

### **Chapter 5**

# Strategy Formulation: Customer Interface

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### **Customer Interface**

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### Issues:

- Seven design elements of the customer interface.
- > What determines the look-and-feel of the design?
- > The three content classifications.
- > The significance of community.
- > Two ways websites can achieve customization.
- What types of communication can a firm maintain with its customer base?
- > Connecting with other businesses.
- > Features that support financial transactions.

## **Customer Interface**

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 Seven design elements of the customer interface (7Cs)

- > Context
- > Content
- > Community
- > Customization
- Communication
- > Connection
- > Commerce

### The 7Cs of Customer Interface

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communication

### Look-and-Feel of the Design: Context

- Context captures a site's aesthetics and functional look-and-feel
- Dimensions of Context
  - Function the organization and accessibility of information
    - Section Breakdown site is organized into subcomponents
    - Linking Structure enables users to move easily between sections
    - Navigation Tools facilitate how the user moves through the site(search)
    - Speed the time needed to display a page on a user's screen
    - *Reliability -* how often a site experiences "downtime"
    - Platform Independence how well a site runs on multiple platforms, including old versions of Web browsers
    - Media Accessibility ability of a site to download to various media platforms
  - > Aesthetics (form) the visual characteristics of a site
    - Color Scheme refers to the colors used throughout the site
    - Visual Themes help to tell the story portrayed across the site (same top page)

### Context Classifications

- > Aesthetically Dominant: Emphasis is on the look-and-feel of the site. This type of site makes heavy use of visual elements
- Functionally Dominant: Emphasis is on the display of textual information. This type of site limits the visual design to a minimum
- Integrated: Balance of form and function. These sites have a clear and appealing theme that support the underlying graphics

# Form vs. Function -The Design Context Frontier 5-7



### Aesthetically Dominant Example—KMGI.com



### Functionally Dominant Example—Brint.com

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## Integrated Example—Patagonia.com



Estancia Monte León, southern Patagonia, Argentina. Photo: Kris Tompkins

Free Catalog | Shopping Cart | Privacy/Security | Email Sign Up Contact Us | Jobs | Affiliate Info | Your Account | Customer Service 日本サイト | Site Map | Home

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## **Deciding What Information to Include: Content** 5-11

### Content refers to all the digital information on the site

### Dimensions of Content

- Offering Mix: content can include products, information, services, or a mix of the three
- > Appeal Mix: the Company's value proposition is projected in the promotional and communications messages of a site
- Multimedia Mix: Refers to the choices of media including audio, image, video and graphics
- > *Timeliness Mix:* The information presented on a site is time-sensitive
  - Current Content Highly time-sensitive information with very short shelf life
  - Reference Content less time-sensitive information with longer shelf life

## **Deciding What Information to Include: Content** 5-12

### Content Classifications

- Product Dominant: sites that primarily sell physical goods
  - Superstore One-stop shop offering a wide range of goods in multiple product categories
  - Category Killer offering a comprehensive selection of products and services but only within a specific category
  - Specialty Store offering exceptional quality and exclusivity in single or multiple categories of products
- Information Dominant: sites that focus heavily on information
- Service Dominant: sites that focus on the services offered, often for a fee



### Category Killer Example—PetSmart



### Specialty Store—Frontgate.com



## Information-Dominant Example—Fast Company<sup>5-16</sup>



### Service Dominant Example—PlasticsNet



# Communities—Elements, Types, and Benefits 5-18



## **Offering the Customer Community**

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 The more evolved the community the more likely it is to have these six characteristics

- > Cohesion the community develops a group identity
- > *Effectiveness* the group has impact on members' lives
- Help members feel comfortable asking for and receiving help from other members
- *Relationships* interaction between individuals leads to friendships
- > Language members develop a specialized language and/or abbreviations with unique meaning within the community
- Self-regulation the group sets rules for its own interaction and develops a system for policing itself

## **Degree of Community Offering**

- Nonexistant offer no way for users to interact with one another, on either a one-to-one basis or one-to-many basis
- Limited offer features such as reading and posting information, stories, or opinions
- Strong offer interactive community functions such as chat rooms and message boards

### Limited Community 5-21 Example—Gillette Women's Cancer Connection







- Introduction
- Diagnosis
- Treatment Plan
- Treatment
- After Treatment
- Fear of Recurrence
- Recurrence
- Moving Forward
- Shared Stories

### Communication

For Women

For Families & Friends

Tools & Resources

Home

### Shared Stories

We encourage you to share your story about any phase of your emotional battle with cancer and what did or did not work to help you get through it.

The following are a collection of stories submitted through our Cancer Journey feedback.

Belinda, breast cancer: stage two

Age: over 60, Catherine, breast cancer: stage two

Millie, breast cancer: stage four

Age: over 60, Anita, breast cancer: stage one

Age: 40-49, Cindy B., other: stage two

Age: 30-39, Judy Pickett, breast cancer: stage two

Age: 50-59, Sharon G., breast cancer: stage two

Age: 40-49, Jacquie, breast cancer: stage two

Age: 50-59, Denise Cameron, endometrial cancer: stage one

Age: 50-59, Diane S., ovarian cancer: stage three

### Strong Community Example—Bolt.com



# Individualizing a Website: Customization 5-23

Customization - a site's ability to tailor itself to each user or to be tailored by the user

### Dimensions of Customization

- Personalization: The user initiates and manages the customization process
  - e.g., MyLook.com
- *Tailoring:* Software dynamically publishes unique versions of the site to address specific user's interests, habits and needs more appropriately
  - e.g., Amazon.com

# Individualizing a Website: Customization 5-24

Commonly used customization features:

- *E-mail accounts:* Users can send and receive e-mail from the site, using a free, unique e-mail address
- Content and layout configuration: Users can design their own homepage, within limits, by choosing background colors, layout design, and content sources
- Storage: Users can store e-mail, URLs, favorite content, or items they want to buy
- > Agents: Computer programs can perform simple tasks upon request, such as notifying a user via e-mail when a product is in stock

## Personalization by User Example—MyLook.com



### Tailoring Example—Amazon Homepage for Two5-26 Users



### **Keeping in Touch with Users: Communication**

Communication refers to the dialogue between a site and its users

- Dimensions of Communication
  - Broadcast: One-way information exchange from organization to user – e.g., mass mailing, FAQ, e-mail newsletters, contentupdate reminders, broadcast events
  - Interactive: Two-way communication between the organization and a user – e.g., e-commerce dialogue, customer service, user input

**Keeping in Touch with Users: Communication** 

- Communication Archetypes
  - One-to-Many, Non-Responding User: Site messages are announcements that users receive without needing to respond
  - One-to-Many, Responding User: Site messages are invitations to users to submit their comments and responses
  - One-to-One, Non-Responding User: User receives personalized messages to address specific interests or needs without a need to respond
  - > One-to-One, Responding User: User responds to personalized messages sent by the site

## One-to-One, Live Interaction Example LivePerson.com



## Linking with Other Websites: Connection

 Connection is the degree to which a given site is able to link to other sites

- Dimensions of Connection
  - Outside Links: take the user completely outside the home site and into a third-party site
  - Framed Links: take the user to a third-party site that open in the same browser window and that are framed by the home site in some way
  - Pop-Up Windows: open up the new site in another browser window while the original website stays in the background
  - > Outsourced Content: comes from an outside supplier



### **Outsourced Content Example—Real.com**



Get exclusive access to the web's premier programming, all within your RealOne Player Plus. It's easy! With RealOne SuperPass, you'll see more and do more.



Get into the action with exclusive access to NASCAR.com, FOXSports.com, MLB.com, and NBA.com TV.

You'll get daily highlights, commentaries, updated scores and more with RealOne SuperPass.

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Stay on top of the news with ABCNEWS.com, CNN.com, Wall Street Journal, The Weather Channel, CNET, and On24.

Bring the latest news and information right to your desktop.

Try It Now - FREE



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- > Destination Site: Provides almost exclusively sitegenerated content with very few links to other sites
- > Hub Site: Provides a combination of site-generated content and selective links to sites of related interests
- Portal Site: Consists almost exclusively of links to a large number of other sites

### **Destination Site—NYTimes.com**

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NEWS International National Politics Business Technology Science Health Sports New York Region Education V/eather Obituaries NYT Front Page Corrections OPINION Editorials/Op-Ed Readers' Opinions	Bush Warns Germans on Terror; Has No Iraq 'War Plans on Desk' By STEVEN ERLANGER with TERENCE NEILAN President Bush today delivered a wide- ranging speech to the German Parliament before departing for Moscow. Bomb Blast at Israel Fuel Depot, But Major Explosion Is Averted By JOHN KIFNER A bomb blew apart a tanker truck in Israel's biggest fuel depot today, only hours after a suicide bomber attack. • Fire Burns Israeli Embassy in Paris Investigators May Question	Suphen Crowley/The New York Times President Bush told the German Parliament today that the dangers of terrorism were worldwide. Go to Article N.Y. REGION City Residents Logging Longer Commutes	MARKETS         Dow Jones Industrials         10, 150         10, 150         11       1         11       3         DJIA       10,156         10,150       10,100         10,050       10,050         DJIA       10,156         Nasdaq       1,877.85       4.20 + 0.25%         S&P500       1,088.85       2.63 + 0.24%         10yr Tres. Yield       5.12%       +0.02         © BigCharts.com       2:47 PM ET         >View Your Personal Portfolio       Symbol         Lookup       Lookup         HARRISchrect.       Symbol         In CIRCUITS       Digital	
CLICK HERE     CLICK HERE     FEATURES     Arts     Books     Movies     Iravel     Dining & Wine     Home & Garden     Fashion & Style     New York Today     Crossword/Games     Cartoons     Magazine     V/eek in Review     Photos     College	Investigators May Question Condit Again in Intern Case By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS As forensic experts determine how Chandra Ann Levy died, police said today they may question Representative Gary A. Condit. • <u>Video: Remains Found in Rock Creek Park</u> • <u>Body of Intern Found in Park in Washington</u> 38 Years Later, Last of Suspects Is Convicted in Church Bombing By RICK BRAGG An Alabama jury found former Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry, 71, guilty of the	N.Y. REGION         Qaeda Tip Spurred Alert in         New York         POLITICS         3 Democrats Join Senate         Panel In Approving a         Criticized Judge         EDITORIALS/OP-ED         • Herbert: All or Nothing?         • Safire: Testing Putin on Iran         MORE HEADLINES	Digital Photography A special issue on digital photography looks at the ways families tell stories with pictures. AP AND REUTERS 2 Accused in Cigarette - Terror Scheme 2:30 p.m. ET Cranatelli Makes Indy Hall of Fame 2:28 p.m. ET	
Learning Network	murders of four black girls. • Video: Reaction to Verdict		Ex - Gen. Shelton to Have Surgery 2:25 n m ET	*

### Hub Example — Industry Central



## Portal Site Example—Yahoo

Shop <u>Auctions</u> · <u>Autos</u> · <u>Clas</u> Connect <u>Careers</u> · <u>Chat</u> · <u>GeoCit</u>	Spades Search Jobs, Post a Resume, Salary Wizard sifieds · Real Estate · Shopping · Travel · Yellow P ies · Greetings · Groups/Clubs · Mail · Members · N	What's New Personalize Help IDS <u>V! Mortgage Center</u> take advantage of low rates advanced search , Post a Job, Find Great Candidates gs : Maps Media Finance · News · Sports · Weath Messenger · Mobile · Personals · People Search · Phy
Features Yahoo Features Tools • Buy New • New Ca • Buy Used • Used C • Sell Used • Car Co • Research • Build &	DI Autos Research, buy, sell and maintain Make ar Guide <u>Chrysler</u> <u>Audi</u> ar Pricing <u>BMW</u> <u>Volkswagen</u> mparisons <u>Jeep</u> <u>Toyota</u>	s · Horescopes · Kids · Movies · Music · TV       more         In the News       • Condit may face more Levy questions         • Bomb explodes at Israel fuel depot       • UN to keep security forces in Kabul         • LA to vote on Valley secession in Nov.       • Scientists create malaria-free mosquito
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Computers & Inte Internet, WWW, Softwar Education College and University, P Entertainment	e. <u>Games</u> <u>Libraries</u> , <u>Dictionaries</u> , <u>Ouotations</u> <u>Regional</u>	Polo available in 20 different colors for a limited time     Eddie Bauer Outlet - <u>extra 20% off</u> Broadcast Events
Picks, Movies, Humor, M Government Elections, Military, Law, 1 Health	tusic Animals, Astronomy, Engineering Social Science	Artist of the Month - Eminem     Inside Yahoo!     Star Wars - Showtimes, Reviews,     Premiere Photos, Bid on Memorabilia     FIFA World Cup - official match     schedule     Yahool Education - Get help on the
ivietature, <u>Diseases</u> , <u>Dru</u>	powered by	SAT, GRE, GMAT, and LSÂT • <u>Make Yahoo! your home page</u>

## **Enabling Financial Transactions: Commerce**

 Commerce refers to the sale of goods, products or services on the site.

- Dimensions of Commerce
  - Functional tools that are the commerce-enabling features of a website
    - Registration
    - •Shopping Cart

•Configuration Technology 5-36

•Security

- Credit-Card Approval
- One-Click Shopping

Order Tracking

Delivery Options

5 - 37

## **Commerce Classifications**:

- LOW: the ability to process transactions, but with few of the tools that enable e-commerce
- Medium: no need for all the commerce bells and whistles – contain financial transactions as a necessary feature but not as their main purpose
- High: fully equipped with all or almost all the functional tools that enable e-commerce

## Map of 7Cs Framework

Context	Aesthetically dominant		Functionally dominant		Integrated	
Content	Product-dominant		Information- dominant		Service- dominant	
Community	Nonexistent		Limited		Strong	
Customization	Generic		Moderately customized		Highly customized	
Communication	One-to-many, nonresponding user	res	One-to- many, sponding user			One-to-one, responding user
Connection	Destination	I	Hub		Portal	
Commerce	Low		Medium		High	

## Foot Locker (*www.footlocker.com*)

Context	Aesthetically dominant	Functionally dominant	Integrated	
Content	Product-dominant	Information-dominant	Service-dominant	
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Communication		One-to-many, responding user	onding responding user	
Connection	Destination	Hub	Portal	
Commerce	Low	Medium	High	

## Cool Running (www.coolrunning.com)

Context	Aesthetically dominant	Functionally dominant	Integrated		
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Customization	Generic	Moderately customized	Highly Customized		
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Connection	Destination	Hub	Portal		
Commerce	Low	Medium	High		

# MarketWatch.com (*www.cbs.marketwatch.com*)<sup>5-41</sup>

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Connection	Destination	Hu	Hub		Portal	
Commerce	Low	Medi	Medium		High	

### **CBS MarketWatch.com Homepage**

