

Preparation Checklist for Web Usability Studies

Bring along

- A printed version of this checklist
- Pen and paper
- Laptop (with required software installed)
- Laptop charger
- Plenty available space on the laptop's hard disk for the screen recording software
- Computer mouse
- Ethernet cable
- 3G mobile internet connection
- Customized site sequence
- Fictional character (made-up personal information)

Computer settings

- Clear browser cookies
- Clear browser history
- Disable browser form field auto-fill
- Set browser's homepage to the custom test-page (with customized site sequence)

Brief

- "This is not a test of your computer skills so you can't do anything wrong. This is a test on how user-friendly these websites are. Some sites may be designed badly which can make them difficult to use, however, this is exactly what we're after, so the more of these design problems you uncover on each site the better you're doing."
- "Please pretend you're at home/work during this test and were to complete these tasks on your own. If there's anything you wouldn't normally do, then let us know and we'll make note of it. We may ask you to finish what you're doing anyways but it's important for us to know if you wouldn't have gone any further under normal circumstances."
- "When a site asks you for personal information you can either use your own data or this fictional character we've created for you. (Hand over paper with personal info.)"
- "Everything you say and do will remain anonymous. The end result of this is not to profile you but to make websites more user-friendly"