)☒ Search only in Travel and Tourism ☐ Search the Web

## Travel and Tourism

[Regional](#) > [North America](#) > [Canada](#) > [Quebec](#) > [Localities](#) > [M](#) > [Montreal](#) > Travel and Tourism

[Go to Directory Home](#)

### Categories

[Attractions](#) (8)   [Restaurants and Bars](#) (98)   [Travel Guides](#) (9)  
[Lodging](#) (99)   [Tour Operators](#) (3)   [Travel Services](#) (34)







Related Category:

[Regional](#) > [North America](#) > [Canada](#) > [Quebec](#) > [Travel and Tourism](#) (106)

### Web Pages

Viewing in Google PageRank order

[View in alphabetical order](#)

-  [Old Port of Montreal](#) - <http://www.oldportofmontreal.com/>  
Travel and tourism information for the oldest part of the city. Attractions, events and maps.
-  [Palais des Congrès de Montréal](#) - <http://www.congresmtl.com/>  
Convention centre in downtown Montreal.
-  [Montreal a la Carte](#) - <http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/mtlcarte/anglais/mtlcarte.htm>  
Detailed maps of the city, searchable with the use of Adobe Reader.
-  [MontrealNow](#) - <http://www.montrealnow.com/>  
News, business, sports, and tourism information.
-  [Montreal Canada - Suite101.com](#) - <http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/8078>  
Monthly articles pertaining to the history of Montreal, its historic buildings and people connected to Montreal.
-  [VIP Pro Tours](#) - <http://vipprotours.com/>  
A tour and hotel reservation company which sells hotel and ticket packages for major concerts, F1 Grand Prix, hockey, and festivals in Montreal

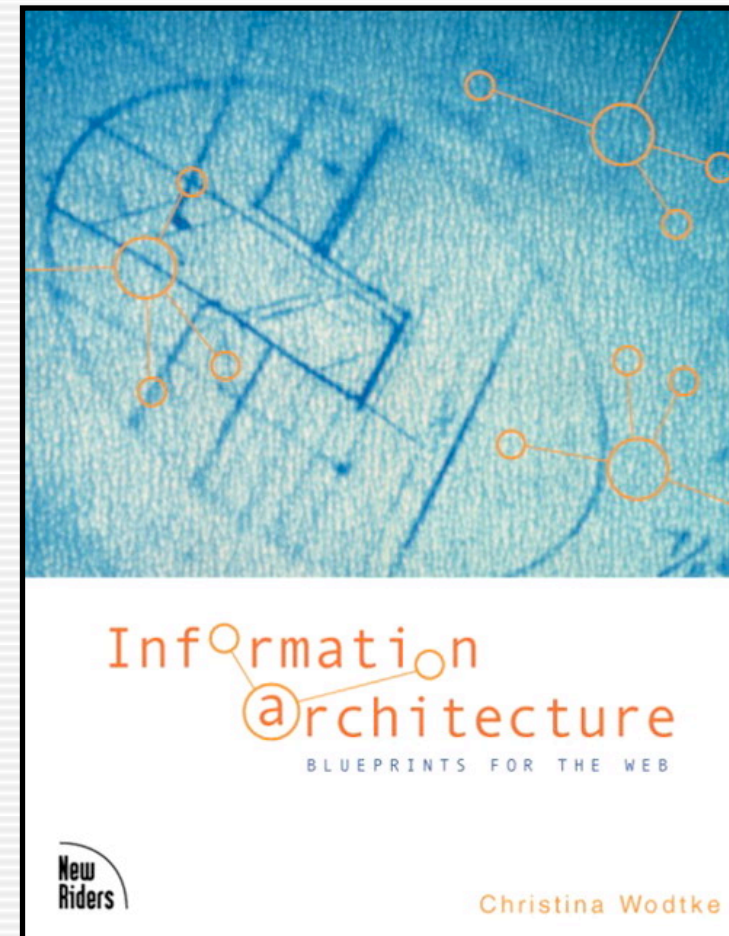
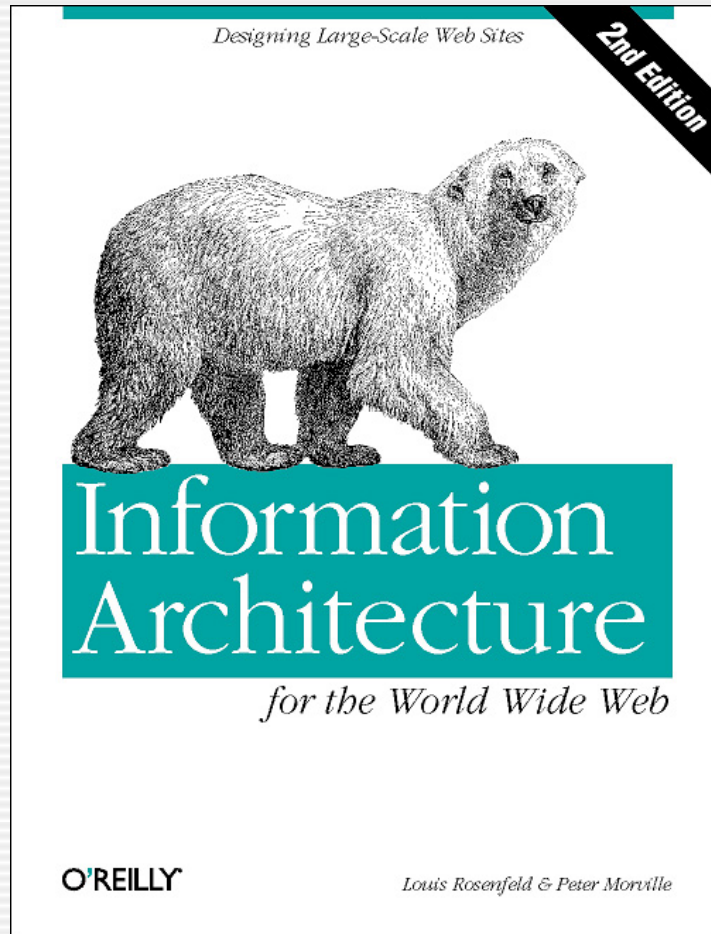
Help build the largest human-edited directory on the web.

[Submit a Site](#) - [Open Directory Project](#) - [Become an Editor](#)

# We must ask: How is it used?

- ◆ What is its purpose?
  - ◆ What expectations will people bring to it?
  - ◆ What can someone do with it?
- 
- ◆ and.... How do people know?

# “Hidden workhorses?”



# Defining Document Genres

- ◆ “a distinctive type of communicative action, characterized by a socially recognized communicative purpose and common aspects of form” - Orlikowski and Yates
- ◆ Genres emerge as a response to purpose



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stars And Sons	→	3 of 13	5:09	Broken Social S...	→	You Forgot It In People	→	Alternative ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Make It Funky (Pt. 1)	→	6 of 20	3:15	James Brown	→	20 All Time Greatest Hits!	→	R&B
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White Girl	→	3 of 12	2:37	Soul Coughing	→	Irresistible Bliss	→	Alternative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Man I Love	→	2 of 16	4:16	Carmen McRae	→	The Gershwin Songbook	→	Jazz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Track No. 22	→		3:40	Artist	→	CD Title	→	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I'm On Fire	→	11	3:05	Johnny Cash	→	Badlands A Tribute to Bruce Sp	→	Classic Rock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Man with the money	→	19 of 20	2:45	The Who	→	A Quick One	→	Rock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flo...	→	15 of 15	2:27	Cornershop	→	When I Was Born For The 7th Time	→	Alternative ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glow Girl	→	23	2:45	Who	→	The Who Sell Out	→	Rock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doomsday	→	2	4:58	MF Doom	→	Operation Doomsday	→	Hip-Hop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenny Was A Friend Of Mine	→	1	4:04	Killers	→	Hot Fuss	→	Rock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Never Talk To Strangers	→	3 of 9	3:38	Tom Waits	→	Foreign Affairs	→	Alternative ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Got To Hurry	→	5 of 14	2:36	The Yardbirds	→	Smokestack Lightning (Disc 1)	→	Rock

## Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)



Directed by  
[Michel Gondry](#)

Writing credits ([WGA](#))  
[Charlie Kaufman](#) (story) &  
[Michel Gondry](#) (story) ...  
([more](#))



[Add to MyMovies](#)



[Photos](#)



[IMDbPro Professional Details](#)

Genre: [Drama](#) / [Romance](#) / [Sci-Fi](#) / [Comedy](#) ([more](#))

# Sample list of digital document genres

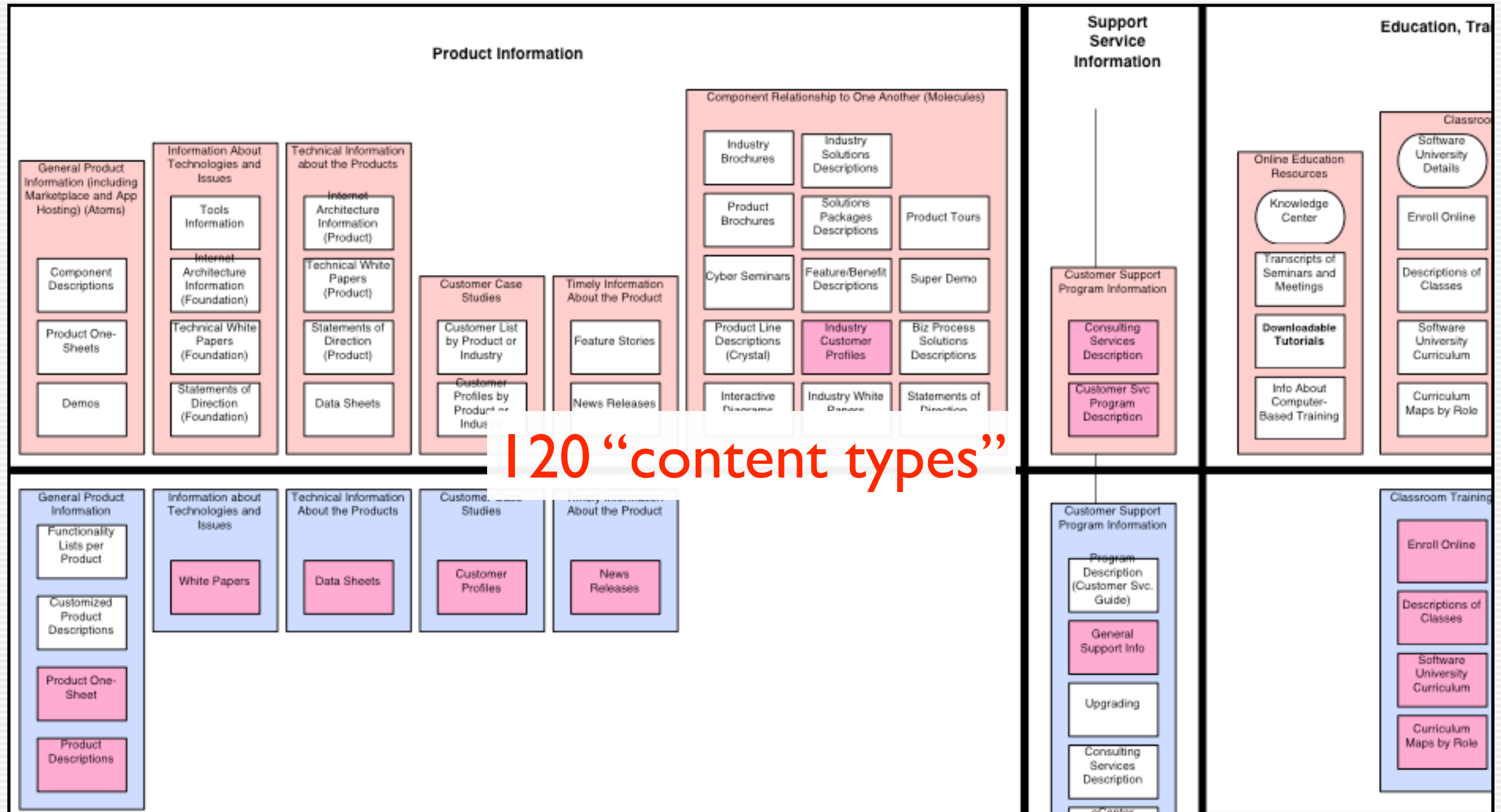
Analyst Report	Benchmark Study	Business White Paper
Company Information	Contacts	Customer List
Customer Quotes	Demo	Event
Event Calendar	Executive Biography	FAQ
Industry Fact Sheet	Industry Solution	Industry Solution Overview
Industry White Paper	Job Information	Legal
Logos	Partner Explanation	Partner List
Partner Overview	Partner White Paper	Press Info
Press Release List	Privacy Policy	Process Brief
Product	Product Backgrounder	Product Chooser
Product Line	Product Spec Sheet	Products Overview
Registration Form	Request Form	Search
Section Page	Service	Service Explanation
Service Fact Sheet	Service Overview	Service Process Brief
Service White Paper	Site Map	Solution Blueprint - Detail
Solution Blueprint - Summary	Speaker Information	Subscription Form
Technical White Paper	Technology Standards	Training Announcement
Training Locations	Training Registration	Training Schedule



# How do you make sense of this?

	A	B	C	D	E	F
64	2.1.1.4.8	press releases	http://www5.peoplesoft.com/events.rs/NewsB			
65	2.1.1.4.9	events	http://www5.peoplesoft.com/events.rs/Events			
66	2.1.1.4.10	liveactive diagram: marketplace can edit	no	feature/benefi	liveactive diagram	marketplace
67						
68	2.1.2.0	EnterprisePerformanceManagement:	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app			
69	2.1.2.1.0	workforce analytics	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	market.hg	paragraphs	intro to workforce analytics
70	2.1.2.1.1	workforce insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	workforce analytics
71	2.1.2.1.2	workforce rewards	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	workforce analytics
72	2.1.2.1.3	workforce scorecard	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	workforce analytics
73	2.1.2.1.4	enterprise warehouse	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	workforce analytics
74	2.1.2.1.5	brochure: enterprise performance management	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	product.descrip.bn	brochure	workforce analytics
75	2.1.2.6	white paper: insight analyst operational	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	market.hg	white paper	workforce analytics
76	2.1.2.7	white paper: bill human review	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	market.hg	white paper	workforce analytics
77	2.1.2.8	demo: ps balanced scorecard helps you align	no	product tour	flash demo	workforce analytics
78	2.1.2.9	featured stories: building a competitive HR strategy	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	market.hg	paragraphs	white report
79	2.1.2.10	demo: ps workforce analytics	no	product demo	flash demo	workforce analytics
80	2.1.2.11	demo: enterprise analytics	no	product demo	flash demo	workforce analytics
81						
82	2.1.2.2	customer relationship manager	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	market.hg	paragraphs	intro to CRM
83	2.1.2.2.1	customer scorecard	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	CRM
84	2.1.2.2.2	marketing insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	CRM
85	2.1.2.2.3	profitability insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	product.descrip.bn	paragraphs	CRM
86	2.1.2.2.4	sales activity insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	CRM
87	2.1.2.2.5	support insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	CRM
88	2.1.2.2.6	enterprise warehouse	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	CRM
89	2.1.2.2.7	press releases				
90	2.1.2.2.8	events				
91	2.1.2.2.9	brochure: workforce analytics	http://www5.peoplesoft.com/events.rs/NewsB	product.descrip.bn	brochure	CRM
92	2.1.2.2.10	white paper: insight analyst operational	no		white paper	CRM
93	2.1.2.2.11	white paper: bill human review	no		white paper	CRM
94	2.1.2.2.12	demo: ps balanced scorecard	no		flash demo	CRM
95	2.1.2.2.13	demo: profitability insight	no	product demo	flash demo	CRM
96	2.1.2.2.14	demo: enterprise warehouse	no	product demo	flash demo	CRM
97						
98	2.1.2.3.0	financial analytics	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app		paragraphs	intro to financial analytics
99	2.1.2.3.1	activity-based management	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	financial analytics
100	2.1.2.3.2	analyst forecasting	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	financial analytics
101	2.1.2.3.3	balanced scorecard	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	financial analytics
102	2.1.2.3.4	financial insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	financial analytics
103	2.1.2.3.5	profitability insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	product.descrip.bn	paragraphs	financial analytics
104	2.1.2.3.6	enterprise warehouse	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	
105	2.1.2.3.7	press releases	http://www5.peoplesoft.com/events.rs/NewsB			
106	2.1.2.3.8	white paper: insight analyst operational	duplicate	market.hg	white paper	
107	2.1.2.3.9	white paper: bill human review	duplicate	market.hg	white paper	
108	2.1.2.3.10	demo: balanced scorecard	duplicate	product tour	flash demo	
109	2.1.2.3.11	demo: profitability insight	duplicate	product demo	flash demo	
110	2.1.2.3.12	demo: financial insight	no	product demo	flash demo	
111	2.1.2.3.13	demo: enterprise warehouse	duplicate	product demo	flash demo	
112						
113	2.1.2.4.0	supply chain analytics	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	market.hg	paragraphs	intro to supply chain analytics
114	2.1.2.4.1	activity-based management... DUPLICATE	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	supply chain analytics
115	2.1.2.4.2	supply chain insight	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	feature/benefi of supply chain analytics
116	2.1.2.4.3	enterprise warehouse	http://www.peoplesoft.com/en/us/products/app	feature/benefi	paragraphs	
117	2.1.2.4.4	press releases	http://www5.peoplesoft.com/events.rs/NewsB			
118	2.1.2.4.5	brochure: enterprise performance management	no	product.descrip.bn	brochure	feature/benefi of supply chain analytics
119	2.1.2.4.6	white paper: insight analyst operational	duplicate	market.hg	white paper	
120	2.1.2.4.7	white paper: bill human review	duplicate	market.hg	white paper	
121	2.1.2.4.8	demo: enterprise warehouse	duplicate	product demo	flash demo	
122						

8000 rows  
three websites  
150 products



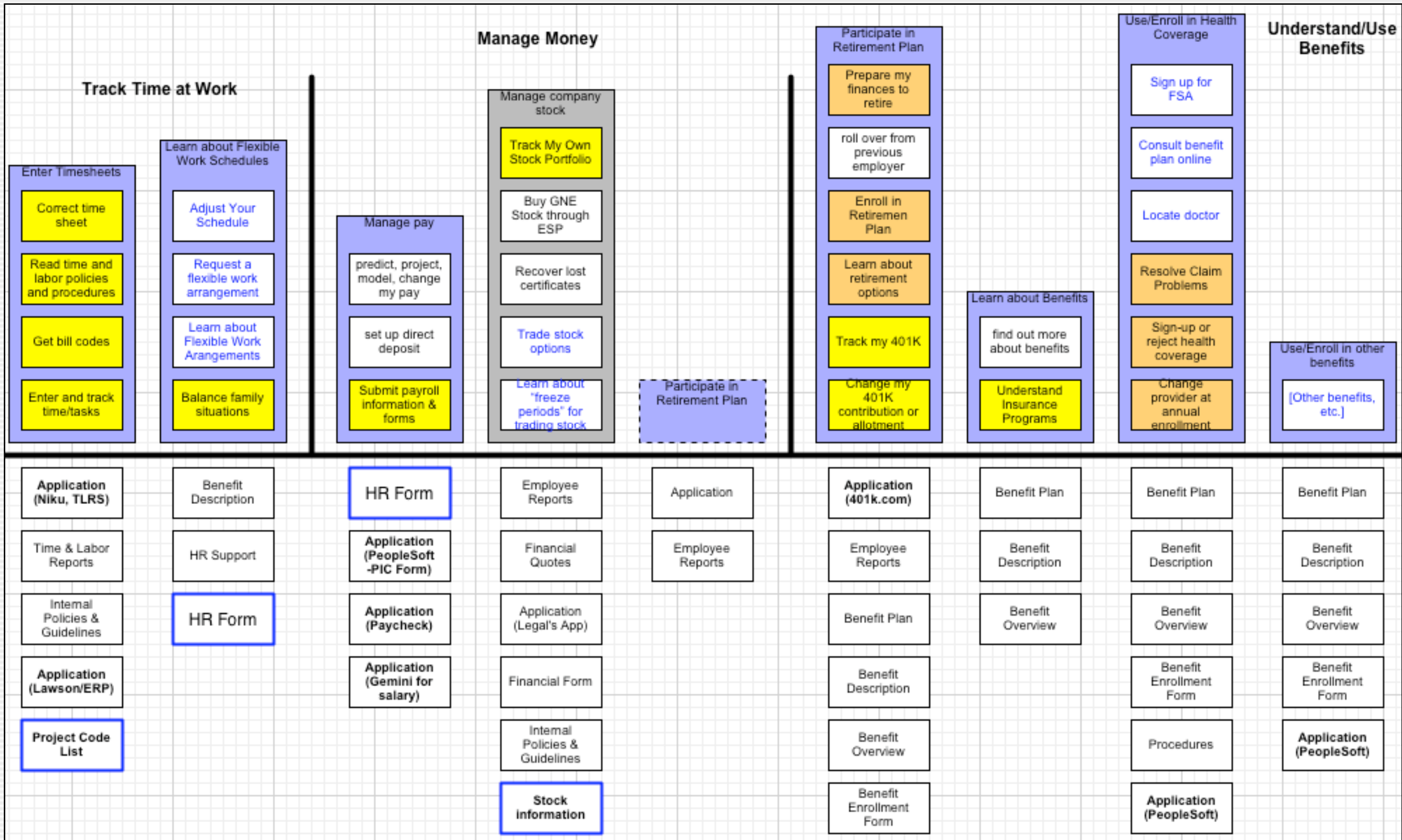
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425	EHS.7.0	peterme	Recycling @ GNE	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/programs/recycling/">http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/programs/recycling/</a>				DL
426	EHS.7.x	peterme	[supporting pages beneath]					DL
427	EHS.8.0	peterme	Report an Accident or Near-miss	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/arf/">http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/arf/</a>				DL
428	EHS.8.1	peterme	[supporting forms beneath]					DL
429	EHS.9.0	peterme	EHS Protection Policy	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/">http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/</a>				DL
430	EHS.9(dir9.6.2.0)	peterme	Impacts	<a href="https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/impactsfront.html">https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/impactsfront.html</a>				DL
431	EHS.9(dir9.6.1.0)	peterme	Policy Statement	<a href="https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/policyfront.html">https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/policyfront.html</a>				DL
432	EHS.9(dir9.6.4)	peterme	Comments and Ideas	<a href="https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/commentsfront.html">https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/policy/commentsfront.html</a>				DL
433	EHS.9.x	peterme	[supporting pages beneath]					DL
434	EHS.0(dir9.6.3)	peterme	Goals and Progress	<a href="https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/downloads/n103mt.pdf">https://connect.gene.com:443/qewiz/groups/Ehs/downloads/n103mt.pdf</a>		PDF		DL
435	EHS.0(dir12.2)	sophi	BioWaste Collection and Storage Areas	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/very/ices/biowaste.html">http://qewiz/groups/Ehs/very/ices/biowaste.html</a>			EHS	DL
436	ENG.0	peterme	Engineering	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Eng/eng.html">http://qewiz/groups/Eng/eng.html</a>				PT
437	ENG(dir2.3.0)	peterme	Genentech Campus Site/Floor Plans	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Eng/campus_info/Floor_Plans.htm">http://qewiz/groups/Eng/campus_info/Floor_Plans.htm</a>		HTML	Corporate	DL?
438	ENG(dir2.3.x)	peterme	[supporting pages beneath]	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Eng/campus_info/floorplans/PDFs/SSF_Floor_Plans">http://qewiz/groups/Eng/campus_info/floorplans/PDFs/SSF_Floor_Plans</a>		PDF	Corporate	DL?
439	EPAG.0	peterme	Alpha Paging Email Service	<a href="http://qewiz/projects/epaging/">http://qewiz/projects/epaging/</a>				DL
440	EPAG.1	peterme	Announcements and Calls					PT
441	EPAG.2	peterme						PT
442	ERC.0	sophi	ERC Staff					S
443	ERC.10.0	sophi						S
444	ERC.8.0	sophie	FAQs	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Humres/ERC/erc_faqs.html">http://qewiz/groups/Humres/ERC/erc_faqs.html</a>				S
445	ERC.9.0	sophie	Feedback	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Humres/ERC/erc_feedback.html">http://qewiz/groups/Humres/ERC/erc_feedback.html</a>				S
446	ESP.0	peterme	Genentech Espana	<a href="http://esnts125.gene.com/qnespana/">http://esnts125.gene.com/qnespana/</a>				PT
447	FAC.0	peterme	Facilities	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/Facilities/">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/Facilities/</a>				DL
448	FAC.1.0	peterme	SSF Facilities Services	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/</a>				DL
449	FAC.1.1.0	peterme	Dept Info	[navigation item only]				DL
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451	FAC.1.1.2	peterme	Contacts	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/contacts.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/contacts.html</a>				DL
452	FAC.1.1.3	peterme	Key Goals and Targets for 2003	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Images/goals_2003.pdf">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Images/goals_2003.pdf</a>		PDF		DL
453	FAC.1.2.0	peterme	Services	[navigation item only]				DL
454	FAC.1.2.1.0	peterme	Grounds & Exterior Site Maintenance	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Grounds_Exteriors/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Grounds_Exteriors/index.html</a>				DL
455	FAC.1.2.1.x	peterme	[supporting pages beneath]					DL
456	FAC.1.2.10	peterme	Vehicles	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Vehicles/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Vehicles/index.html</a>				DL
457	FAC.1.2.2.0	peterme	Building Repairs	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Bldg_Repair/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Bldg_Repair/index.html</a>				DL
458	FAC.1.2.2.x	peterme	[supporting pages beneath]					DL
459	FAC.1.2.3.0	peterme	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/HVAC/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/HVAC/index.html</a>				DL
460	FAC.1.2.3.x	peterme	[supporting pages beneath]					DL
461	FAC.1.2.4	peterme	Electrical Services	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Electrical_Services/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Electrical_Services/index.html</a>				DL
462	FAC.1.2.5	peterme	Plumbing Services	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Plumbing_Services/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Plumbing_Services/index.html</a>				DL
463	FAC.1.2.6	peterme	Custodial, Cleaning and Janitorial Services	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Custodial_Cleaning/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Custodial_Cleaning/index.html</a>				DL
464	FAC.1.2.7	peterme	Integrated Pest Management	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Pest_Mgmt/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Pest_Mgmt/index.html</a>				DL
465	FAC.1.2.8	netama	Moves and Janitorial Support Services	<a href="http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Moves_Janitorial/index.html">http://qewiz/groups/Fac/SSF_Facilities/Services/Moves_Janitorial/index.html</a>				DL

1600 rows  
intranet across dozens of servers

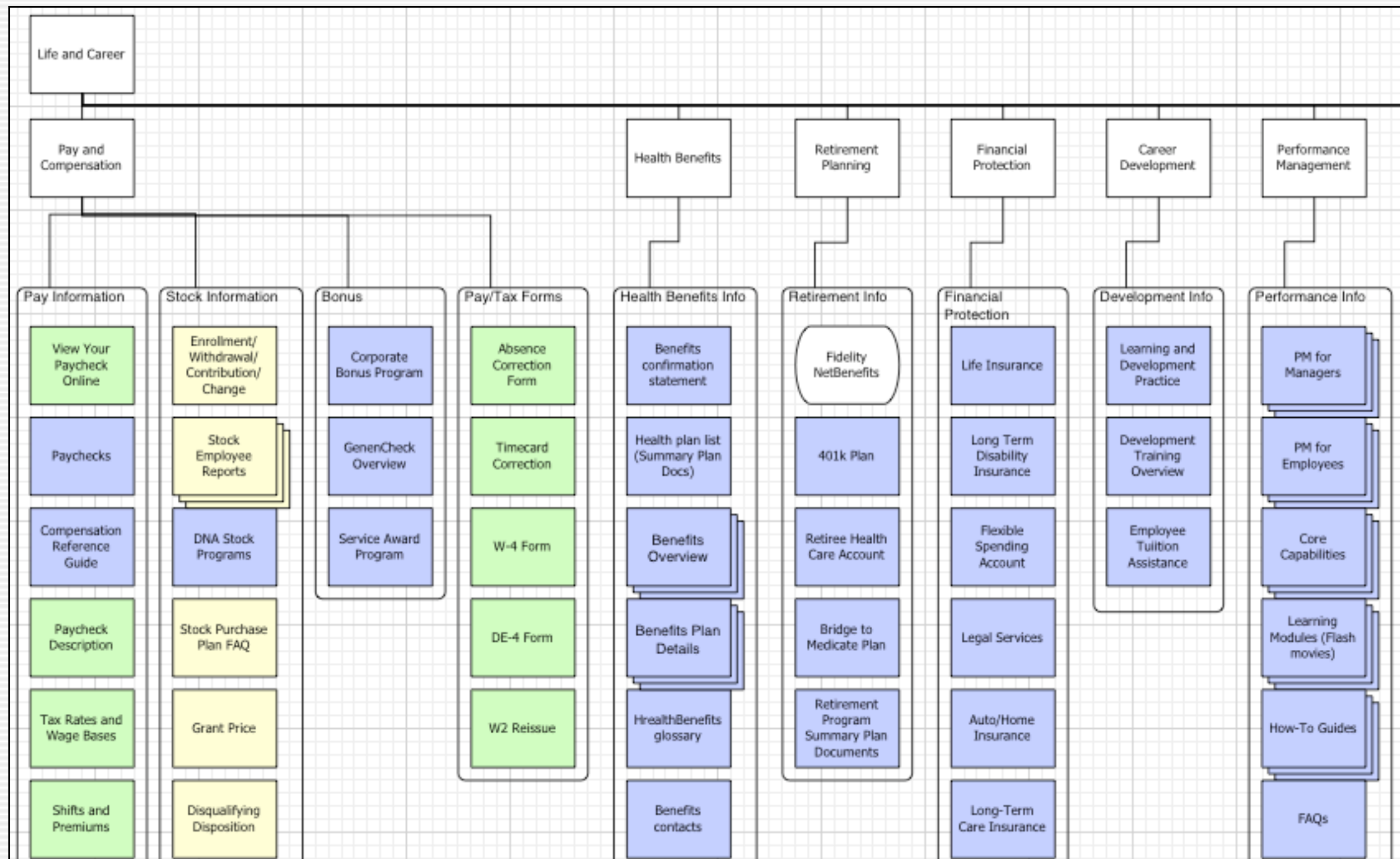
1	Content Genres - Broad Categories	Content Genres - More Granular	Still More Granular	Yet Still More Granular
21	Application Interface Application	Application Interface (Service Request Systems)	Application Interface (Equipment Ordering)	
22	Application Interface Application	Application Interface (Employee Systems)		
23	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Charitable Giving)		
24	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Family)		
25	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Financial)	Retirement Plan	
26	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Financial)	Employee Stock Plan	
27	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Health)		
28	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Lifestyle)		
29	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Recognition) Employee Incentive Plans		
30	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Security)		
31	Benefits Description Benefits Information	Benefits Description (Time Away From Work)		
32	Biography	Executive Biography		
33	Brand Book	Logos & Templates	Logos	
34	Brand Book	Logos & Templates	Templates	
35	Brand Book	Style Guides		
36	Calendars & Schedules	Calendar of events		
37	Calendars & Schedules	Schedules		
38	Club Overview Clubs			
39	Company Info Corporate Information	Company Info (History)		
40	Company Info Corporate Information	Company Info (Mission) Mission Statement		



1	Content Genres - Broad Categories	Content Genres - More Granular	Still More Granular	Yet Still More Granular
62	Employee records			
63	FAQs	FAQ (1 q + 1 a)		
64	FAQs	FAQ List (multiple FAQs)		
65	Financial information	financial quotes		
66	Financial information	financial statements	Annual Reports	
67	Financial information	financial statements	Quarterly Reports	
68	Financial information	Analyst Reports		
69	Forms	feedback forms		
70	Forms	employee records forms	Payroll forms	
71	Forms	employee records forms	HR Forms	
72	Forms	employee records forms	Medical form	
73	Forms	Security form		
74	Forms	Financial form		
75	Forms	service request form		
76	Forms	enrollment forms		
77	Forms	Subscription forms		
78	Glossaries/Dictionaries/Thesauri/Taxonomies	Glossaries/Dictionaries/Thesaurus		
79	Glossaries/Dictionaries/Thesauri/Taxonomies	Taxonomies/O ntologies		
80	gWiz site map			
81	gWiz site Index			
82	Policies/Guidelines/Ethics/Principles/Standards	Guidelines/Policies Policies and Guidelines	Guidelines	
83	Policies/Guidelines/Ethics/Principles/Standards	Guidelines/Policies Policies and Guidelines	Policies	Policies
84	Policies/Guidelines/Ethics/Principles/Standards	Guidelines/Policies Policies and Guidelines	Policies	Policies (Financial)
85	Policies/Guidelines/Ethics/Principles/Standards	Guidelines/Policies Policies and Guidelines	Policies	Policies (Genentech)
86	Policies/Guidelines/Ethics/Principles/Standards	Guidelines/Policies Policies and Guidelines	Policies	Policies (gWiz and Internet)

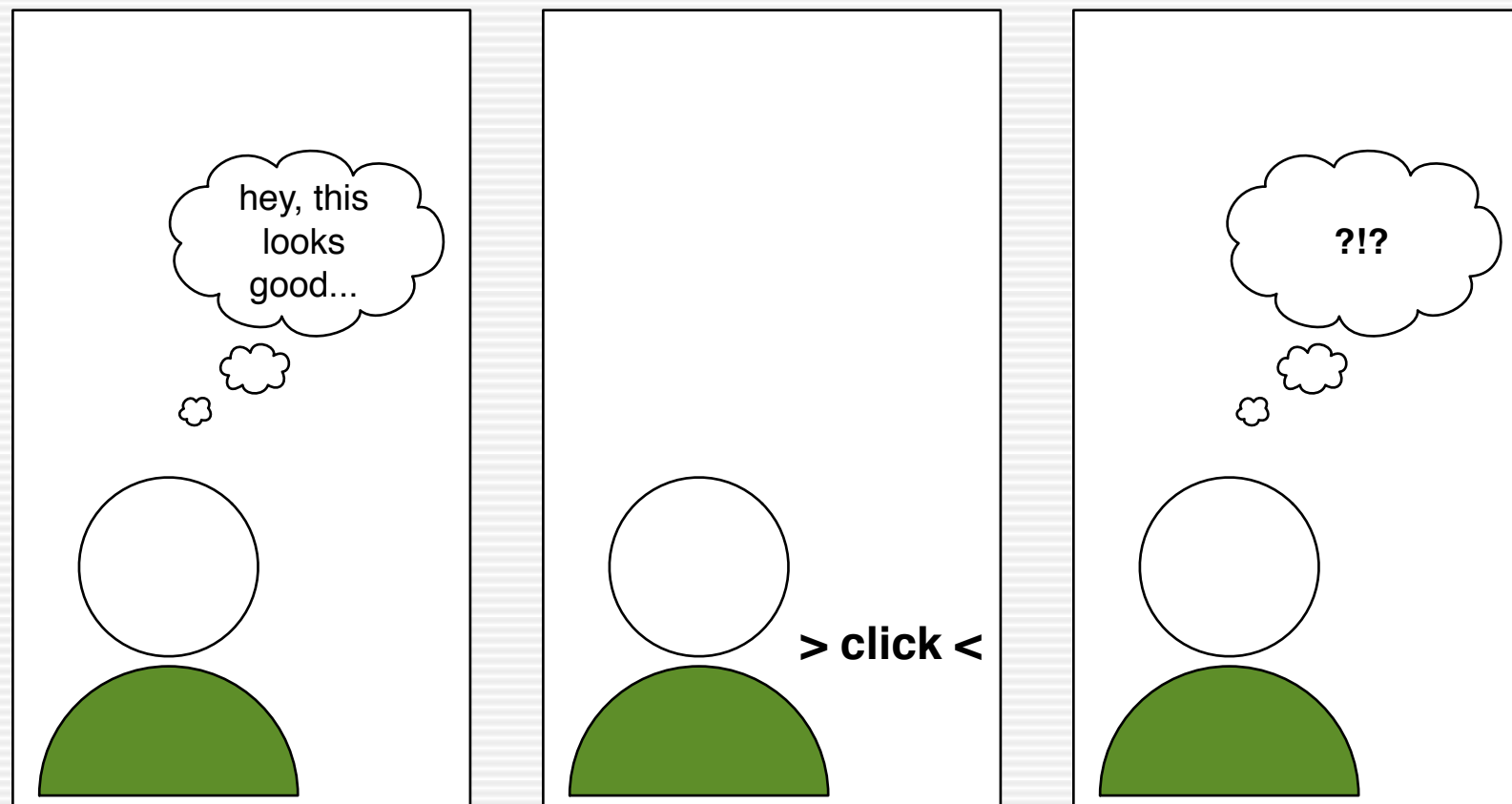






# How does a user make sense of it?

- ◆ Genres serve as important “trigger words”
- ◆ Those trigger words are pretty much all a user has when figuring out where to go



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## Symantec Mail Security™ for Microsoft® Exchange

*An integrated security solution that protects against viruses, spam, and other unwanted content*

- NEW! Optional Symantec Premium AntiSpam add-on subscription service provides best-of-breed spam prevention with low administrative overhead and no additional software to install
- NEW! Hourly virus updates using Symantec Rapid Release enable organizations to respond quickly to new threats
- Mass-Mailer Cleanup automatically eliminates entire messages infected with mass-mailer worms, not just attachments
- Basic spam tools include heuristic engine, sender and recipient whitelist, custom filtering, and integration with Microsoft's Spam Confidence Levels and Intelligent Message Filter
- Incorporates rules-based content filtering to prevent unwanted content from entering—and confidential information from leaving—the network
- Backed by Symantec Security Response, the world's leading antivirus and Internet security research organization

Symantec Mail Security™ for Microsoft® Exchange provides high performance, integrated mail protection against virus threats, spam, and other unwanted content for Microsoft® Exchange 2000/2003 servers.

Symantec's extensible NAVEXTM antivirus technology defends against new and known viruses. Attachment and subject line blocking capabilities provide hour-zero responses against, and support for hourly definition updates enables organizations to respond quickly to, emerging threats. In addition, a Mass-Mailer Cleanup feature eliminates worm-infected viruses. With integrated LiveUpdate™ functionality, virus definitions can be deployed enterprise-wide without stopping scan services or incurring server downtime.

Basic spam tools include heuristics-based detection, custom filtering rules, and real-time blacklists and whitelisting. Messages can be handled

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# So why not “content types”?



## Content-type

[edit]

This header indicates the *type* and *subtype* of the message content, for example

```
Content-type: text/plain
```

The combination of type and subtype is generally called a *MIME type*. A large number of file formats have registered MIME types. Any *text* type has an additional *charset* parameter that can be included to indicate the [character encoding](#). A very large number of character encodings have registered MIME charset names.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIME>

# Aren't these just templates?

No.

- ◆ Genres drive the design of templates
- ◆ But, one template could suit many genres
- ◆ Templates are simply about layout
- ◆ Genres also include content and purpose

# Thoughtwander



## Web

Results 1 - 100 of about 684,000 for "information architecture" [definition]. (0.20 seconds)

[hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/design/site\\_building/tutorials/tutorial1.html](http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/design/site_building/tutorials/tutorial1.html)

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### [Jesse James Garrett: information architecture resources](#)

Extensive links to **Information Architecture** resources by Jesse James Garrett.

[www.jjg.net/ia/](http://www.jjg.net/ia/) - 11k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

#### [Jesse James Garrett: Visual Vocabulary for Information Architecture](#)

... for describing **information architecture** and interaction design ... When describing **information architecture**, the diagram should emphasize conceptual ...

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### [Argus Center for Information Architecture](#)

Features resources for learning about the theory and practice of **information architecture**: upcoming events, people profiles, community discussion.

[argus-acia.com/](http://argus-acia.com/) - 15k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

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... sponsored by Argus Associates, a leading **information architecture** consulting firm.

**Information Architecture** Glossary. By Kat Hagedorn, Argus Associates ...

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Non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to advancing and promoting **information architecture**. Features membership information, news, calendar and ...

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#### [AIFIA | IA Library](#)

... **Information Architecture** Library. Welcome to the IA Library ... Library is a selection

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Needs **Information Architecture**  
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Spring 2005: San Diego, Boston, &  
Denver w/expert Louis Rosenfeld  
[www.louisrosenfeld.com](http://www.louisrosenfeld.com)

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Top 182 results of at least 454,481 retrieved for the query **information architecture**

- [Information Architecture Software Tools](#)   
Create and manage shared schema, taxonomy, metadata and reference data enterprise **information architecture**. Bring stewards and stakeholders together to improve interoperability. [www.schemalogic.com](http://www.schemalogic.com)

- [Architecture Information](#)   
Learn interior **architecture** and design from the comfort of your own home at the Academy of Art Online. Request your free, no-risk infopak today. [online.art.institute.org](http://online.art.institute.org)

1. [Asilomar Institute for Information Architecture](#)   
Volunteer-led professional association for **information** architects provides initiatives, research, and educational resources.  
[www.aifia.org](http://www.aifia.org) - Wisenut, GigaBlast, Looksmart, Open Directory

2. [Information architecture](#)   
**Information Architecture** (IA) is the [art](#) and [science](#) of structuring [knowledge](#) (technically [data](#)), and defining [user interactions](#) (also see [use case](#)). The modern practice of information architecture was first popularized by [Louis Rosenfeld](#) and [Peter Morville](#), co-authors of Information Architecture for the World Wide Web (ISBN , AKA "the Polar Bear Book").  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information\\_architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_architecture) - Wikipedia

3. [Argus Center for Information Architecture](#)   
Provides leadership in defining and advancing this evolving web design discipline. Also attempts to serve as a focal point for learning about its theory and practice.  
[www.argus-acia.com](http://www.argus-acia.com) - Looksmart, Wisenut, Open Directory, GigaBlast



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### **ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange**

... src="/global/common/images/carat-on.gif" width=8 border=0>, ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange**. ... Home > Support > Update Center > ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange**. ...  
www.trendmicro.com/download/product.asp?productid=8 - 73k

### **ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange**

Trend Micro, ... Home > Products > Email & Groupware > ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange**, ...  
... ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange**, ...  
www.trendmicro.com/en/products/email/smex/evaluate/overview.htm - 56k

### **ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange**

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src="/global/common/images/carat-on.gif" width=8 border=0>, ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange**. ...  
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¸s²Ö³nÂé > ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange**, ...  
www.trendmicro.com/tw/products/email/smex/ - 42k

### **ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange**

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ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange**, ...  
www.trendmicro.com/kr/products/email/exchange/ - 44k

### **Trend Micro?s Latest ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange Allows ...**

... Trend Micro?s Latest ScanMail for **Microsoft Exchange** Allows **Microsoft Exchange** Server  
2003 Customers to Benefit Immediately from Improved Messaging Security ...  
www.trendmicro.com/en/about/news/pr/archive/2003/pr091003.htm - 37k

# Separation of presentation and content

*The real power of CMS comes from separating content from presentation and will help you keep a consistent look-and-feel for your website. It will also let you re-use content for different publications and formats - custom versions for certain browsers or devices or for different special occasions.*

<http://electrivity.co.uk/2004/07/your-next-project-will-use-content.html>

39.	House Special Lo Mein.....	4.25
40.	House Special Chow Mein .....	4.25
41.	Orange Flavor Beef.....	4.50
42.	King Bo Chicken .....	4.25
43.	Shrimp & Chicken or Chicken & Shrimp .....	4.50

Chinese menu examples stolen from Victor Lombardi's 2004 IA Summit Presentation



39.	House Special Lo Mein.....	4.25
40.	House Special Chow Mein .....	4.25
41.	Orange Flavor Beef.....	4.50
42.	King Bo Chicken .....	4.25
43.	Shrimp & Chicken w. Cashew Nuts	4.50
44.	Chicken & Beef w. Mixed Veg. ..	4.50
45.	Vegetable Egg Foo Young .....	3.75
46.	Chicken Egg Foo Young.....	3.95
47.	King Bo Shrimp.....	4.55
48.	Orange Flavor Chicken .....	4.55
49.	Szechuan Beef or Shrimp .....	4.50
50.	Szechuan Triple (Chicken, Beef and Shrimp) ....	4.95
51.	Hot & Spicy Beef .....	4.55
52.	Chicken or Beef w. Curry Sauce	4.35
53.	Broccoli w. Garlic Sauce .....	3.75
54.	Four Seasons .....	4.95
55.	Mixed Vegetables .....	3.75
56.	Chicken or Pork w. Mixed Veggies	4.35
57.	Beef or Shrimp w. Mixed Veggies	4.75
58.	Boneless Ribs .....	5.35
59.	Beef w. Snow Peas .....	4.75
60.	Sweet & Sour Shrimp .....	4.75

Shrimp Toast (4) \$3.95 Fried  
Chicken Wings (8) \$2.95 Wonton  
in Hot Oil \$3.95 Cold or Hot  
Noodles in Spicy Sauce \$3.95  
Marinated beef (2) \$3.50 Fantail  
shrimp (4) \$4.95 Hacked Chicken  
in Spicy Sauce (cold) \$4.95  
Chicken in Cold Noodles (cold)  
\$4.95 Hot and Sour Cabbages  
(cold) \$2.95 Sweet And Sour  
Cucumber (cold) \$2.95 Shrimp Dim  
Sum \$3.95 Scallion Shrimp Toast  
(4) \$3.95 Fried Chicken Wings  
Chicken in Cold Noodles (cold)  
\$4.95 Hot and Sour Cabbages  
(cold) \$2.95 Sweet And Sour  
Cucumber (cold) \$2.95 Shrimp Dim

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99	XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX XXX XXXXXXXXXXXX	9.99
99	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXX XXXX	9.99

**Shrimp Toast** (4) \$3.95 **Fried Chicken Wings** (8) \$2.95 **Wonton in Hot Oil** \$3.95 **Cold or Hot Noodles in Spicy Sauce** \$3.95

**Marinated beef** (2) \$3.50 **Fantail shrimp** (4) \$4.95

**Hacked Chicken in Spicy Sauce** (cold) \$4.95 **Chicken in Cold Noodles** (cold) \$4.95 **Hot and Sour Cabbages** (cold) \$2.95 **Sweet And Sour Cucumber** (cold) \$2.95 **Shrimp Dim Sum** \$3.95 **Scallion Shrimp Toast** (4) \$3.95 **Fried Chicken Wings** (8) \$2.95

**Wonton in Hot Oil** \$3.95 **Cold or Hot Noodles in Spicy Sauce** \$3.95 **Marinated beef** (2) \$3.50 **Fantail shrimp** (4) \$4.95

**Hacked Chicken in Spicy Sauce** (cold) \$4.95 **Chicken in Cold Noodles** (cold) \$4.95 **Hot and Sour Cabbages** (cold) \$2.95

**Sweet And Sour Cucumber** (cold) \$2.95

# Presentation (form), content, and purpose are intertwined

- ◆ Presentation sets expectations – what the content is, and thus what purpose it can serve
- ◆ Presentation also suggests how to “use” that content

# Buying a House

- ◆ Some subtasks:
  - ◆ Choosing houses to see
  - ◆ Getting directions to those houses
  - ◆ Applying for a mortgage
  - ◆ Making an offer
  - ◆ Acquiring the title
  - ◆ Outfitting the home
  - ◆ Making mortgage payment
- ◆ How do genres support these tasks?
- ◆ How do people shift from genre to genre?
- ◆ Realization: genres are medium/device/channel-specific

	<b>PC</b>	<b>PDA</b>	<b>Mobile Phone</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Phone call</b>
Portability	2	8	9	9	9
Interactivity	9	8	7	1	10
Detail/depth	8	6	3	10	5
Multimedia	9	5	5	2	1
Familiarity/trust	5	5	5	8	8
Reflection	5	4	3	8	5
Responsiveness	7	0	8	0	10
Multitaskability	2	4	4	4	8
Solidity of record	5	3	2	8	2



	<b>PC</b>	<b>PDA</b>	<b>Mobile Phone</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Phone call</b>	Choosing Houses
Portability	2	8	9	9	9	Low
Interactivity	9	8	7	1	10	Medium
Detail/depth	8	6	3	10	5	High
Multimedia	9	5	5	2	1	High
Familiarity/trust	5	5	5	8	8	N/A
Reflection	5	4	3	8	5	Medium
Responsiveness	7	0	8	0	10	Medium
Multitaskability	2	4	4	4	8	Low
Solidity of record	5	3	2	8	2	Low

Thus, a quick move away from  
classified ads, to media rich  
online house tours

	<b>PC</b>	<b>PDA</b>	<b>Mobile Phone</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Phone call</b>	Applying for a mortgage
Portability	2	8	9	9	9	Low
Interactivity	9	8	7	1	10	Low
Detail/depth	8	6	3	10	5	High
Multimedia	9	5	5	2	1	Low
Familiarity/trust	5	5	5	8	8	High
Reflection	5	4	3	8	5	N/A
Responsiveness	7	0	8	0	10	N/A
Multitaskability	2	4	4	4	8	Low
Solidity of record	5	3	2	8	2	High

Why most people still apply for mortgages on paper and in person, even though they could do it online

	<b>PC</b>	<b>PDA</b>	<b>Mobile Phone</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Phone call</b>	Paying for the mortgage
Portability	2	8	9	9	9	N/A
Interactivity	9	8	7	1	10	Low
Detail/depth	8	6	3	10	5	Med
Multimedia	9	5	5	2	1	N/A
Familiarity/trust	5	5	5	8	8	Med
Reflection	5	4	3	8	5	N/A
Responsiveness	7	0	8	0	10	N/A
Multitaskability	2	4	4	4	8	Low
Solidity of record	5	3	2	8	2	Med

Why we're comfortable paying bills  
online, but maybe not through a  
mobile phone

# And some tasks having shifting genre needs

- ◆ Getting directions
- ◆ Outfitting the home

	<b>PC</b>	<b>PDA</b>	<b>Mobile Phone</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Phone call</b>
Portability	2	8	9	9	9
Interactivity	9	8	7	1	10
Detail/depth	8	6	3	10	5
Multimedia	9	5	5	2	1
Familiarity/trust	5	5	5	8	8
Reflection	5	4	3	8	5
Responsiveness	7	0	8	0	10
Multitaskability	2	4	4	4	8
Solidity of record	5	3	2	8	2

*It will also let you re-use content for different publications and formats - custom versions for certain browsers or devices or for different special occasions.*

# Final thoughts

- ◆ Simplifies the practice of IA of large spaces
- ◆ Reminds us that IA is about the content
- ◆ Reminds us that people are *using* the information
- ◆ Genres are fluid – innovation occurs when developing the right genre, in the right context, for the right medium
- ◆ Identifying genres is hard, and currently more art than science
- ◆ Question as to how complex a digital document genre can be



# Resources

- ◆ <http://crowston.syr.edu/papers/index.php>
- ◆ <http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~adillon/pubs.html>
- ◆ Spinuzzi, Clay, *Tracing Genres Through Organizations*