

User Interface Experience for Alison White

I have been privileged to be part of multiple major product releases for Microsoft and Amazon.com. Below is a summary of my most recent experience working to improve user interfaces.

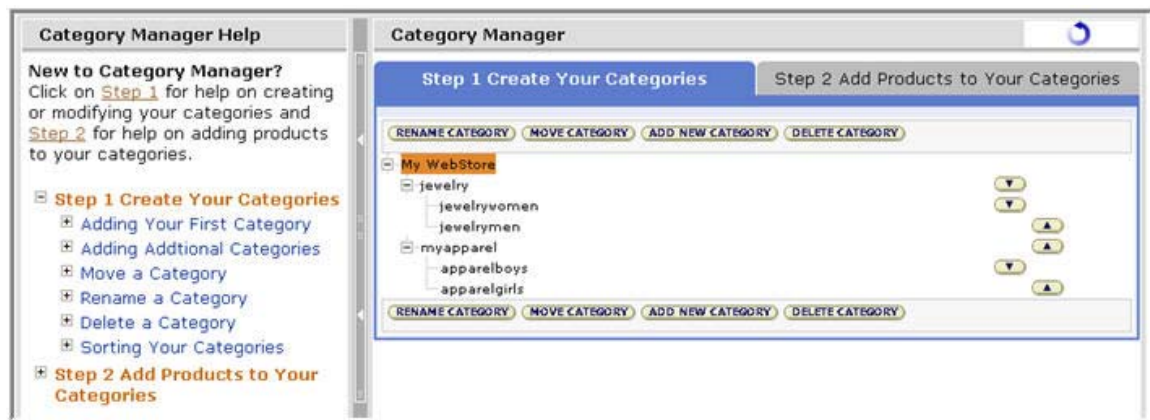
WebStore by Amazon Merchant Tools

WebStore by Amazon Merchant Tools are a web-based set of tools that allow Amazon.com sellers to create and publish e-commerce sites. My contributions include:

- collaborated on naming buttons and page elements
- created new and refined existing UI text
- wrote step-by-step instructions visible in the UI
- filed bugs on usability issues
- scrubbed error messages and pop-up window text

Example:

Wrote UI text and contributed to design. Page design has since been improved based on suggestions.



Windows System Image Manager ~ part of the Windows Vista OEM Pre-Installation Kit (OPK)

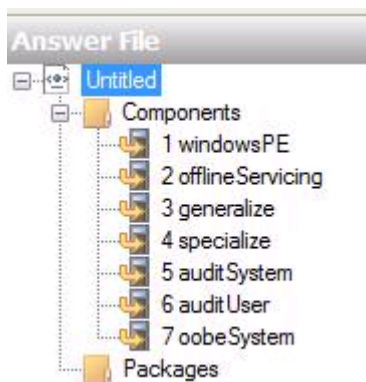
Windows System Image Manager (Windows SIM) is a beta product used to create unattended answer files that install Windows Vista on new machines. My contributions included:

- scrubbed 300+ error messages for clarity and consistency

- observed informal usability studies and suggested UI changes based on user's feedback and experiences
- worked closely with project manager to strongly lobby for and push through UI changes that improved the overall user experience

Example:

The illustration shows the Answer File pane in the UI. I worked with the project manager to improve the icons next to each component. I was also instrumental in the names for the Component and Packages nodes. (You wouldn't believe what they originally wanted to call them.)



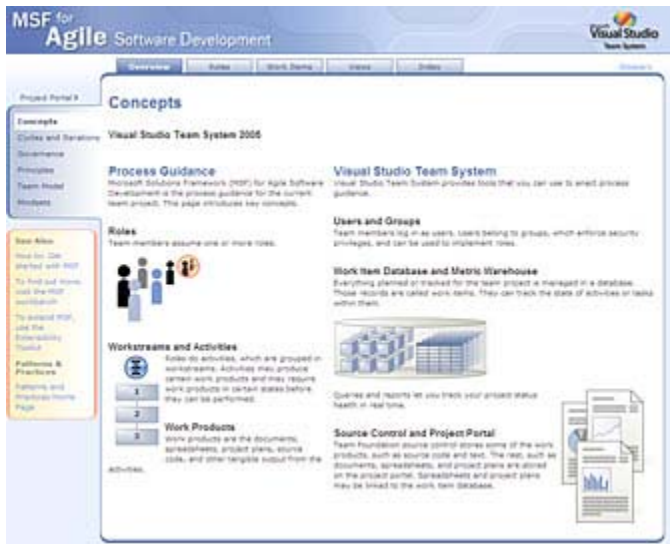
Visual Studio Team System 2005 ~ Microsoft Solutions Framework for Agile

The Microsoft Solutions Framework (MSF) for Agile provides process guidance and Microsoft best practices in a web-based format as part of Visual Studio Team System. My contributions:

- Collaborated closely with web designer and usability engineer to develop a user friendly infrastructure for delivering a complex set of content.
- Observed over 20 hours of users in the usability lab and applied those observations to improving the product user interface.
- Created text and worked to improve the clarity of graphics for 40+ pages on the MSF Agile web site.

Example 1:

This is the landing page for MSF Agile and explains basic concepts and how MSF relates to Visual Studio Team System. I worked closely with the web designer on all aspects of this design.



Example 2:

MSF was a particularly complex set of content. Here we used text and a graphic together to illustrate how team roles interacted with the “workstreams” concept.

