
What is a Design System and why do we need one?

Created by MelodieInTO in 2025



What is a Design System? Part 1

A Design System is similar to a Style Guide, except it has a lot more!

1. It provides ready-to-use templates for applications where all of the styling decisions have already been made.
2. It acts as a code repository containing pre-built, WCAG 2.2-compliant HTML components in React and Angular that teams can simply drop-in to their applications.

What is a Design System? Part 2

A Design System is similar to a Style Guide, except it has a lot more!

1. Documentation for use by stakeholders, developers and UI designers.
This include a wide variety of information. Some examples are listed below:
 - a. AODA checklists
 - b. How error handling works on forms
 - c. Tone of voice and language to use
 - d. How various messages should be displayed and what they should say
 - e. Design patterns that explain how a user accomplishes various tasks such as a search
 - f. Naming conventions
 - g. Development standards and implementation information

How can a Design System Help?

If the components implemented are already accessible, this **reduces the amount of tickets that come up during an accessibility audit.**

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How can a Design System Help?

If a template is provided and standards are set and documented, it will **reduce the chances that applications be created as differently as the examples below:**



How can a Design System Help?

It acts as a single source of truth a documented method for **how things should be done** moving forward.

It **reduces development time** for components that are used often by providing drop-in ready code.

It **reduces design decisions** for UX designers because many of the decisions have already been made.

It **ensures consistency across web applications**, which in turn helps increase trust of our users.

The Solution



Creating and maintaining a Design System for the department solves this issues.

Creation of the design system:

- An estimation of 4 weeks of work total, completed but only when no other work is outstanding for the Design System Lead. It is estimated that will be completed by the end of 2025.

Ongoing Maintenance:

- Regular as-needed meetings with stakeholders, developers, ux designers run by the Design System lead to collect and assess feedback on work done and what should be done.
- Regular as-needed meetings with the accessibility review team run by the Design System Lead to ensure standards are being met for new components.
- Time for the Design System Lead to implement changes.



Any questions?
Ask away!

Let's discuss any doubts or concerns.
