

Navigation

[Design System Image]

Navigation refers to how users access the different areas of your application and move from screen to screen. The most common forms of primary navigation are drawers and tabs.

[MaterialDesignDescription Component - Interactive React component]

[TOC Component - Interactive React component]

Drawer Navigation

A navigation drawer is a panel that is attached to the side of your application. These typically contain a [List](#) of primary pages in your application for the user to access quickly.

[Design System Image]

Most drawers have four main sections:

- **Header:** typically contains the name of the company, name of the product, or a logo
- **Subheader:** an optional section that can be used to support custom content, such as filtering or search
- **Body:** contains a list of primary pages that users can navigate to
- **Footer:** usually contains the company logo, version number, and trademark information

There are several different styles of drawer navigation, each with slightly different behavior.

[MaterialDesignDescription Component - Interactive React component]

Permanent

A permanent drawer is always visible and always open. The permanent drawer is typically full-width, as opposed to the rail variant (see below). Use this variation if you have:

- five or more top-level pages
- a nested navigation hierarchy
- enough space to justify it (typically desktop-only applications)

[Design System Image]

Rail

A navigation rail is a permanently collapsed drawer. The rail shows less information than a standard drawer but has the advantage of a more compact, space-saving appearance. Use this variation if you have:

- fewer than seven top-level pages
- a flat navigation hierarchy
- limited space - recommended for HMI devices

The navigation rail can be regular (with text labels) or condensed (smaller area without labels).

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[Design System Image]

Persistent

A persistent drawer is an always-visible drawer that can be opened and closed (expanded or collapsed). In its open state, it looks and behaves like a permanent drawer. In its closed state, it looks and behaves like a navigation rail. The drawer is typically opened and closed by clicking an icon in the header. It can also be opened momentarily on desktop applications by hovering with the mouse. Use this variation if you have:

- fewer than seven top-level pages
- primary pages with complex icons or icons with long labels that wouldn't fit in a navigation rail
- limited space but require a nested navigation hierarchy

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Temporary

A temporary drawer is invisible until it is opened — typically by pressing a button in the [App Bar](#). This variation of the drawer appears on top of the main navigation, typically using a dark overlay to block interaction with the main content. Use this variation if you have:

- a mobile application
- extreme space limitations

[Design System Image]

Tab Navigation

Tab navigation uses a horizontal bar with buttons for each navigation location. These can appear at the top or bottom of your application.

Tabs on the Top

[Design System Image]

[MaterialDesignDescription Component - Interactive React component]

You can combine tabs and a drawer as a way to navigate between sub-pages (e.g., you may have several sub-pages on your main settings page). In this case, the tabs usually sit on a secondary [app bar](#).

Tabs on the Bottom

[Design System Image]

[MaterialDesignDescription Component - Interactive React component]

For mobile and tablet applications, you may use bottom tabs to replace the classic drawer. Bottom tabs are a quick and easy way to navigate to the most frequently used primary navigation routes.

Bottom tabs can also be used in combination with a drawer. The tabs are more prominent and can be used to highlight some main routes and features, while the drawer handles the less important routes like settings, legal documents, FAQ pages.

[Design System Image]

Behaviors

Nested Navigation

When using drawer navigation, you can have multiple levels of the navigation hierarchy. These appear as expandable panels in the drawer. When using hierarchical navigation in the drawer, you should try to limit yourself to no more than two levels.

[Design System Image]

Content-Cover vs. Content-Resize

When a drawer is opened, there are two ways to deal with the main application content.

With content-resize, the main application content resizes its area to accommodate the expanded drawer. This is the default behavior for most drawer variations.

With content-cover, the navigation panel appears on top of the main application content, partially obscuring it. This typically uses a dark overlay behind the drawer to direct the user's focus to the navigation panel and block interaction with the main content. This pattern is most common when using the temporary drawer variant on mobile and tablet applications.

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Active State

There are many different ways to indicate that a menu item is active / selected in a drawer.

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Dividers

Divider lines can be used between navigation items in the drawer. They are most effective when used for:

- separating nested drawer items
- separating sections of the drawer contents

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Safe Area

When designing for mobile screens, in particular for a iPhone X model, ensure that your contents lay inside the safe area.

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Design Specifications

Mobile

[Design System Image]

Desktop and Tablet

If certain dimensions are not specified, refer to the dimensions suggested in the mobile section above.

[Design System Image]

[MaterialDesignDescription Component - Interactive React component]

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Developers

Use the following components to implement this pattern:

Angular:

- Angular Material - [Side Nav](#) - [Tabs](#)
- @brightlayer-ui/angular-components - [Drawer](#)

React:

- MUI - [Drawer](#) - [Tabs](#)
- @brightlayer-ui/react-components - [Drawer](#)

React Native:

- @brightlayer-ui/react-native-components - [Drawer](#)