The Five Design Sheet Methodology

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The Five Design Sheet Methodology was first published in 2011; it has now been used for over 5 years by students, company engagement and for website design. In this study we are investigating how the FdS has been used and how it has been beneficial.

The FdS consists of 5 sheets. Each sheet consists of 5 parts, which aids the user to remember what structure to follow and what information to place in each sheet.

**Sheet 1.**
The Ideas sheet, that allows users to think about the different design ideas, and to consider many possible outcomes.

Ideas, Filter, Categorize, Combine/Refine, Question.

**Sheets 2, 3, 4**
Three design sheets; these are alternative and potential design outcomes, and they sketch what the proposed system would look like.

Layout, Focus/zoom, Info, Operations, Discussion

**Sheet 5.**
The final realization sheet that would be implemented.

Layout, Focus/zoom, Info, Operations, Detail

The FdS is part of a process (from the top), meeting with the client, thinking of design ideas, creating design sheets (2,3,4), discussing with client, and implementing system, before meeting with client and starting the cycle again, to refine the system.

“Lo-Fi prototyping works because it effectively educates developers to have a concern for usability and formative evaluation, and because it maximizes the number of times you get to refine your design before you must commit to code.”

Marc Rettig, CACM, 37:4, 1994