1.

Activity introduction

In this activity, you'll implement the features you liked from your early sketches for your portfolio project in order to create low-fidelity digital wireframes for the mobile website version of your project. After completing this activity, you'll have the opportunity to compare your work to a completed exemplar in the following course item.

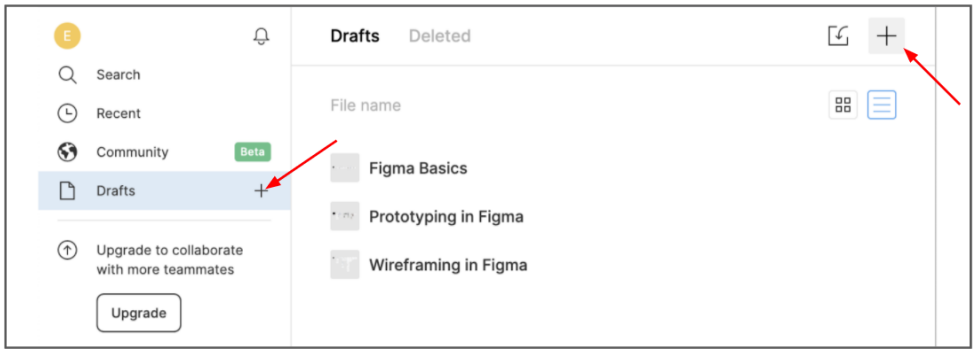
Step-by-step instructions

Step 1: Create early sketches

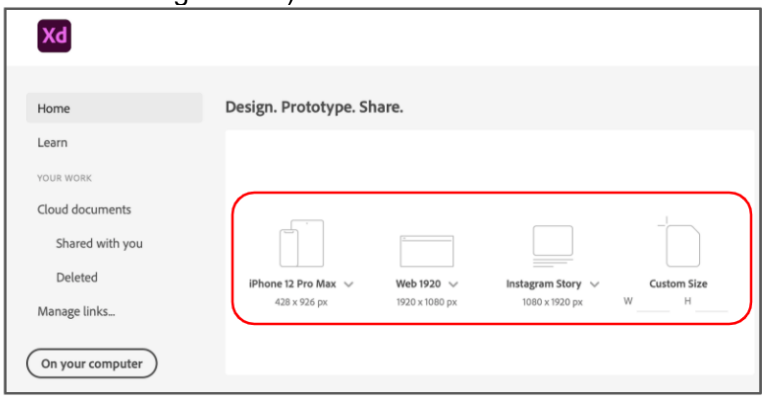
We recommend drafting your ideas out on paper first, as it tends to be faster than designing digitally. Begin to visualize the content's hierarchy, starting with the homepage for the mobile site version of your portfolio project. How big will images be? What will the spacing rules and guidelines be?
If you've already created sketches for your portfolio project website in Sketch to generate ideas for a responsive website, you may skip this step and move straight to step two. The key here is to have a plan laid out as you begin taking your design digital.
Step 2: Create a new file in either Figma or Adobe XD

Depending on your preference, open either Figma or Adobe XD and create a new file. We'll be designing in Figma for the follow-along version of this activity. If you've already come up with a name for your project, you may use that, or simply name it Portfolio Project.

To create a new file in Figma, go to the Figma website or start the Figma desktop app. Make sure you are logged in and click on the + in either location on the page (reference image below) to create a new file.

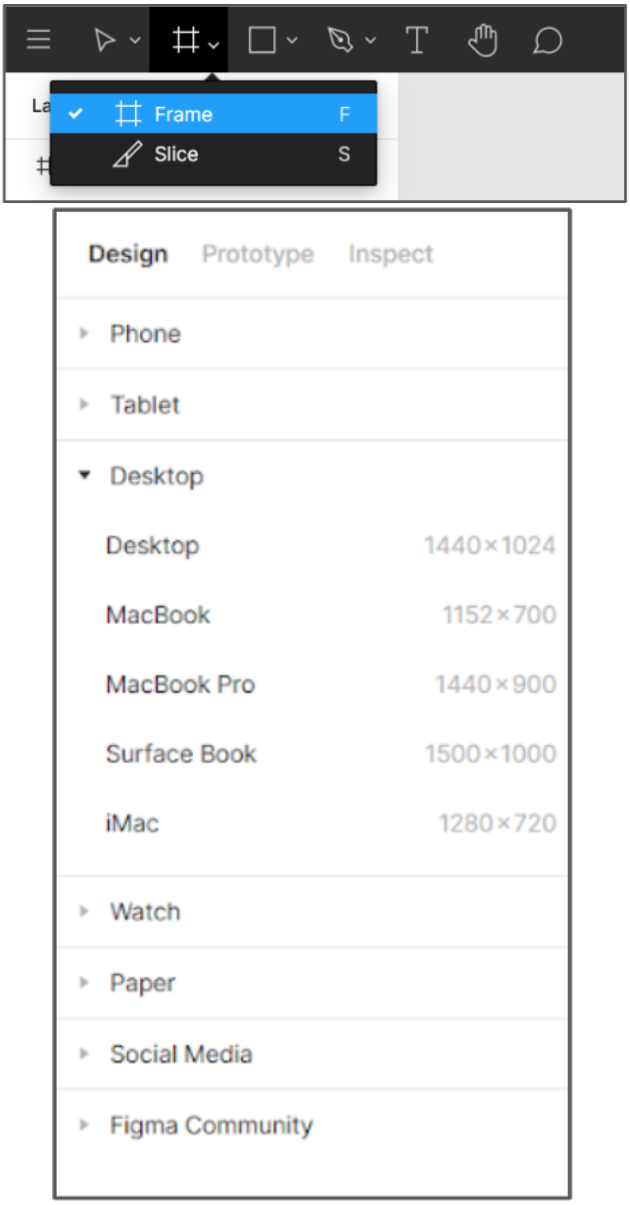


To create a new file in Adobe XD, start the Adobe XD desktop app. Select one of the templates (reference the image below) to create a new file.



Step 3: Select a frame for your digital low-fidelity wireframes
After starting a new file, you have the option to select the size and shape of your frame (In Adobe XD this is called an artboard) for your low-fi wireframes. This frame acts as the canvas for your design.
There are many templates and screen sizes to choose from. Since you are creating a mobile version of your website, you'll want to choose from one of the phone options. In Adobe XD, you've already made this choice when you started.
To create a frame in Figma:

. Click on the Frame icon in the top navigation bar and select your frame size. You can also use the keyboard shortcut by pressing "A" or "F" on your keyboard.
. This will open up a menu with frames for commonly used devices and software. You'll be designing a mobile website first, so select a phone option.



When choosing which device to use, think about your user personas and, if you can, choose the model and size the majority of your users are most likely to have.

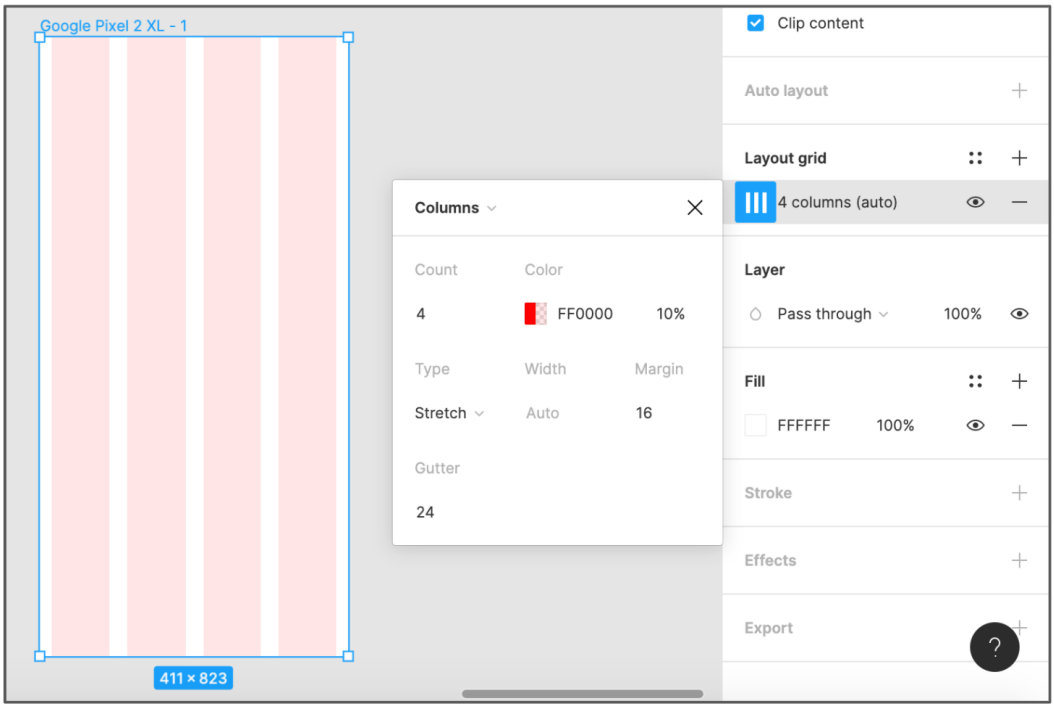
Step 4: Create a layout grid and define spacing and margins
Creating a layout grid and defining your spacing and margin standards will ensure your design has a natural hierarchy. We've provided instructions below for both Figma and Adobe XD
To create a layout grid in Figma:

. On the right side of the screen, there will be an option for Layout Grid in the Design tab. Clicking the + button will add a new grid.
. The default layout grid is 10px, but you can change this by clicking on the Grid icon. Spacings and margins will vary depending on the device screen size you're using.
. For now, use the following Layout Grid settings since we are working on a mobile site:

4 column grid

16 pt margins

24 pt gutters



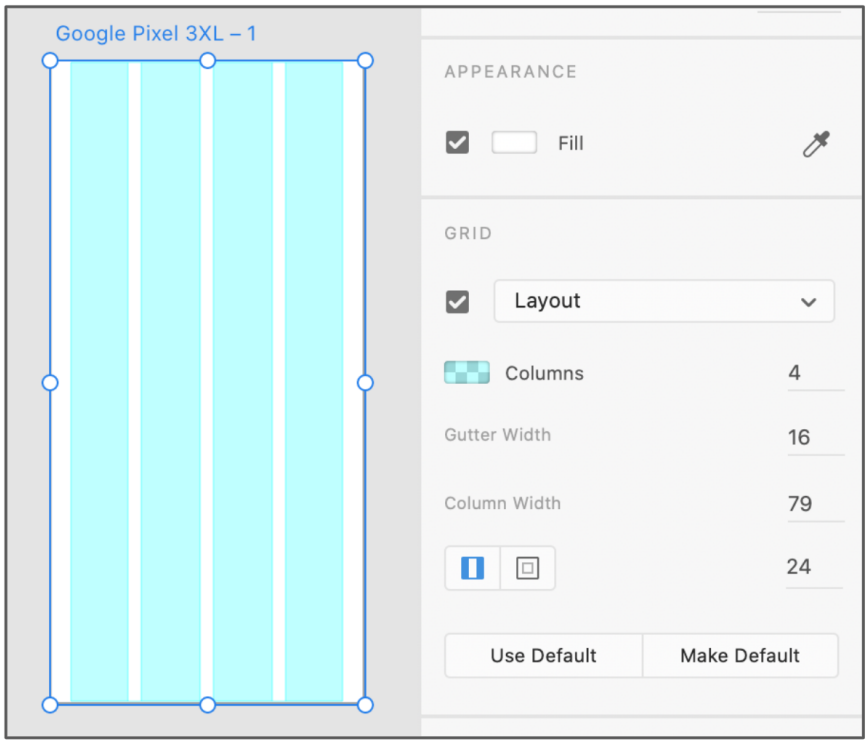
To create a layout grid in Adobe XD:

. On the right side of the screen, you will see an option for Grid in the Property Inspector. Clicking the checkbox will add a new grid.
. The default layout grid is 68px, but you can click on the values in the Grid section to change this. Spacing and margins will vary depending on the product you're using. Adobe XD will work to keep everything evenly divided and does some of the math for you.
. For now, use the following Layout Grid settings since we are working on a mobile site:

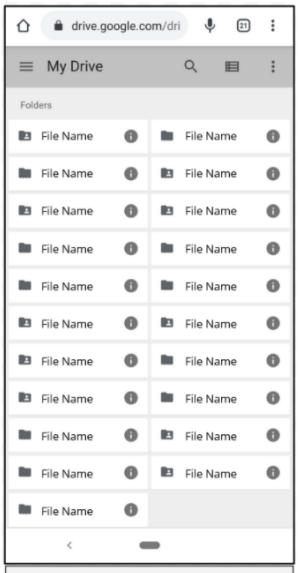
4 column grid

16 pt margins

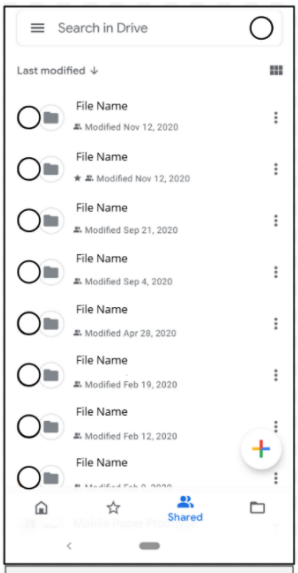
24 pt gutters



Using the Layout Grid settings above will enable you to use an 8-pt grid system. An 8-pt grid system means that you will need to space elements apart from each other in multiples of eight. Following a system like this creates a natural hierarchy and maintains consistency throughout your design. These layout settings are provided to you as a set of best practices, but there is more to learn. You could decide that this setting isn't exactly how you want to design and do something different. Learn more about responsive design grids from the material design resources on responsive design grids.
Keep in mind that we are still very early on in the design process, and not everything has to be perfect down to the pixel. Design is an iterative process, and we will continue to increase precision as we increase fidelity. Strive for consistency rather than perfection.
Step 5: Start building elements
Now that you're all set up, you can begin your design. You've already built out the dedicated mobile app for this project, so that is your starting point. Think about which elements from the app will make sense in a responsive website and which elements won't. For instance, you may need to think about a new navigation scheme for your product, even if you intend to keep all of the same functionality.
For inspiration, look at some apps you use regularly and how they change between a mobile responsive version and the dedicated app version. Google Drive is an example of the same or similar functionality, but slightly different interfaces, as shown below:



Mobile Web



Dedicated App

Feel free to practice using keyboard shortcuts as well. Knowing these keyboard shortcuts helps make your workflow more efficient. Note that some shortcuts are the same between tools (R for rectangle), and some are different (O for an ellipse in Figma and E for an ellipse in XD).

Remember that you'll need to start defining the hierarchy of information on your pages and elements at this point. Decide how you will use text size, text weight, location, and other elements to assign appropriate value as you are building. Consider what actions or information is most important to the user. These actions and information should be intuitively discoverable in your design.

Step 6: Assemble multiple elements into a frame or artboard

Now that you've built some individual elements, you can assemble them into a frame/screen. Experiment with the layout and spacing to ensure a functional and visually appealing design. Remember that your priority is usability; you should not include colors, font styling, or images at this point. Focus on usability.

Step 7: Build out the rest of the wireframes for your main user flow

Repeat Steps 3, 5, and 6 until you've built enough screens to successfully convey your product's main user flow. There is no magic number of screens to create, but a good rule is to think about the key screens someone needs to use your product. For example, it might be more valuable for you to build out your product's home screen than it is for you to build out the settings screen. The screens you create should also allow a user to complete the main user flow of your product.

Step 8: Save your work

As you complete these activities, remember to:

. Take a screenshot or download a .png or .pdf of your digital wireframes.

. As you complete these activities, remember to save all of your work to your computer, a hard drive, or a Google Drive folder to make sure you have all the resources you'll need later in the course for your portfolio.