

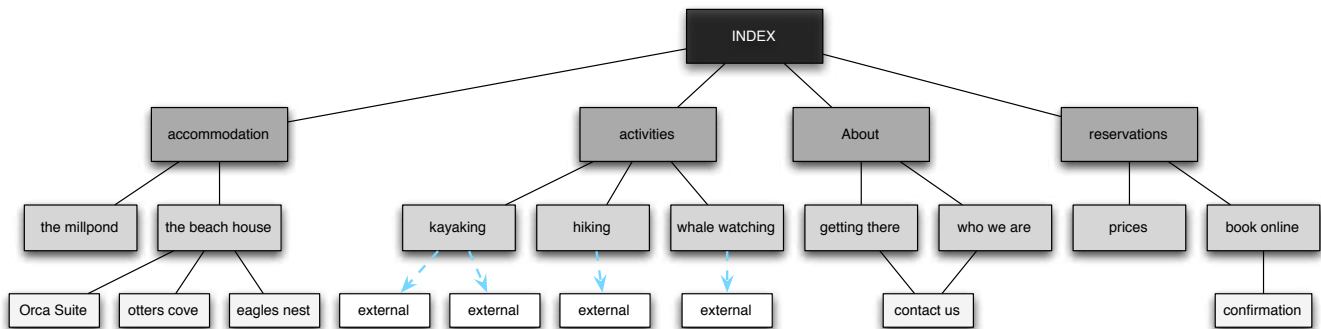
# Sitemaps, Process Maps & Wireframes

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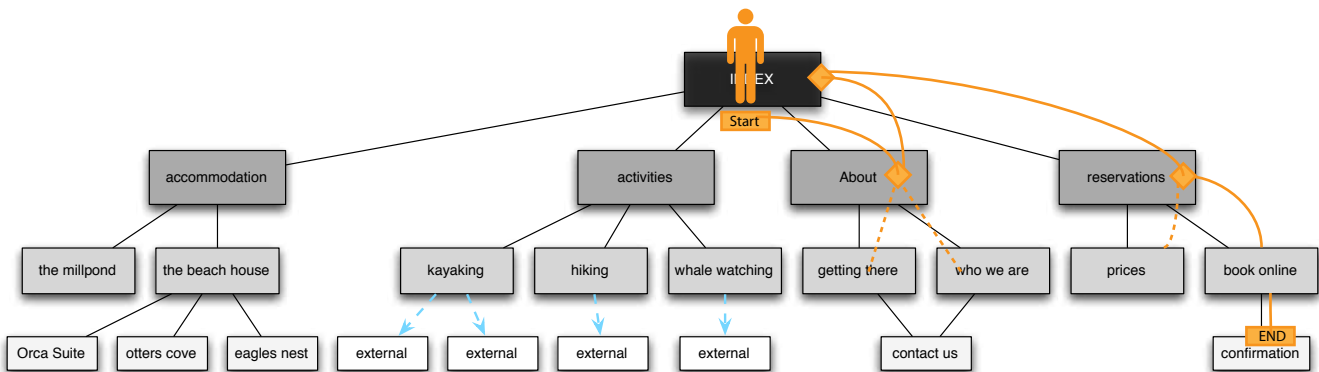
A *sitemap* is generally a diagram that maps the ‘architecture’ or basic structure of a web site. It’s normally constructed from a series of boxes that represent pages on the site, and lines that show the relationship of pages to one another—in other words, connections or links.

Sometimes an indexacological system is used to categorise the various pages in hierarchy, type or content, and this can also be done with the representations of links (for example internal vs external).



A *process map* shows the tasks or steps required by a user to access a certain area, information or outcome. This is often useful for mapping initial user experiences associated with specific objectives. For instance, how might a user find the phone number for a particular bank branch on the web site or how do we make it easier for the user to find the right information about us that might encourage and easily enable him to donate.

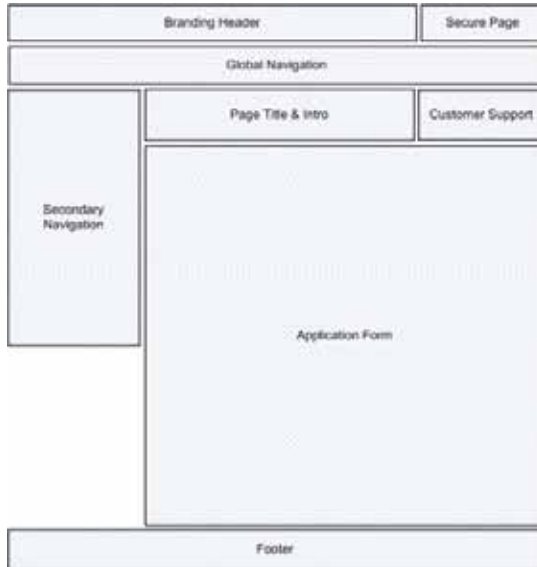
The process map visually displays the user path, branches in that path, and decision points. It can be a stand-alone diagram that sits by itself, or you can overlay it against an existing sitemap to clearly express objectives in the context of the larger site content and navigation.



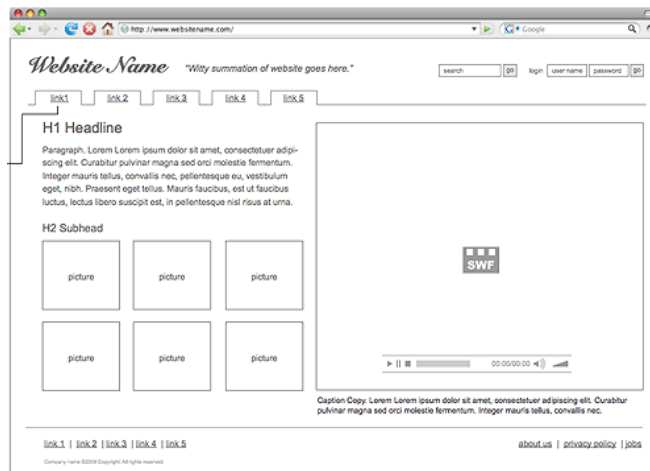
In the example above, its in yellow as an overlay on the original sitemap and shows a potential breakdown in navigation to the contact information.

And finally there is the wireframe...

This is typically a graphics-free mock-up of how the content will be presented on the page, not really visually but more organisationally. It typically includes graphics and text placeholders and, most importantly, user interface features such as hyperlinks, buttons, dropdown menus, dynamic interactions, pop-up windows etc. It may also include the representation of hierarchical elements such as page masthead, section heads and sub-heads, text blocks, focus areas and ,depending on who produces this, it may also be applied to a grid system.



A basic wireframe (taken from uxatters.com).



And a slightly more complex wireframe.

This one is from <http://www.johnrice.com/svc/wireframes.php> and you can download the source file in both Adobe Illustrator and PDF formats.