

Figma Recommendation for Design Systems

This was the doc that helped to pose the recommendation to make the switch over to Figma

As more teams start to use Figma for their design process, we've been asked whether we will support using Figma for our Design Libraries going forward.

Recommendation

TL;DR: I'm recommending we **move to Figma as the primary design tool for Design Systems.**

Why the recommendation?

- **It's an investment in the future**
 - There are many design teams of similar size and above moving to Figma (Airbnb, Uber, etc).
 - The team at Figma is incredibly collaborative and wants to work with us to understand what we need from a design tool.
 - The API is fairly robust already and already getting better. There are a ton of integrations we can do with keeping documentation updated and huge potential for future innovative systems.
- **It makes collaboration very easy**
 - No need to figure out what the latest version is, it stays in one place and is updated synchronously—no need to keep updating and exporting mocks.
 - It keeps us more flexible by being able to keep things editable.
- **It makes Design Systems easier to manage**

- The component libraries in Figma are really easy to create, update, and link to each other.
- Versioning and sharing the libraries is easy and seamless and requires little to no set up.
- There are ways to give more accurate names and descriptions to components that can potentially link to documentation.

What are the risks?

- **People will be grumpy**
 - If we change, some people will likely not be super happy about having to re-learn a tool and we will likely have outliers who love Sketch for a while as we transition and we might live in this world where people use Sketch and Figma at the same time for a while.
 - Some people may dislike Figma just based on principle.
 - Having some “classes” on how to use Figma and a clear rollout strategy and timeline for Design Systems I think would be helpful.
- **Figma might not work for all of our needs**
 - There might still be cases where someone needs to use Sketch for something specific. I don't think this is a huge issue, as people can just recreate things in Sketch roughly if they need to, or maybe we figure out how to support both loosely with the help of some production designers.
- **Figma is relatively new**
 - If Figma shuts down, I think that could be an issue. However, given that other large teams are betting on Figma, I think this is less likely.