

So you want a personal website?

Myles Braithwaite

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What do you want to
do with you website?

Single Purpose Web Sites

- One purpose idea.

Tuesday

WhatDayOfTheWeek.com

NO!



Do Websites Need To Look Exactly
The Same In Every Browser.com

- Basic knowledge of HTML (You could use OpenOffice.org)
- Almost any free web host.

Journal
(or Blog)

- Content that is updated on a regular bases

kottke.org

...is a weblog about the liberal arts 2.0 edited by Jason Kottke since March 1998 ([archives](#)). You can [read about me and kottke](#) if you've got questions, concerns, or interesting links, [send them along](#).

What do Stormtroopers do on their day off?

They play video games, dance, fish, hang out with Wall-E, and [all kinds of other stuff](#). I can't decide which is my favorite...[this one](#), [this one](#), or [this one](#)? No, it's gotta be [this one](#):



kottke.org, quickly...

The best way to get a sense of what kottke.org is to [head to the front page](#) or [check out some entries](#) from the archives. Follow kottke.org on [Twitter](#).

Also: [jason's twitter](#) - [silkscreen font](#) - [best photos \(flickr\)](#)

Want to share your something special with readers? [Sponsor the RSS feed for a week](#)

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ScreenScape
Screen Displays made simple

ScreenScape is a place-based media network of the Internet. Join the Network.

LOOKING FOR WORK?
Blue State Digital is looking for a Web Developer. See more on the [Job Board](#).

Recommended sites

kottke.org

- WordPress (<http://wordpress.org>)
- Movable Type (<http://movabletype.org>)
- PyBlosxom (<http://pyblosxom.sf.net>)

- Requires support for a dynamic language
- Probably a database
- Large communities for support and extensions
- Well documented

But

Articles or Documents

- Technical documents
- White papers
- Searching is incredibly important.

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Today's featured article

 *Imagination* was an American fantasy and science fiction magazine launched in October 1950 by Raymond Palmer's Clark Publishing Company. The magazine was sold almost immediately to Greenleaf Publishing Company, owned by William Hamling, who published and edited it from the third issue, February 1951, for the rest of the magazine's life. Hamling launched a sister magazine, *Imaginative Tales*, in 1954; both ceased publication at the end of 1958 in the aftermath of major changes in US magazine distribution due to the liquidation of American News Company. The magazine was more successful than most of the numerous science fiction titles launched in the late 1940s and early 1950s, lasting a total of 63 issues. Despite this success, the

In the news

- The CDU/CSU led by [Angela Merkel](#) (*pictured*) wins a renewed plurality in [elections](#) to the Bundestag in [Germany](#).
- [Tropical Storm Ketsana](#) causes record amounts of rainfall in [Manila, Philippines](#), leading to the declaration of a "state of calamity" in [25 provinces](#).
- The [discovery](#) of the largest [Anglo-Saxon treasure trove](#) ever found, in [Staffordshire, United Kingdom](#), is announced.
- Three men are [sentenced to death](#) for [murdering and mutilating](#) an albino boy to sell his body parts in [Shinyanga Region, Tanzania](#).

Wikipedia

Design Explorations

A series of design explorations across 37signals products

By Jason Zimdars, *designer at 37signals*

One of the first projects for me as a new designer at 37signals is to take a fresh look at a series of features and screens in the applications. These individual pieces are ones that we know can be better but haven't made it onto anyone's plate yet. Much like the [Highrise Contacts](#) exploration I did a couple of months ago, I'll be looking at each piece intensively for a short period of time with the goal of improving and refining the experience. And also like the Highrise piece, I'll be carefully documenting the process, including the directions that didn't quite work. So stay tuned for more like this in the coming weeks.

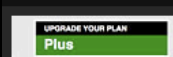
EXPLORATIONS



[Highrise Edit Contacts Screen](#)

Exploring the Highrise Edit Contacts screen

August 11, 2009



[Basecamp Account Screen](#)

Design Explorations by 37signals

Design Explorations

Highrise Edit Contacts

Exploring the Highrise Edit Contacts screen

By Jason Zimdars, *designer at 37signals*

This screen is used to make changes to the contact information for people and companies in your Highrise contact list. In the previous article ([our exploration of the Basecamp Account Screen](#)) we explored a variety of broad concepts then narrowed and refined to a solution. Here the process was a little bit different. The initial concept came together pretty quickly but we explored lots of small, subtle improvements in order to apply that concept the best way.

37signals 

The original screen

The previous version of the edit contacts screen had several areas that we thought could be better. The primary problem was simply that this view was pretty busy. There were lots of fields — many of them empty. New contacts can be added automatically to your Highrise account using [dropboxes](#) so it is common for contacts to only have a name and an email address associated with them. The edit contacts screen is then used to add additional contact methods and information. So the first time you see this screen it is usually empty. All those empty text fields make it look like there is a lot of work to do. Plus, the visual noise was also pretty high with lots of inputs, pull-down selections, and the remove/delete buttons. Another issue was with the fields, themselves. With every text field stretched to the full width of the space, they didn't feel like they were sized right for the

Document

Wiki's

- MediaWiki (<http://mediawiki.org>)
 - Used by Wikipedia
- DokuWiki (<http://dokuwiki.org>)
 - Flat files (no dependency on a database)

- Plone (<http://plone.org>)
- Alfresco (<http://www.alfresco.com>)

Should I host my
website with Home,
Shared, etc.

Home Server

Advantages

- You will already have a computer and a broadband internet connection.
- Websites with little “media” have minimal bandwidth requirements.

Bell Sucks

Rogers Sucks

ISP in Canada Suck

Disadvantages

- **Bell** and **Rogers** downtime is always an issue
- **Bell** and **Rogers** don't allow static IP addresses.
 - You will have to setup a Dynamic DNS
 - Or if your on Bell you could use a CNAME

Free Dynamic DNS Providers

- FreeDNS (<http://freedns.afraid.org>)
- DynDNS (<http://dyndns.com>)

Shared Web Hosting

Advantages

- Minimal cost
- Administration is someone else's job
 - But do daily/weekly/monthly backups just in case
- TI, Data centre, etc.

Disadvantages

- If the company goes bankrupt how will you get your data?
- People on the internet are sketchy.

- NearlyFreeSpeech (nearlyfreespeech.net)