

Introduction

Non-Modals are user interface elements or components that do not impose a modal behaviour or restrict users to a single mode or state of interaction.

Overview

Non-modals in a design system are user interface components that enable users to interact with them while maintaining the context and continuity of their overall workflow. They do not impose a modal behaviour, they don't interrupt the user workflow or blocking access to other parts of the interface.

Non-modal

A non-modal dialog pops up on top of a page, sometimes triggered by the page and sometimes after some user action. The page below is still accessible, but is now often partly covered by the dialog.

When to use

When not to use

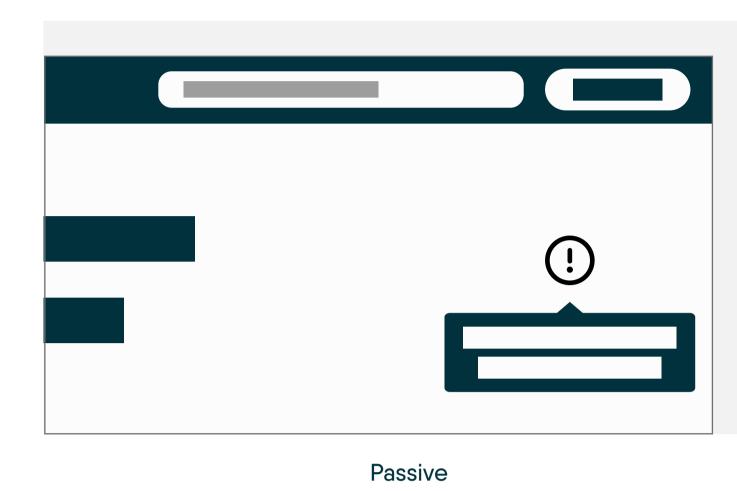
Access to page: Use non-modal dialogs when users need to compare or refer to information on the main page alongside the modal. Users can interact with both the non-modal and on-page content simultaneously, and the non-modal dialog may be moved to access hidden information.

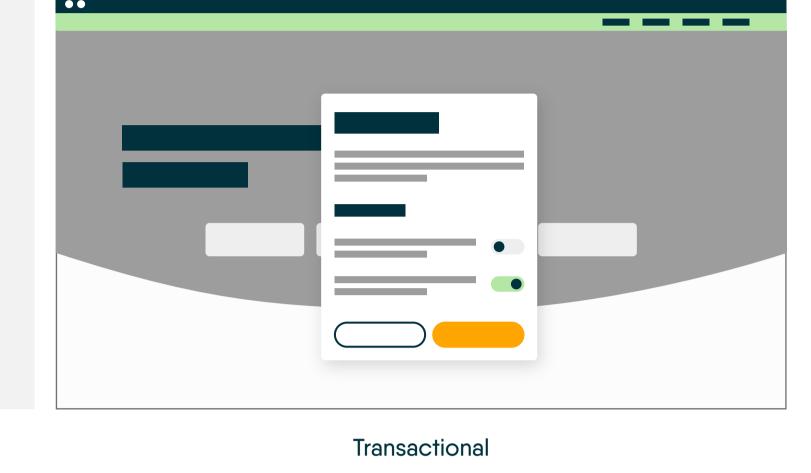
Avoid when user response is required: Do not use non-modal dialogs if the user's response or input is necessary to continue the workflow. Non-modal dialogs should be reserved for optional or non-critical tasks. Instead, opt for a modal dialog when user interaction is required to progress the workflow.

information alongside the main page, accelerating and aiding user workflows.

Workflow aid: Utilize non-modal dialogs to perform tasks or present

Additional information: Display supplementary information in nonmodal dialogs to inform user decisions and workflows, such as incontext help or tutorials like a knowledge center.





Non-modal variants

Variant	Usage	
Passive	Provide supplementary information or feedback without interrupting the user's workflow. Contains no actions for the user to take. See Tooltip, Progress bar, Inline notification, etc.	
Transactional	Presents the user with optional action(s). Actions can be repeated without closing the dialog. Contains at least one button. See Cookies, surveys, multi-step forms.	

Passive

Characteristic

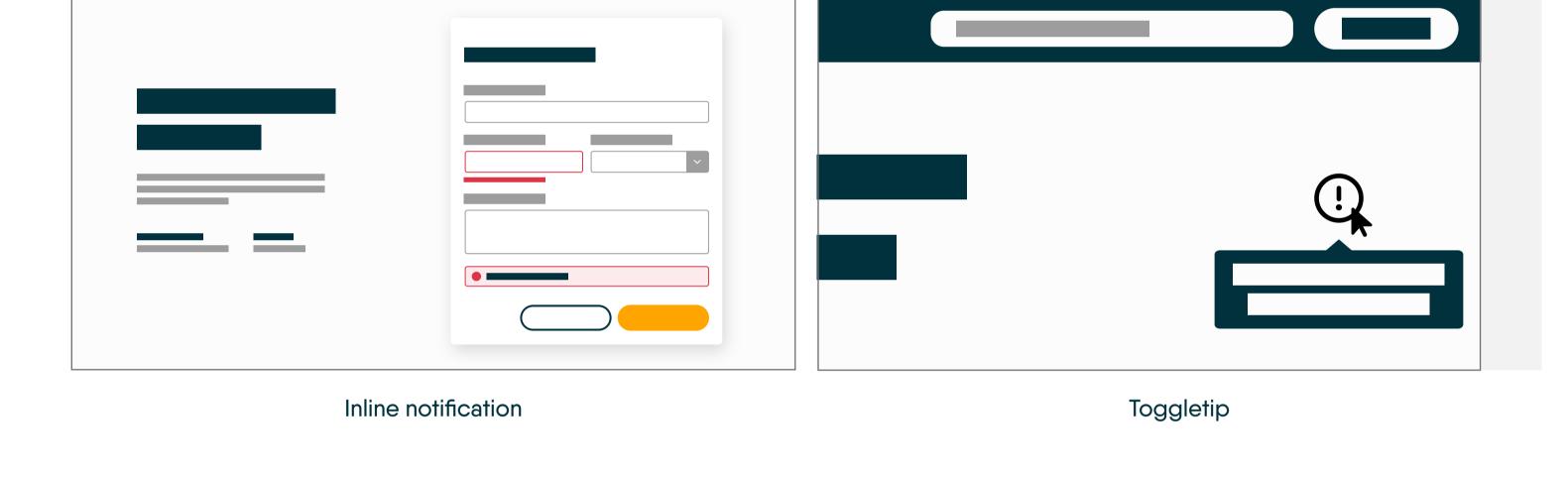
Non-intrusive

Context

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disrupting the user's workflow.

Passive non-modal dialogs provide information or content without requiring immediate user input or



Does not disrupt the user's current activity or require them to interact with it. It

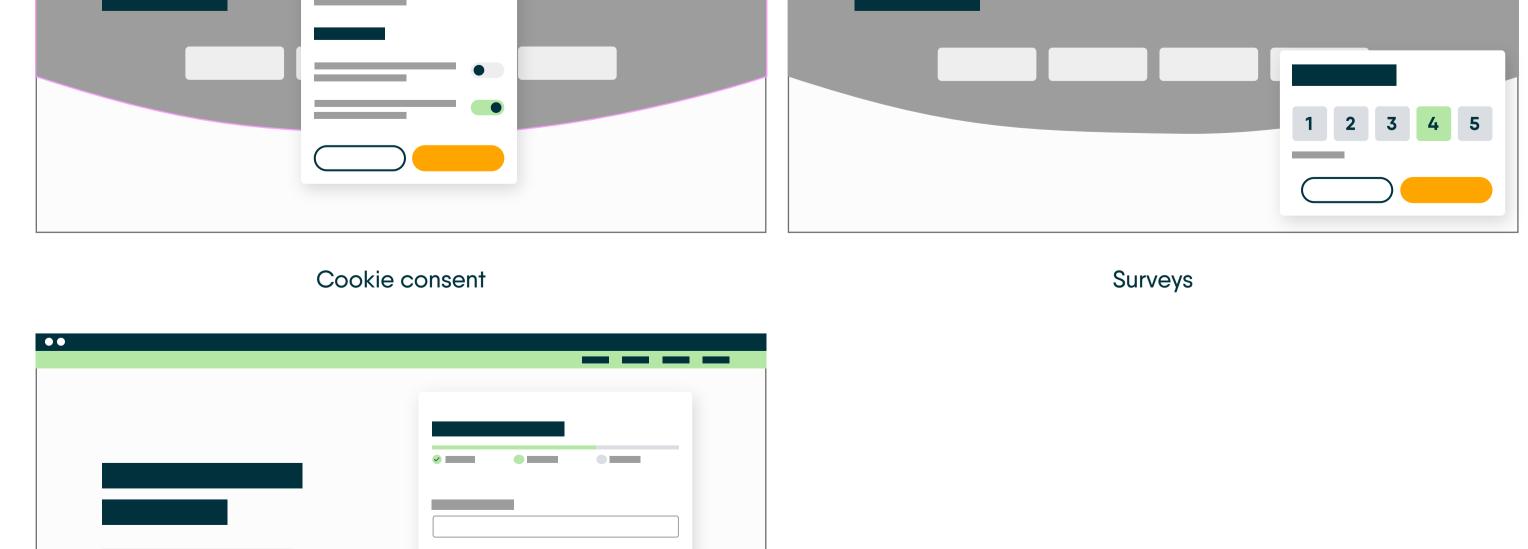
	presents information in a subtle or unobtrusive manner, often in a separate area or alongside the main content.	
Optional Engagement	Users have the choice to engage with the dialog or ignore it without any negative consequences or impact on their workflow. The dialog may provide additional details, tips, or related information that users can explore if they desire.	
Supplementary information	typically offers supplementary or contextual information that enhances the user's understanding or experience. It may provide explanations, tooltips, hints, or relevant suggestions to assist users in their current task.	
Dismissible or Persistent	Depending on the design, a passive non-modal dialog can be dismissible, allowing users to close or hide it if they prefer not to see it. In some cases, it may remain persistent but unobtrusive, allowing users to continue their workflow while still having access to the main content.	
Minimal Interaction	Users do not need to interact with the passive non-modal dialog to continue their tasks. It does not require any input, confirmation, or decision-making from the user. The dialog's purpose is to provide supplementary information rather than soliciting direct user engagement.	
Dismissal		

Passive non-modal dialogs are typically dismissible, allowing users to close or hide them if they prefer

Transactional

not to engage with the supplementary information.

The key characteristic of passive non-modal dialogs is that they provide information or content without requiring immediate user input or disrupting the user's workflow.



Multi-step form

Dismissal

Transactional non-modal dialogs are typically dismissed through specific actions or completion of the transactional process. The specific dismissal method may vary depending on the implementation and user interface design choices. The goal is to provide users with intuitive and easily accessible options to dismiss the transactional non-modal dialog when desired.