UI Libraries

Why?

"Normally-expected" UI design and UI functionality take a lot of work to make.

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Dropdown

- DIY
- Library
- WAI-ARIA Standard

We want to

- Spend more time on business logic, not UI design and UI logic.
- Establish common framework for collaboration.
- Have maintainable and extensible system.

Types

Library Type	CSS/Theme	Functionality
"Style"		X
"Component"		
"Headless-Component"	X	✓
"Anti-Component"	✓	✓

Consideration

- Ease of use
 - O How much code do I need to write?
- Customizability
 - Our How much can I change down the line?
- Inclusiveness
 - Do I need to install extra things?
- Look and feel
 - Does it make my app look generic?

Most importantly

Does it support a dark mode?

Disclaimer

- The choices of UI libraries can be opionated.
- At the end of the day, you must choose your own path.
- Anything marked with 🦊 is my opinion. You don't have to take it.

"Style" libraries

"Style" lirary

- No library
- Styled-Components
- Tailwind CSS
- Classless

No library

- global.css
 - Good for font-family, background-color, CSS variables, CSS reset.
- CSS Module
 - Allow same class names without conflict.
- Inline CSS
 - Can be used as a one-time fix.

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No library

- Good
 - Pure CSS (**6**)
- Bad
 - Separation between style and content
- Dark mode
 - Ok, but takes a lot of work.

Styled Component

Styling your way with speed, strong typing, and flexibility.

- Styled components are a CSS-in-JS tool that bridges the gap between components and styling.
- Installation note
 - For NextJS, follow the instructions.

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Styled Component

- Good
 - CSS-in-JS
 - Full customizability from pure CSS
- Bad
 - Solution
 CSS-in-JS in separate file (anyway)
 - Hard to maintain.

Tailwind CSS

- Rapidly build modern websites without ever leaving your HTML
- A utility-first CSS framework
 - Provides several of opinionated, single-purpose utility classes that you can use directly inside your markup.
- Tailwind founder's keynote

Tailwind CSS

- Good
 - Styling in markup
 - Less customizability than pure CSS
 - Maintainable: (3 months from now, I can come back and quickly adjust style.)
- Bad
 - Need to learn syntax
 - Ugly markup
 - Fix: Use VSCode extension or wrap markup in components.

Classless

- These libraries generally do not define classes.
- Instead, they automatically style raw HTML structure
 - Based on HTML tag semantics.
- Examples
 - PicoCSS
 - More examples

Classless

- Good
 - Almost no effort.

"Component" lirary

"Component" lirary

- Bootstrap React
- Mantine
- Others
 - Material UI
 - Chakra UI
 - Ant Design

Bootstrap React

The most popular front-end framework, rebuilt for React.

Bootstrap React

- Good
 - Lots of premade components
 - Provided CSS bootrap classes
- Bad
 - Hard to customize
 - Bootstrap classes are verbose.
 - Look "Bootstrap"

Mantine

Build fully functional accessible web applications faster than ever – Mantine includes more than 100 customizable components and 50 hooks to cover you in any situation

Mantine

- Good
 - Comprehensive lists of components (seriously)
 - Comes with useful hooks
 - 🦊 No CSS class
 - You can use other CSS style libraries (e.g. Tailwind CSS)
- Bad
 - some frictions when trying to deeply customize.

"Headless-Component" libraries

"Headless-Component" libraries

- Radix UI
- Headless UI

Radix UI

Unstyled, accessible components for building high-quality design systems and web apps in React.

Radix UI

- Good
 - Fully customization (design)
 - Excellent functionality
- Bad
 - Too much code for simple stuffs

"Anti-Component" libraries

"Anti-Component" libraries

This is NOT a component library. It's a collection of re-usable components that you can copy and paste into your apps.

- shadcn/ui
- Flowbite

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shadcn/ui

Re-usable components built using Radix UI and Tailwind CSS.

shadcn/ui

- Good
 - Deeply customizable
 - Se Tailwind
 - Lot of components
 - Integrate with React Hook Form and Tanstack Table
- Bad
 - Need to learn Tailwind
 - Not as many components as Mantine



- Interactive apps
 - O Mantine
 - shadcn/ui
- Brochure apps
 - Tailwind CSS

What is your pick?