Technical research
Digital Workspace
[3082]

Common navigation for Open Source applications

Nick Pietrantonio
v1.2 / 2018-09-11

Document revisions

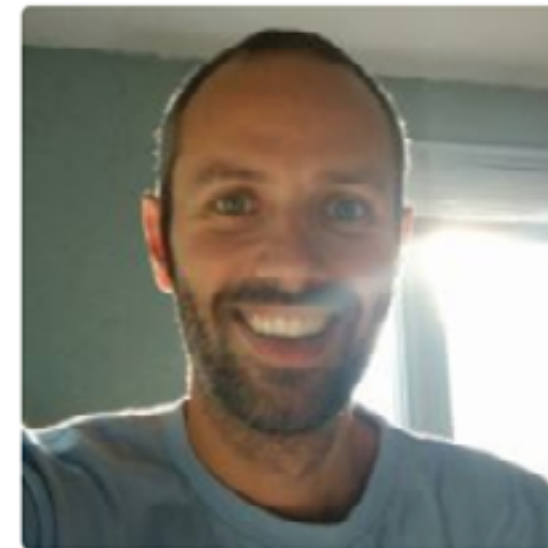| Version #	Comments	Author	Date
1.0	Document creation	Amable Rodríguez	2018-08-17
1.1	Added visual supports	Amable Rodríguez	2018-08-24
1.2	Added Account as needed basic building block	Amable Rodríguez	2018-08-24
1.3	Text final revision	Nick Pietrantonio	2018-09-11

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Team

Nick Pietrantonio
Development

Sébastien Lemay
Development

Amable Rodríguez
UX Design

Overview

Problem

How can we applying a common navigation to open source applications that are either build in-house by DCD team, or open source applications that are already existing and that are being leveraged for the OADW?
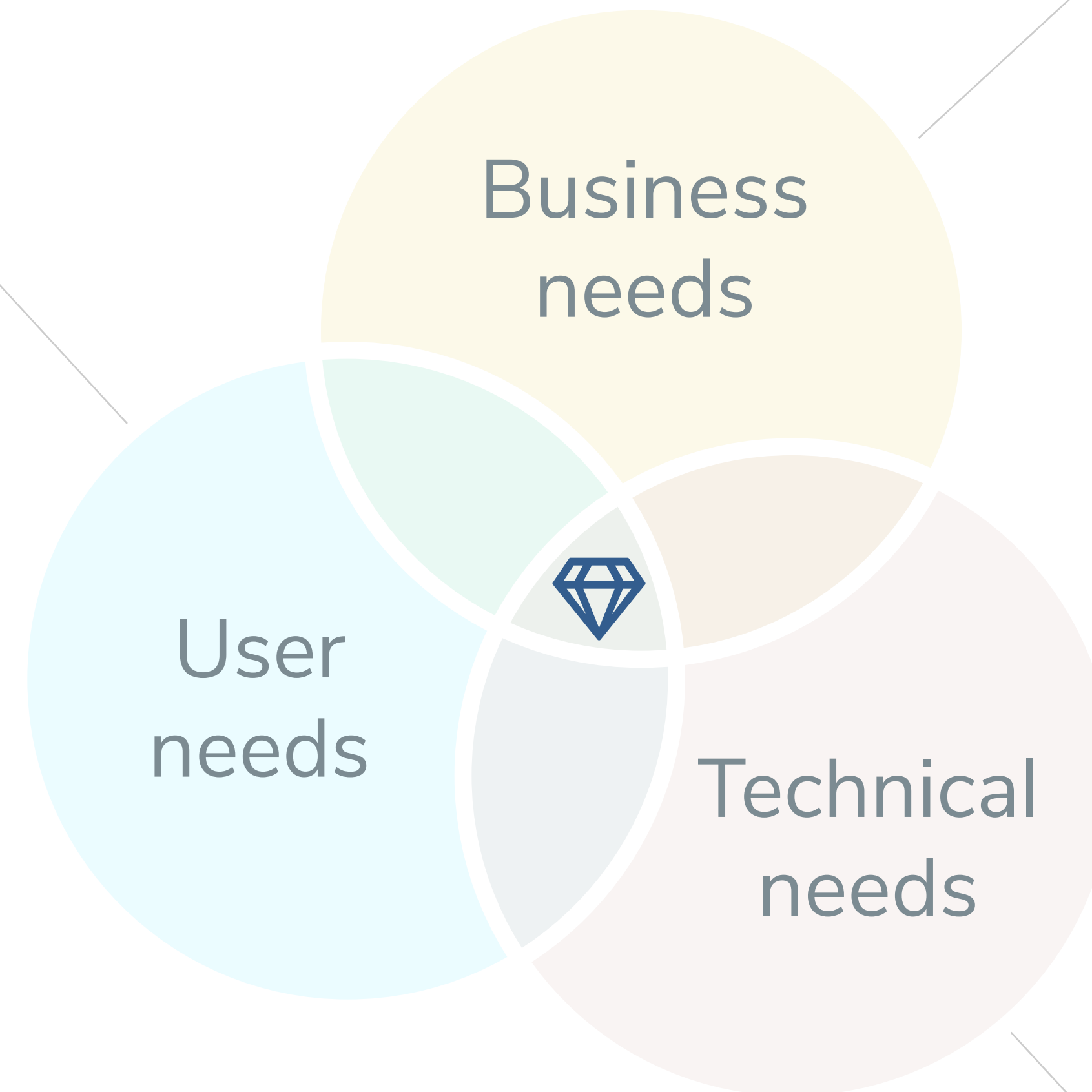
Goal

Study how the integration of multiple open source applications is been done well in other contexts, evaluate what could we do according to our reality and specific needs creating a digital workspace.

Summary

This document explores how multiple open source applications can be bundle in a suite, also explores how we have been doing our integration when adding new applications. Finally, this document proposes what can be recommended in terms of strategy from the technical point of view.
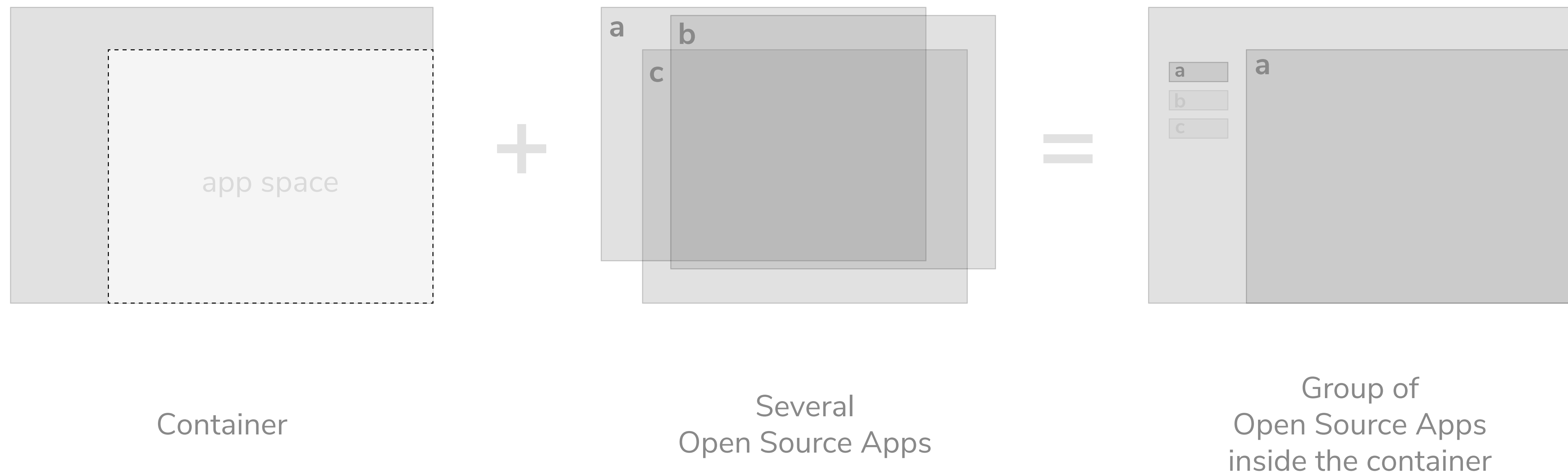
Needs & Requirements

- Users needs to have a consistent experience across all of the applications we provide

- Users needs to be able to identify what application they are using

- Users needs to navigate easily to each application in order to complete their tasks

- Users needs to have a single account that will allow them to access the application suite

Business needs

User needs

Technical needs

- The solution needs to adhere to our product's branding, look and feel, tone, mission and values

- The solution needs to allow us to leverage existing open source applications

- The solution need to make it simple to maintain, update and contribute back to existing open source applications we plan on leveraging.

1. Existing multiple Open Source Apps integration
1.1. Iframe container used by SandStorm[1]

Container

Several
Open Source Apps
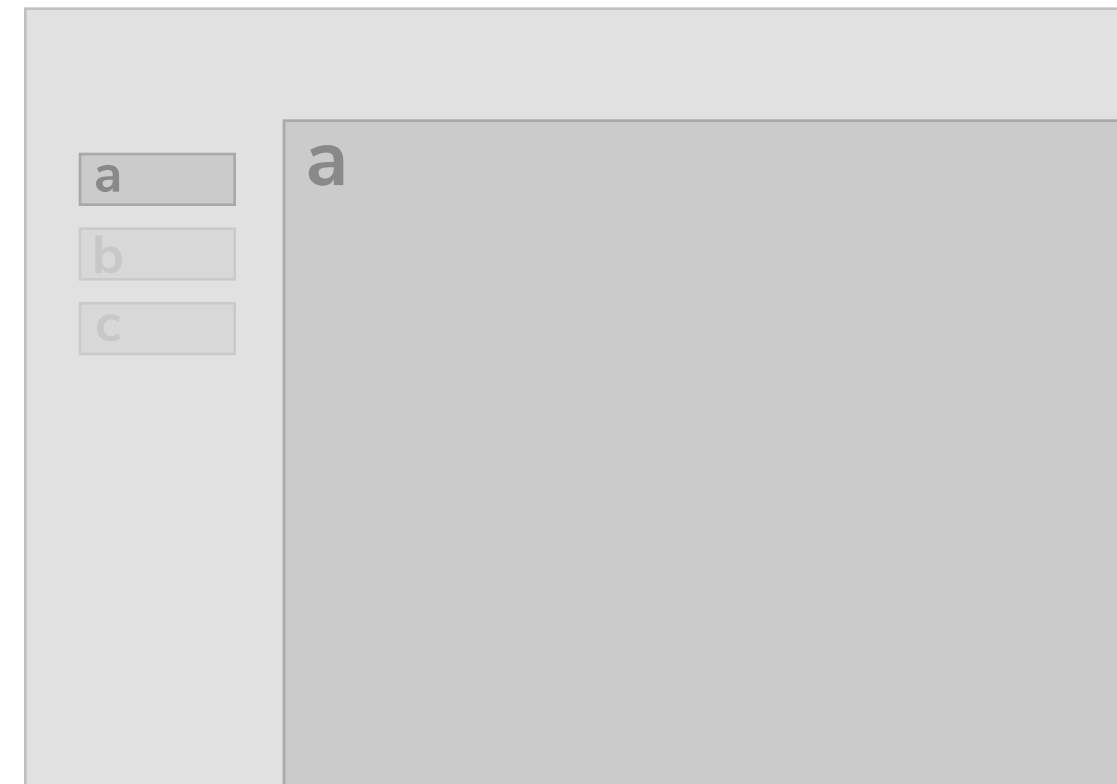
Group of
Open Source Apps
inside the container

1. Existing multiple Open Source Apps integration
1.2. Pros and Cons

- Some things like branding, help link, terms and conditions and some of the Federal Identification Policy could be always present

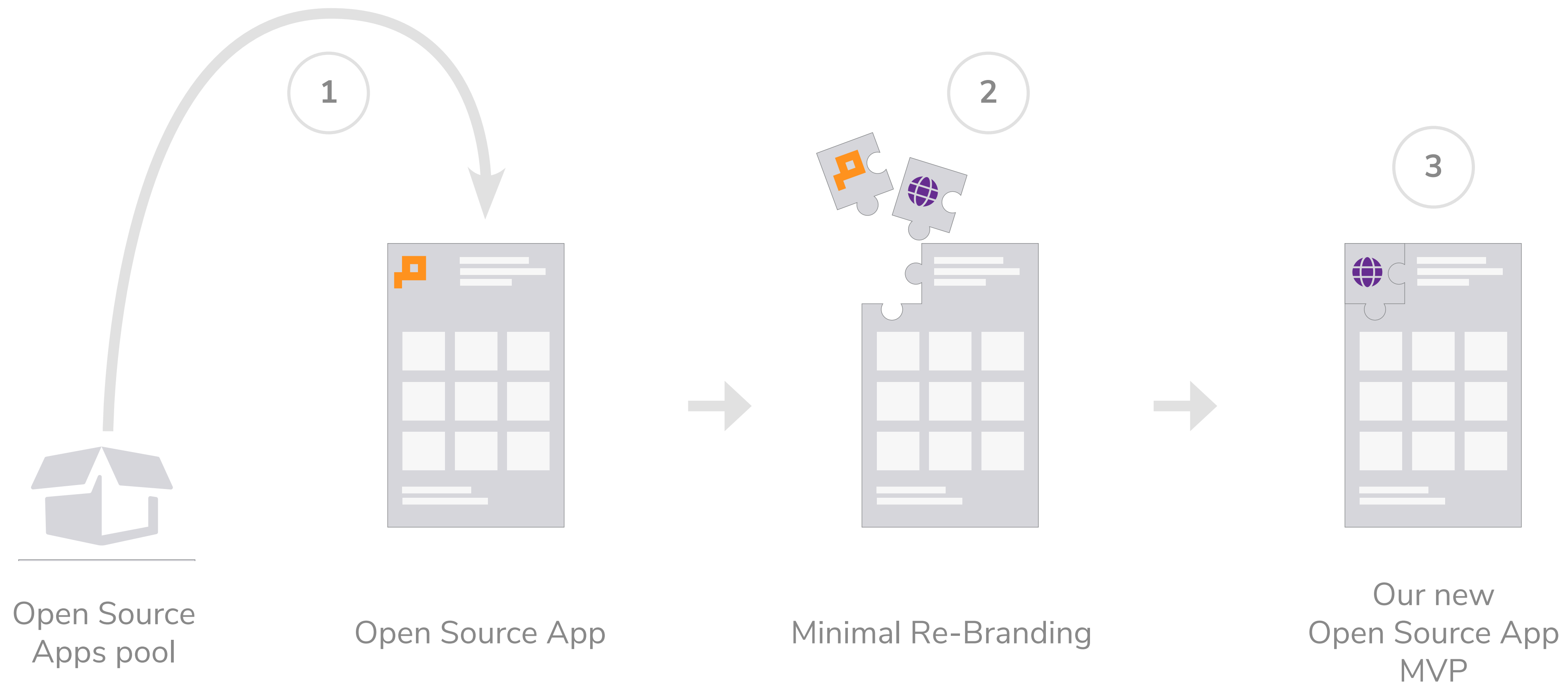- Adding new applications can be done relatively quickly

Group of
Open Source Apps
inside the container

- There is no real integration between the container and applications other than switching between the applications

- Some common elements like search, language selection, account access, etc, even when present of almost all applications they will be experienced in different ways each time

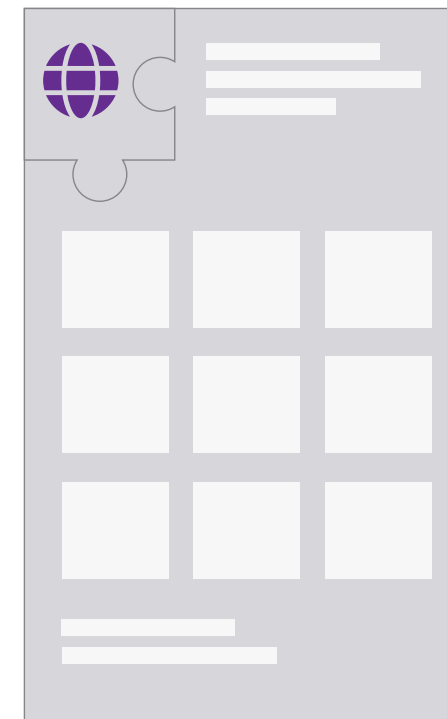# 2. Current process adding a new Open Source App
2.1. As easy as 1-2-3!

1

2

3

Open Source
Apps pool

Open Source App

Minimal Re-Branding

Our new
Open Source App
MVP

2. Current process adding a new OpenSource App
2.2. Pros and Cons
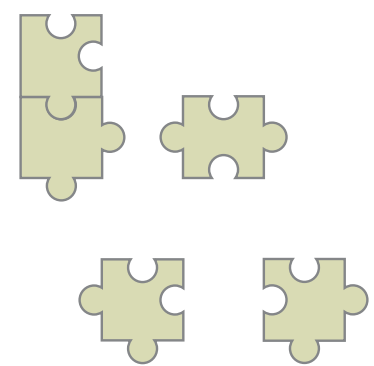
- Very quick to have "something to show"

Our new
Open Source App
MVP

- Deep lack of unified style between applications

- Applications does not seems to belong to the same "family" since the user experience can be very different from one to another

- Lack of understanding phase, we are not sure if we truly meet a user need

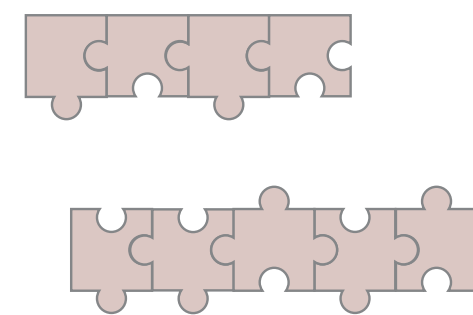- Lack of professionalism. Promote "message"

3. Proposed Roadmap
3.1. Fundations

1 → **2** → **3**

Design System

- Fonts
- Colors
- UI elements
- Spaces
- Grids
- etc
- etc
- etc

App Framework

- Branding
- Language Selector
- Account Access
- Notifications Indicator
- Apps Hub
- Search
- About
- Help
- Terms and conditions
- Federal Identification Policy

Account

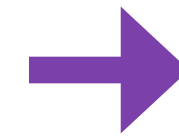- Login info
- Preferences

Notification System

- Alerts
- Notifications
- Confirmations
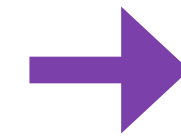- email
- sms
- etc

3. Proposed Roadmap
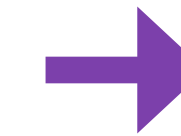## 3.2. New Open Source App selection

① ⟶ ② ⟶ ③

UX Research on
user's needs + system
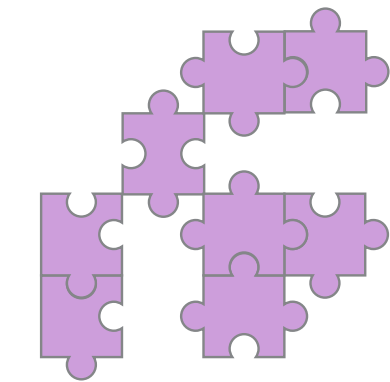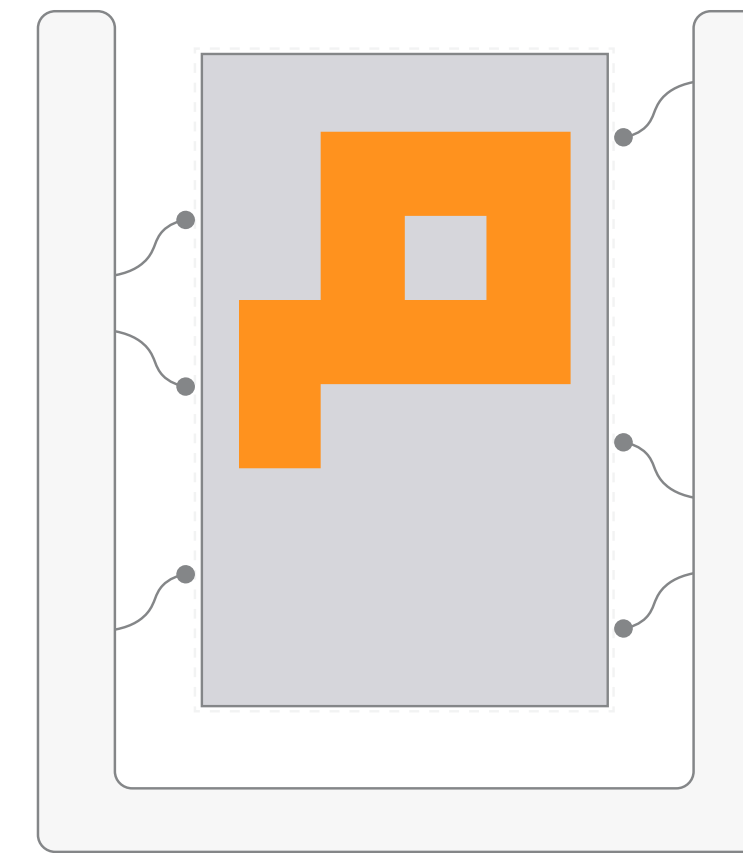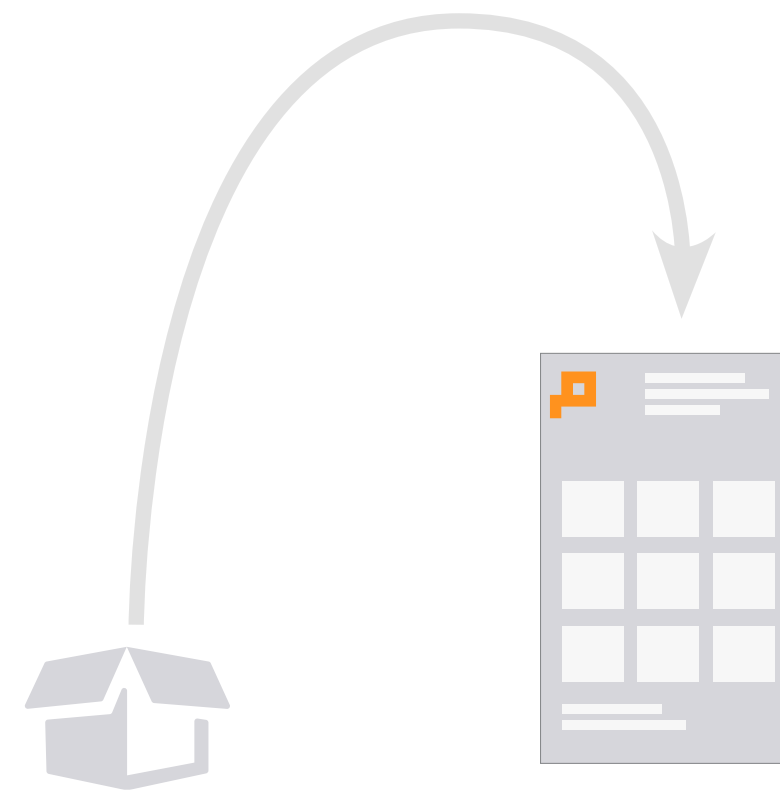requirements +
accessibility standards

➤

Select the
Open Source App
closer to the ideal

➤

Install and Setup
selected
Open Source App
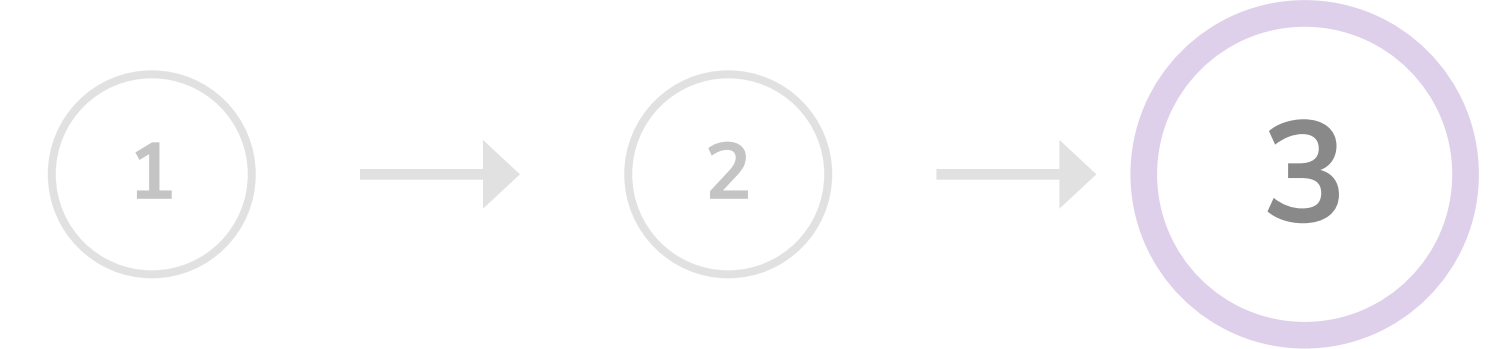in **dev environment**

➤

UX Design on features
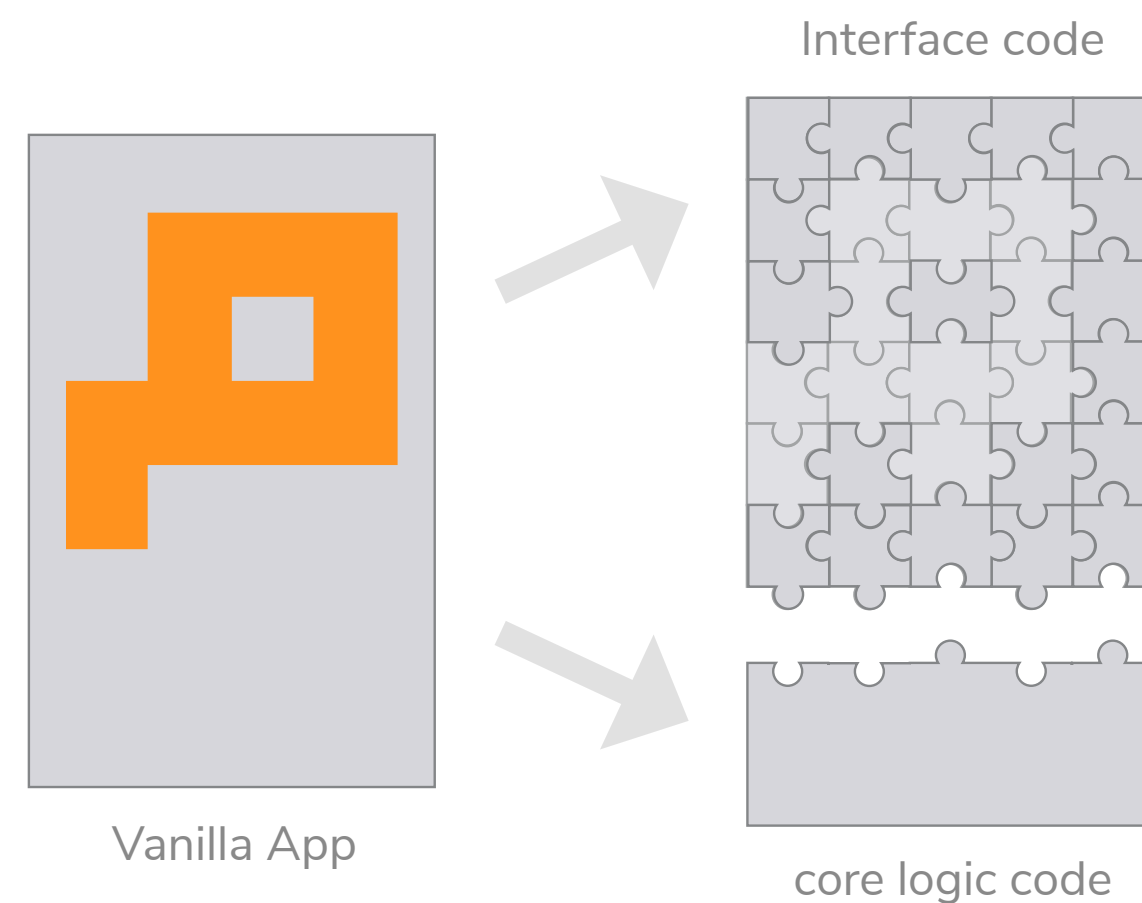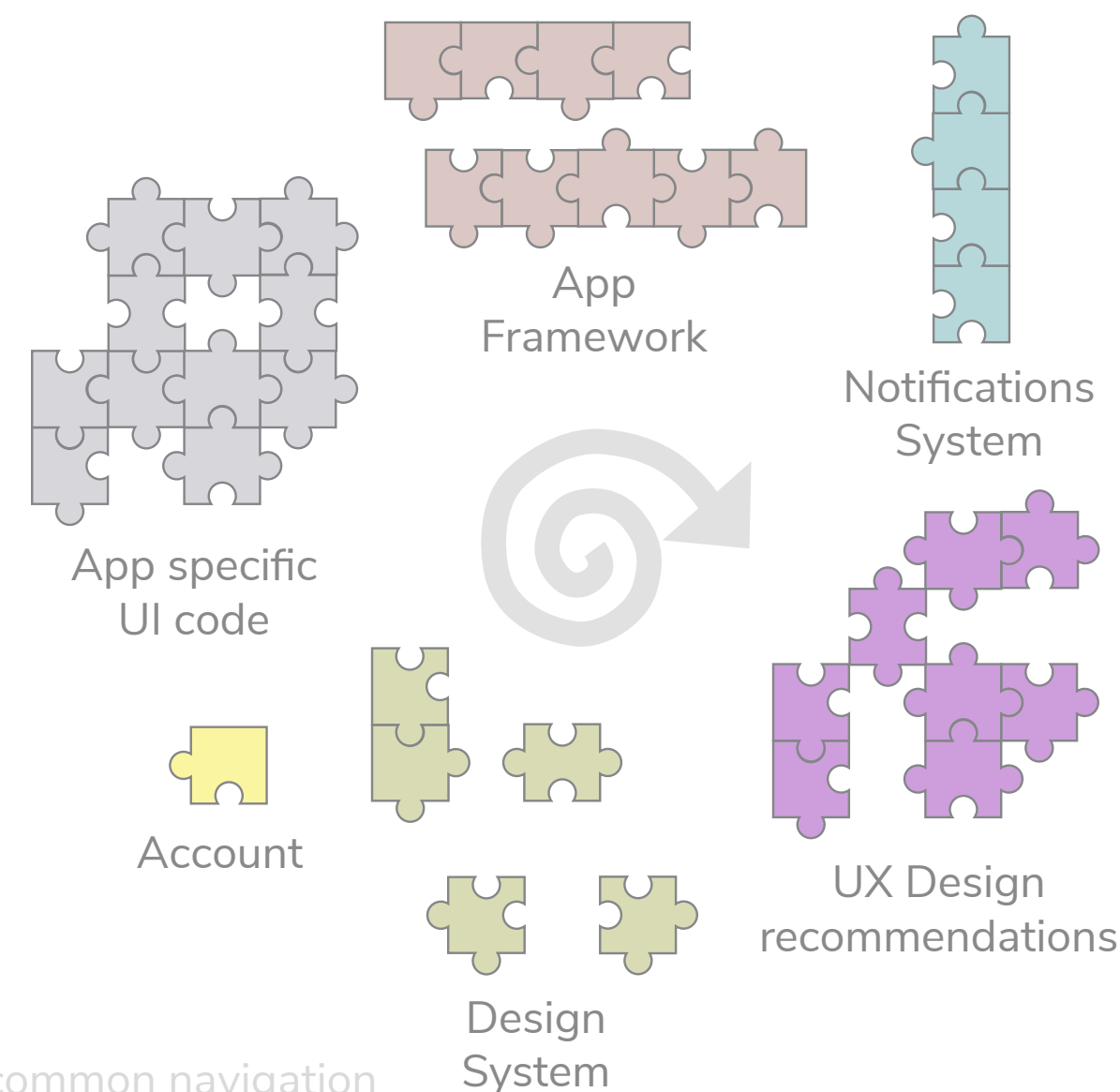to be add or features
that need some re-work

3. Proposed Roadmap
3.3. Making the new Open Source App truly ours
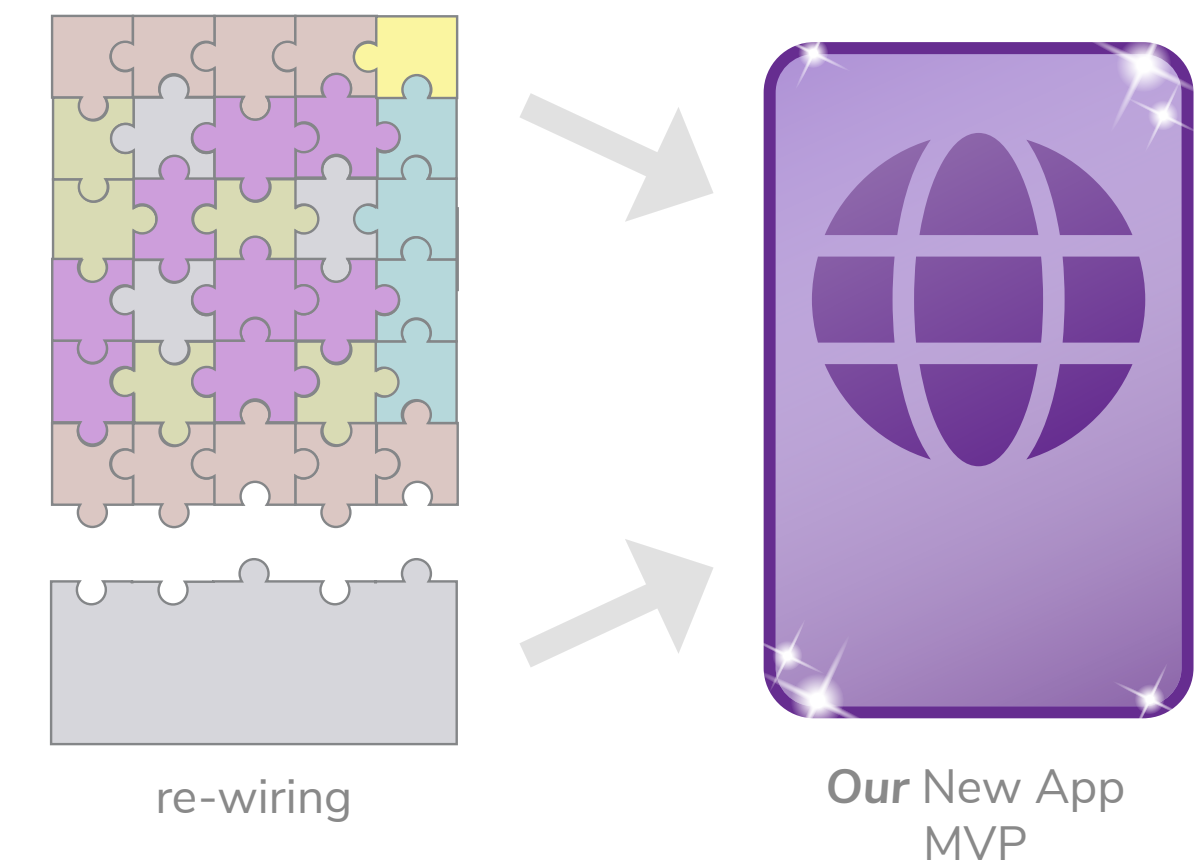
1 → 2 → **3**

Interface from Core Logic isolation

Specific UI application interface code mixed with Design System, App Framework, Notification System, Account and UX Design recommendations

Our truly Open Source App ready to put on a **production environment**

Interface code

Vanilla App

core logic code

App specific UI code

App Framework

Notifications System

Account

Design System

UX Design recommendations

re-wiring

Our New App MVP

3. Proposed Roadmap
3.4. Pros and Cons

- It will create a real suite of applications

- Stronger understanding of user and business needs to produce a useful product

- Consistent applications to improve user experience

- We have a better understanding of the app, the tech, the features
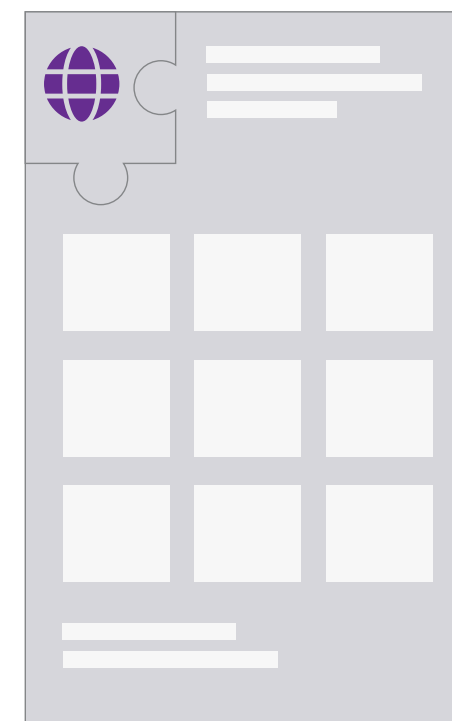
Our New App MVP added to the suite, ready to put on a **production environment**

- It will take more time to adapt each new application

Open Discussion

References

1 FramaSoft

https://degooglisons-internet.org/list/?l=en

2 Sandstorm

https://oasis.sandstorm.io/

3 Mike's global navigation mockup

https://xd.adobe.com/view/5135c2db-79f9-4f1c-7d66-91133490f641-2704/screen/ab0906cc-e4d3-4fef-b730-29c96f5c5b1f/APP-1-Service-Menu/

4 Nick's global navigation mockup

https://xd.adobe.com/view/60c5d37c-9038-45cd-6225-916c571212d6-16f4/

Thanks
Merci