## **Fractal**

at Vets.gov

### Pattern library/styleguide v. design system

#### **Pattern library:**

- Stands alone in a workflow, usually at the end
- Has to be maintained independent of a code base
- Usually is best used by designers

#### **Design system:**

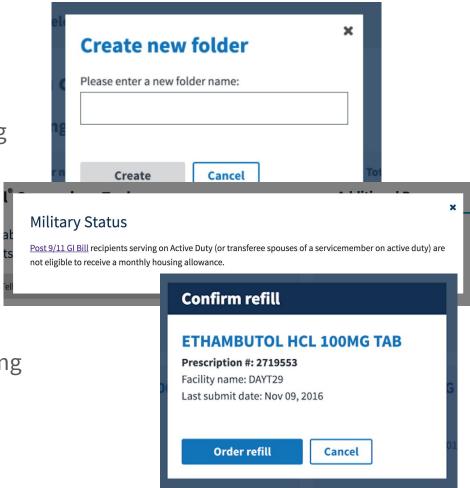
- Integrated with a design & dev workflow (ideally)
- Can be maintained alongside or as part of a codebase
- Can be used by the entire team,
  from engineering to content

## Why this? Why now?

 We are 'hardening' the site -- and it's resulting in a lot of time spent bringing elements in line with one another

We work in baby silos -- Unicorns,
 Rainbows, Nebula, Kudos all develop independently of one another.

 How much time are we losing recreating & standardizing elements?



# In short:

We need a single source of truth.

#### Enter: Fractal

U.S. Web Design Standards Fonts 🚹 COMPONENTS \* Typography Source Sans Pro (.usa-sans) Fonts O Source Sans Pro is an open-source sans serif typeface created for Links O legibility in UI design. With a variety of weights that read easily at Lists O all sizes, Source Sans Pro provides clear headers as well as highlyreadable body text. Typesetting o > Buttons Inspired by twentieth-century American gothic typeface design, its slender but open letters offer a clean and friendly simplicity. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ > Labels Advanced hinting allows Source Sans Pro to render well on abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyz Tables O Windows systems which run Cleartype, and across browsers and devices. Moreover, it supports a variety of languages and 0123456789 > Alerts alphabets, including Western and European language, > Accordion > Forms HTML Notes View Context > Navigation <section id="sans" class="usa-grid"> > Headers <h4 class="usa-heading-alt">Source Sans Pro (<tt>.usa-sans</tt>)</h4> > Footer <div class="usa-grid-full"> U.S. Government banner o <div class="usa-width-one-half"> Source Sans Pro is an open-source sans serif typeface created for legibility in UI design. With a variety of weights that Graphic list O Inspired by twentieth-century American gothic typeface design, its slender but open letters offer a clean and friendly si > Grid and devices. Moreover, it supports a variety of languages and alphabets, including Western and European language, Vietna Hero O

Info

### Why **Fractal?**

- Open source
- More flexible documentation and implementation than Pattern Lab
- More user-friendly UI -- particularly useful for the content team
- Already in use by USWDS
- Long road: exposes an API that can be consumed by React apps

#### Next steps

- Already have a repo available; need to move codebase over
- Loop in front-end dev to build React components properly
- Begin to work maintenance of Fractal into our existing workflow
- Discovery around Fractal's API, and how it can connect to Vets.gov
- Discovery around Fractal + Sketch integration