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Website Structure

Organising your pages: Site sections

To help your visitors locate what they came to find we now need to arrange your pages logically into various sections and then into sub-sections. This will enable us to present a clearly defined structure that follows a logical order and is easy to use.

- Home
 - Copyright and privacy information
 - Accessibility Statement
 - Jobs
- Software
 - Writing Software
 - Graphic Software
 - Website Software
 - Software updates
- Company
 - Testimonials
 - Company Services
 - Events

- Contact
 - UK Division
 - Ireland Division
 - Scotland Division
 - Company Location map
- Links
 - Software Books
 - Software book 1
 - Software book 2
- Support
 - Discussion Board
 - Faq

As you can see the website structure is starting to take some shape, it is no longer just a long list of potential pages. Some pages have been combined and others organised into a logical order of primary sections and sub-sections. We can now use the website structure as the building blocks for our next task, preparing a graphical website map.

Graphical website map or site diagram

Whatever the size of your website its always a good idea to develop a graphical website map. A website map is a set of simple diagrams that describes the information architecture and the

interaction of pages on your site. A website map is a valuable tool for clients and web designers alike as it helps define the sites structure in a visual context.

Apply a user-led approach

Its a good idea to initially draw up your website map with pencil and paper. When creating the map always apply a user-led approach; try to anticipate what the user wants and then layout the page structure in an easy to follow way. Use arrows or lines to show how the pages will be hyper-linked together. It's also a good idea at this stage to give each page a title; the title must reflect the content of the particular page. This is important as titles are often read by assistive technologies like screen reading software and search engines (like Google) use them to index your site.

The website map helped to arrange, link and associate the individual pages that make up your website. We have now done enough groundwork to move on to the next phase, creating an easy to use navigation system.