

A picture almost always needs a lean lecture

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Topics to Traverse

- Why do we need inscription to interact with images?
- Handling screenshots of GUI-based applications
- Portraying network art diagrams
- Depicting hardware or mechanical drawings
- Pictures and prose working hand in glove

Why do we need inscription to interact with images?

- Artwork, paintings, and sceneries don't need explanation to aid cogitation; they're largely left for interpretation.
- In technical documentation, however, reaching accurate information to the audience is vital, unlike the unbounded nature of creative carvings.
- In certain situations, a clearly-crafted diagram alone does not aid the comprehension of readers.
- A succinct articulation is required to supplement the pictorial representation for process workflows, network line-arts, and screenshots, at times.
- Installing and mounting operations of equipment need explanation to augment the captured.
- The complexity and context of a discussed matter determine the need for allied articulation beside illustrations.
- Let's look at tips to identify circumstances where verbiage for images is warranted.

Handling screenshots of GUI-based applications

- Software capabilities of several applications are driven through graphical user interfaces (GUIs)
- Although GUI windows are self-explanatory and intuitive, a few cases require transcripts to be supplied.
- GUI-based tools require a clear and accurate depiction of the icons and symbols seen on a screen or page.
- This representation of icons or logos might seem simple and straightforward, but it needs a good grasp of the semantics to professionally and lucidly denote them.
- Also, consistency with the way in which similar products in the industry have their icons described, if there be a match, is necessary.

Handling screenshots of GUI-based applications (Contd.)

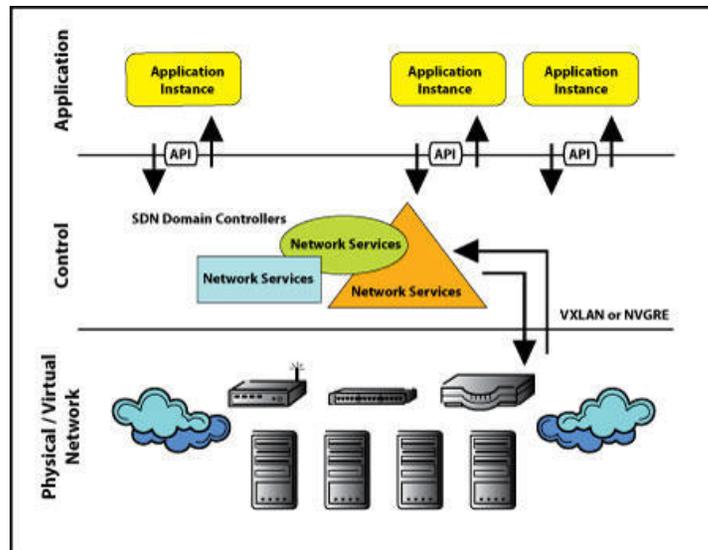
- Style guides and word lists are handy references, but it is essential to value the importance of cohesive and compact descriptions of icons.
- Icons must be correctly captioned, for example, bell icon for alarms, cylinder or barrel icon for repository.
- Use numeric callouts, instead of word callouts, for optimal localization.
- In this simple sample, we can use numbered callouts to tell how search term can be entered and doodle/logo can be clicked to lead to the significance of a day.



Portraying network art diagrams

- Most of the network or topology line-art figures are again quite simple to fathom for experienced users and readers.
- When connectors or links are displayed, it's essential, rather beneficial, to aid user's understanding by elucidating the meaning.
- Similarly, for workflows or process flowcharts, its quite typical to self-comprehend the sequence of operations. But, again, having a commentary in a step-wise list of the operations/tasks is helpful.
- Use the intricacy levels and audience profile, besides the context of the material, to determine the extent of dissertation that's needed for an illustration presented.

Portraying network art diagrams (Contd.)



Courtesy: linux-magazine.com

- In this particular example, it's helpful for users to understand the different hierarchical layers, what's to be first represented, and the origin of these flows to navigate to the endpoint. One can determine which is most appropriate – begin with the physical layer or the application layer, based on the information delineated.

Depicting hardware or mechanical drawings

- For equipment or physical devices that require unpacking, mounting, and installing, it's often helpful for readers to be presented with pictorial representations of the pertinent hardware.
- The procedures that describe these setup tasks can be well-aided by photos or drawings of the mechanical items.
- Coordinate with the hardware team to be able to visit the lab and assign a timeslot for capturing photos of the device. The source photo might be consumable in user-publications or usable after formatting.
- Sometimes, **CAD** (computer-aided design) software is used by architects and engineers to create precision drawings or technical illustrations, instead of direct photos of the devices.

Depicting hardware or mechanical drawings (Contd.)



- Such photos or hardware illustrations can also be aided by callouts to indicate the exact port, slot, adapter, or socket name/number applicable to the action being performed.
- Interactive videos can also be used instead of static graphics to more impactfully depict the tasks.
- Nevertheless, adequate and accurate description of the steps to be performed is vital to supplement such graphics.

Pictures and prose working hand in glove

- As we've seen, based on the nature of material that's being described, a paraphrase will serve as a prop-up for pictures that can't stand independently.
- Screenshots of GUI applications are more critical to be part of documentation when the content isn't for online help because users can view the windows/screens easily with the grabs.
- Use an interplay of static photos and animated gifs as necessary. Hotspots can be inserted in the figures to lead to corresponding tasks that can be done with those fields or buttons.
- When a drawing that's needed to be newly inserted closely resembles an existing one, it's judicious too provide the base diagram to the illustrator for quick completion of the request.
- After you receive a draft of the illustrations from the illustrators for your review, verify that the illustrations are as requested. If there are any changes required, share your feedback with the illustrator.

Thank you