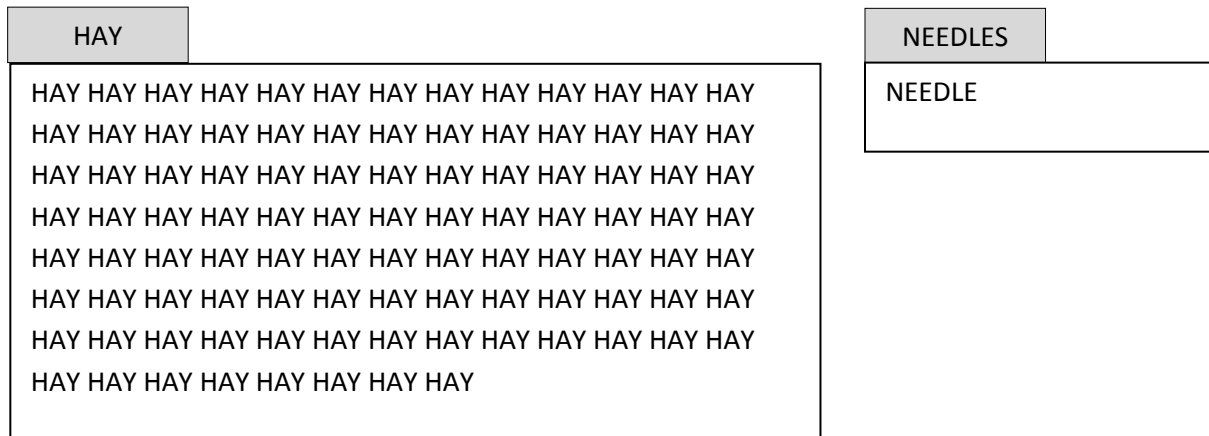


Tabs

Highlighting is technique that graphically makes the NEEDLE look different from the surrounding text. It can be done with bold, italics, background, underline, color, size or the use of an icon next to the needle.

Figure 2. Tabs



Tabs are the most powerful way of chunking information. They allow you to completely separate the NEEDLES from the HAY. The tabs provide, what is called, the 'scent of information'. A person doesn't mind if they have to click several times as long as the choices at each step are clear and unambiguous. In this case, it is clear where the needles are and what to click on to get it. All of these techniques require some effort by the designer and the developer to choose which techniques they want to employ. Here is where the rubber meets the road.

Sometimes, the designer and the developer want to use these techniques, but the science of putting together an application makes it difficult. In an age where every webpage is dynamically loaded, it is difficult to anticipate where the needle is.

A new technology has been introduced to ease the pain of design and development on the web. This technology, jQuery, is a small JavaScript file, which helps us improve the user experience in countless ways. Throughout this book, we will explore techniques and concepts of Interaction Design and then show how they can be implemented in your website.

In the next section, we will take the above example and show how it can be made dynamic and friendly by using HTML, CSS and jQuery.

HTML

There are many books that describe just the interaction design techniques. It is important to show how this can be implemented. If you use Java, Flash, or Desktop App development tools, you can probably skip these sections. However, if you use develop in HTML, then these sections will show you how easy is

it to enhance your work. The HTML Template for our Needle in a Haystack example will be simple with just enough detail to demonstrate how it works.

Listing 1. HTML

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en"
lang="en">

<head>
  <title>Needle in a HayStack</title>
  <script language="JavaScript"
src="http://code.jquery.com/jquery-latest.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
1
  <script>
2
    $(function() {
      //jQuery Instructions here

    });
  </script>

  <style>
3
    /* CSS styles here */
  </style>

</head>

<body>
<p>
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY NEEDLE HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Notice, in Listing 1, there isn't anything special about the NEEDLE. Given HTML and CSS alone, it would be impossible to find the needle, much less make it visible to the user. This is where jQuery and its family of plugins comes in.

A note on plugins: jQuery is a solid core file that enables a world of capabilities. It's size is kept small (20k) with the vision that extended functionality would be applied using plugins. This philosophy has made jQuery one of the most unique and loved libraries on the web. We will be using a variety of plugins in this book, but I encourage you to explore the plugins on the jQuery website.

In Listing 1: bullet 1, we are going to add a new line to include one of these plugins. It's called SearchHighlight, and it was written by Renato Formato. The line looks like this:

```
<script language="JavaScript"
src="http://www.jquery.info/scripts/SearchHighlight.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
```

By including this script, you get all the power of the script within the jQuery framework. Now in bullet 2, we add the instructions to use this plugin.

```
$("#p").SearchHighlight({
  style_name_suffix:false,
  keys:"needle"
});
```

Very simply, this one line says, "Find all of the needles, and wrap a special tag around them with a CSS class of "hilite". There are lots of other options to this plugin, so if you want something more complicated, just check out <http://www.jquery.info/spip.php?article50> . To visually see our Highlighting, we must add the CSS detail in bullet 3.

```
span.hilite { background:black; color: white; }
```

With these simple strokes, the end result should have picked out our needle and made it clearly visible.

```
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY NEEDLE
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY
```



This accomplishes Highlighting without the need for a computer science degree. Just a few years ago, this simple task would have been daunting for the majority of web developers. To extend this technique is really a matter of CSS. By changing the CSS for 'span.hilite' you can allow padding and margins to increase the white-space. Of course, you should always think about how the page looks overall and make the best style decision for you.

To implement tabs, we would use a completely different plugin. It's called (surprise) 'Tabs' and was written by Klaus Hartl. The tabs plugin is magnificently flexible and can be found at <http://www.stilbuero.de/jquery/tabs/>. For tabs, you must start with a slightly different structure.

Listing 2. Tabs HTML

```

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" lang="en">

<head>
  <title>Needle in a HayStack</title>
  <script language="JavaScript" src="http://code.jquery.com/jquery-
latest.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
  <script language="JavaScript"
1 src="http://www.stilbuero.de/jquery/tabs/jquery.tabs.pack.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>

  <script>
    //jQuery Instructions here
    $(function() {
2
    $('#container-1').tabs();
    });
  </script>

3 <link rel="stylesheet"
href="http://www.stilbuero.de/jquery/tabs/jquery.tabs.css"
type="text/css" media="print, projection, screen">
  <!-- Additional IE/Win specific style sheet (Conditional Comments) -->
  <!--[if lte IE 7]>
  <link rel="stylesheet"
href="http://www.stilbuero.de/jquery/tabs/jquery.tabs-ie.css"
type="text/css" media="projection, screen">
  <![endif]-->

</head>
<body>

<div id="container-1">
  <ul>
    <li><a href="#fragment-1"><span>HAY</span></a></li>
    <li><a href="#fragment-2"><span>NEEDLES</span></a></li>
  </ul>

4 <div id="fragment-1">
  HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY HAY
  </div>

  <div id="fragment-2">
    <p>NEEDLE</p>
  </div>

</div>

</body>
</html>

```

