

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?

The image displays three overlapping user interface (UI) mockups, likely for a healthcare or military-related system, illustrating the complexity and fragmentation of the current site.

- Top Mockup: Create new folder**
 - Title: Create new folder
 - Text: Please enter a new folder name:
 - Form: A text input field.
 - Buttons: Create, Cancel.
- Middle Mockup: Military Status**
 - Title: Military Status
 - Text: [Post 9/11 GI Bill](#) recipients serving on Active Duty (or transferee spouses of a servicemember on active duty) are not eligible to receive a monthly housing allowance.
- Bottom Mockup: Confirm refill**
 - Title: Confirm refill
 - Text: **ETHAMBUTOL HCL 100MG TAB**
 - Text: Prescription #: 2719553
 - Text: Facility name: DAYT29
 - Text: Last submit date: Nov 09, 2016
 - Buttons: Order refill, Cancel.

In short:

We need a **single source of truth**.

Enter: Fractal

X

U.S. Web Design Standards

COMPONENTS

▼ Typography

Fonts ○

Links ○

Lists ○

Typesetting ○

► Buttons

► Labels

Tables ○

► Alerts

► Accordion

► Forms

► Navigation

► Headers

► Footer

U.S. Government banner ○

Graphic list ○

► Grid

Hero ○

Fonts

READY

Source Sans Pro (.usa-sans)

Source Sans Pro is an open-source sans serif typeface created for legibility in UI design. With a variety of weights that read easily at all sizes, Source Sans Pro provides clear headers as well as highly-readable body text.

Inspired by twentieth-century American gothic typeface design, its slender but open letters offer a clean and friendly simplicity. Advanced hinting allows Source Sans Pro to render well on Windows systems which run Cleartype, and across browsers and devices. Moreover, it supports a variety of languages and alphabets, including Western and European language, Vietnamese, and Chinese and Hindi.

Aa

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789

HTML

Notes

View

Context

Info

<section id="sans" class="usa-grid">

<h4 class="usa-heading-alt">Source Sans Pro (<tt>.usa-sans</tt>)</h4>

<div class="usa-grid-full">

<div class="usa-width-one-half">

<p>Source Sans Pro is an open-source sans serif typeface created for legibility in UI design. With a variety of weights that

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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