Buoy

Design System Maturity Model
Where are you? Where should you go next?

1 Ad Hoc	**2** Shared	**3** Documented	**4** Measured	**5** Automated

1 Ad Hoc
"Every developer for themselves"

Self-Assessment
- [ ] No shared component library
- [ ] Designers hand off, devs interpret
- [ ] "Close enough" is acceptable

Focus On
Audit top components. Pick 5-10 to standardize. Build them once, in code.

Avoid
Trying to systematize everything at once. Buying tools before having components.

2 Shared Components
"We have a library. Some teams use it."

Self-Assessment
- [ ] Component library with 20+ items
- [ ] Half of teams use it regularly
- [ ] Someone "owns" the system

Focus On
Adoption, not expansion. Fix the top 3 friction points. Make the right path easy.

Avoid
Adding more components instead of improving existing. Blaming developers.

3 Documented Standards
"Anyone can find answers without asking"

Self-Assessment
- [ ] New devs can self-serve answers
- [ ] Written guidelines, not just code
- [ ] Clear process for new patterns

Focus On
Start measuring. Track what's used. Identify drift. Create feedback channels.

Avoid
Assuming docs = adoption. No metrics. Letting docs become stale.

4 Measured Adoption
"We know what's used (and misused)"

Self-Assessment
- [ ] Can report on component usage
- [ ] Know which teams have drift
- [ ] Data-informed decisions

Focus On
Automation. Move from periodic audits to continuous scanning. Integrate into CI/CD.

Avoid
Measuring for measurement's sake. Data without action. Manual processes.

5 Automated Governance
"The system enforces itself"

Self-Assessment
- [ ] PRs scanned automatically
- [ ] One-click fixes for violations
- [ ] Dashboards show drift trends

Focus On
Optimization. Reduce false positives. Use data to improve the system itself.

The Goal
Self-sustaining. Team shifts from policing to enabling.

Industry Benchmarks

Level	1	2	3	4	5
% of Teams	35%	30%	20%	10%	5%
Typical Size	1-10	5-30	20-100	50-500	100+
Typical Drift	Unknown	40-60%	25-40%	15-25%	<10%

Ready to Level Up?
Buoy helps teams move from Level 3-4 to Level 5 with automated PR scanning.

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