

Thumbnail View

Navigator

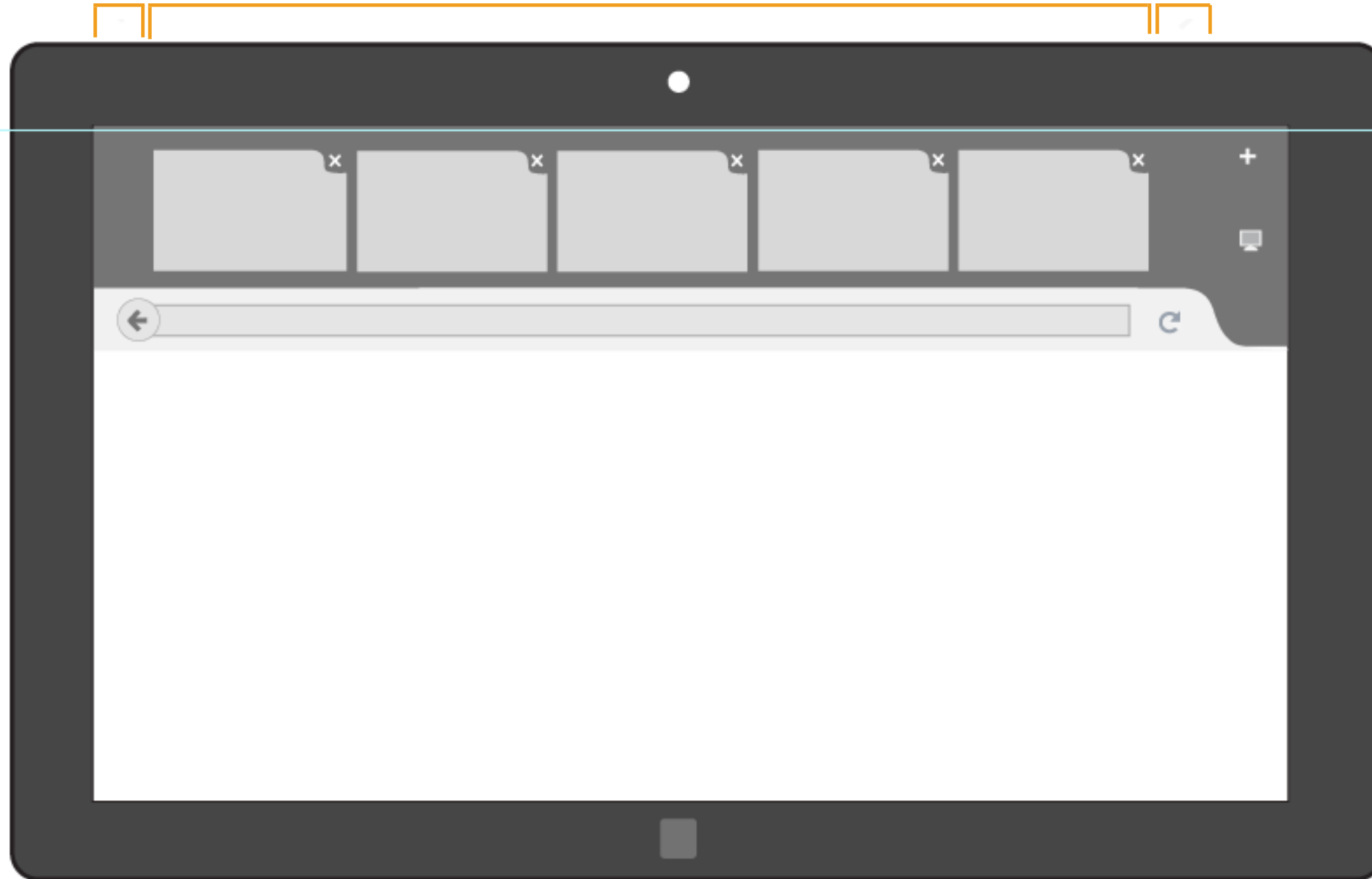
[goes to previous tabs]

Tab Strip

[contains at most 5 tabs at one time]

Navigator

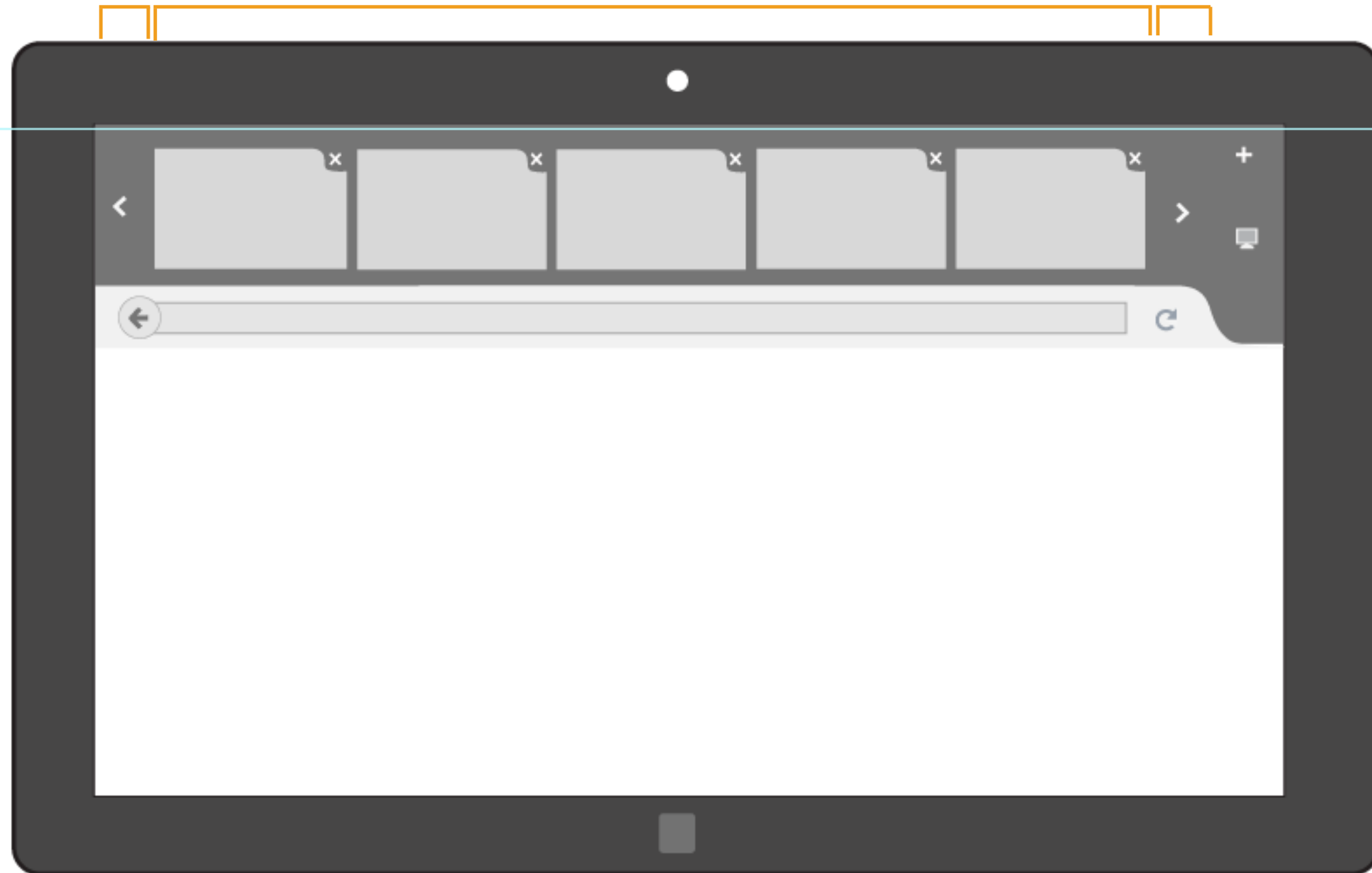
[goes to next tabs]



1.1 Show arrow icons while mouse is in use

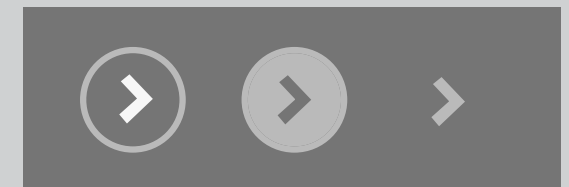
Left arrow
[goes to previous tabs]

Right arrow
[goes to next tabs]

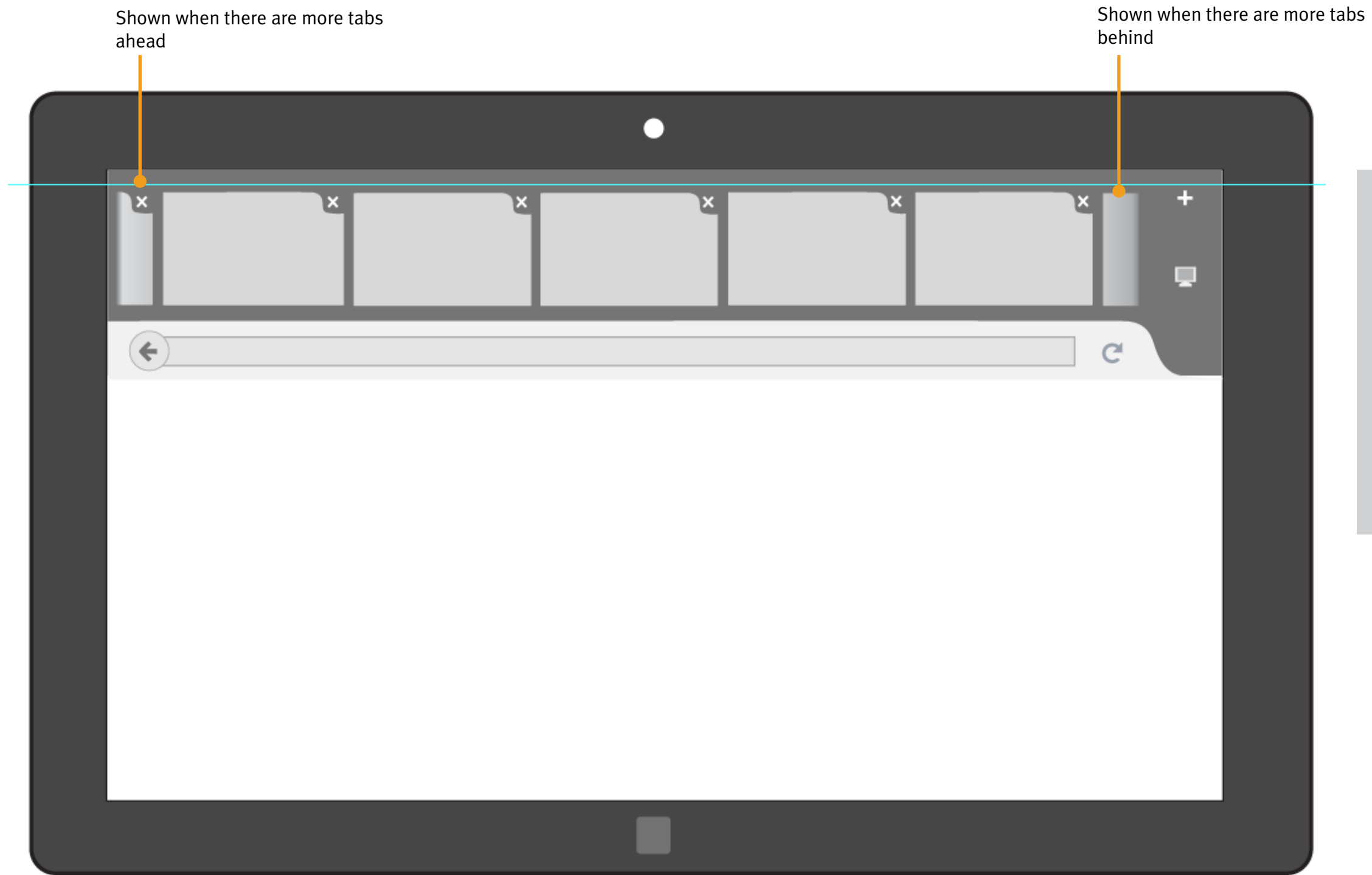


Arrow icons should be visible only when mouse is connected.

Arrow icons need to have hover-over, press-down, and disabled state. Could take advantage of the vertical space, e.g:



1.2 Show incomplete thumbnails while touch is in use



Showing parts of thumbnail is to visually navigating tab browsing and switching.

When users tap on incomplete part of a thumbnail, tab strip should move forward/backward one tab, in order to show the full thumbnail.

2.1 Interactions of loading tabs (by mouse)

PROBLEMS OF ARROWS ON DESKTOP

1. Single-click only proceed 1 tab
2. When arrow is pressed down, continuous move makes tabs hard to read

DESIGN GOALS

1. Read and identify tabs easily
2. Clear affordance for mouse

TRADE-OFF

It might be difficult to tell current locations among your open tabs. But thumbnail view is mostly for causal/mobile browsing when not too many tabs are needed.

Users could easily switch to “Tabs on Top” view to have better visual indication on tab overflows.

Approach for the preview:

LOADING ONE TAB PER CLICK

[Experimenting: based on the time you hold, the longer, the faster tabs load]

Alternative approach : Flipping tabs like pages
[Every 4 tabs per time]

2.1 Interactions of loading tabs (by mouse)

Approach for Metro Preview:



LEFT CLICK ARROW ICON
[loads one single tab]



LEFT CLICK AND HOLD
ARROW ICON
[continues loading one
tab per time till release or
either end of tabs]

The longer the holding,
the faster the speed of
loading.

PROS

1. Consistent behaviors with desktop Firefox. Familiarity reduces unpredictable surprises
2. Ability to stay at wherever you want on the tab panel

CONS

1. Less efficient when quick flipping tabs
2. While loading tabs continuously, it could be hard to read and identify the titles

2.1 Interactions of loading tabs (by mouse)

Alternative approach:



Left click arrow icon
[loads 4 tabs.
Or loads remaining tabs
if they are fewer than 4]



Left click and hold arrow
icons
[loads 4 tabs per sec till
release or either end of
tabs]



PROS

1. Efficient to browse through tabs
2. Minimize the times of pressing down
3. Ease to read and identify tabs while loading

CONS

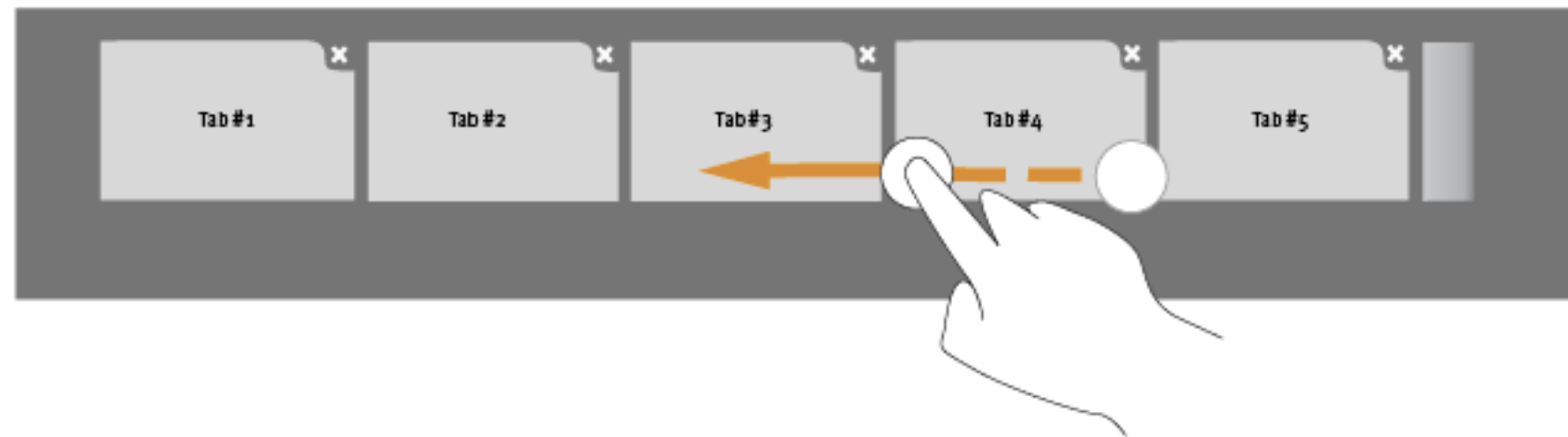
1. Could be a surprise for first-time users
2. Doesn't support the scenario when users who would like to see certain tabs at one page.

2.2 Interactions of loading tabs (by touch)



Single tapping on the incomplete tab should load the full view

2.2 Interactions of loading tabs (by touch)



ONE-FINGER QUICK SWIPE

ONE-FINGER PRESS DOWN A TAB AND SWIPE

Both gestures should just move the tab content based on how your finger travels
Tab should follow the touch [Direct Manipulation]

ALTERNATIVE: ONE-FINGER QUICK SWIPE to flip tabs by “page“ [Quickly flipping through every 4 tabs per swipe]

Since for preview, “4 tabs per time” will not be implemented for mouse interactions, we should hold this idea for touch as well.