

Course Technology

The Basics

For creating your assignments, you'll need access to Microsoft Word, Excel and Acrobat.

Courseware: WebCT Vista

This course is delivered through courseware called Vista. Using Vista means our course is entirely self-contained; with the exception of buying the textbooks, everything you need to complete this IDC course from assignments, to deadlines, to communication tools is all in Vista. Other **technology requirements** are posted as part of the course policies.

You can log on to the **Online Support Center** homepage to access the course or to find help with any problems you are experiencing. The two main areas students have difficulty with are:

Browser Compatibility: you need to run Vista's browser checker regularly to make sure your browser (IE, FireFox, Safari, etc.) and the Java plug-ins are current.

Maintenance Downtimes: Vista goes down for maintenance on alternate Friday nights from 10 pm to 7 am Saturday. If it's not working properly during this time, that's why. See the list of scheduled downtimes on the SPSU Vista page.

If you're having trouble once you've accessed the course, you can go to the **Knowledge Base/FAQs** or, better yet, post a question to our Techno-Question discussion board. You may find one of your classmates already has the perfect answer.

If you encounter any trouble with WebCT/Vista beyond the scope of what your classmates can answer, take these steps:

1. Go to the WebCT/Vista **Online Support Center**. First consult the knowledge base to see if your problem is listed. If it isn't, you can chat with a live operator. *If you still can't resolve the problem...*
2. Contact WebCT/Vista support at SPSU, **Jonathan Gilliam**.

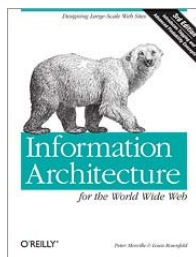
Required Textbooks

We'll be using two textbooks for this course; the remainder of our material will be articles and chapters from various books that I'll scan and include as part of our digital library.

Information Architecture for the World Wide Web, 3rd Edition

by Peter Morville and Louis Rosenfeld

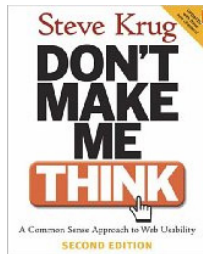
ISBN 10: 0-596-52734-9 | ISBN 13: 9780596527341



Don't Make Me Think, 2nd Edition

by Steve Krug (pronounced "Kroog", I'm told)

ISBN-10: 0321344758 | ISBN-13: 978-0321344755



Buying Textbook

You must have your textbooks in-hand by **January 19th**.

I didn't order them via the SPSU Bookstore because, as online students, I didn't think you'd find that a useful option.

You can order the Polar Bear Book (that's its more common name) directly from O'Reilly in either print or electronic forms:

Link to O'Reilly

Amazon carries both the Polar Bear Book and Krug's text too!