

# What is a desing doc?

A design doc is a description from how you plan to solve the problems. A design doc also is called a technical spec. So, this is the most used tool for to know sure that it works correctly.

## Goals

The main goal is to do better and to think more about the design. Some thing that this document is to teach others about your system, but this isn't the goal.

## When to write?

They say that you have to write this of one month or longer, but it's recommended to write this also for smaller projects (in mini form).

## What is in it?

It's important to have structure, this is how you do this the best:

- Title and persons
- Overview
- Context
- Goals and non-goals
- Milestones
- Existing solutions
- Proposed solutions
- Alternate solutions
- Testability, monitoring and alerting
- Cross-team impact
- Open questions
- Detailed scoop and timeline

Some tips about how to write a good design doc:

- Write so simple as possible
- Add a lot of diagrams and graphics
- Add digits
- Try to be funny
- Do the sceptic test
- Do the vacation test

Treat the design doc as a living document like you implement your design.

# Process

Every one that work on the project, have to write also the design docs. So that everyone in the end can discuss about the points in the document.

Before you write a design doc, you have to get ideas about the design. And after you get your ideas, you do the next:

1. Ask a experienced engineer to be the reviewer. This is someone that is involved with the project.
2. Go in a conference room with a whiteboard.
3. Describe the problems that can appear.
4. Than you explain how you get the implement in your head and you convince everyone that this is the right to build.

After this process, and before the project starts, you ask as soon as possible after feedback by the stakeholders. This have to be before you put more time in a specific solution.

After a coarse draw from you design doc, you get the same reviewer. He/she have to read this document and give feedback. Make sure that the name from the reviewer is in the design doc as reviewer. You also ask to your colleagues/team members feedback. Take al the feedback and use it.

So you become a good result!

# References

<https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/how-to-write-a-good-software-design-document-66fcf019569c/>

<https://www.toptal.com/freelance/why-design-documents-matter>

<https://docplayer.nl/783793-Software-design-document.html>

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