

Figma Variants 101

What is a variant?

Variant - *noun*, a form or version of something that differs in some respect from other forms of the same thing or from a standard.

Figma Variants - *noun*, a new way to group and organize variants of the same component into a singular component.

What does it do?

Before variants, this is what we would basically have, one Figma component would represent a different variation of a component. For example, we would have Primary button (default), Primary button (disabled), Secondary button (default), and Secondary button (disabled), and so on. Take what we have in [Blend.com](#)'s style guide as an example.

From an end user's perspective, a user would see this when looking through the design system assets. As you can see, there is a component for every single button variation.

Buttons

	Primary	Secondary
Active		
Hover		
Inactive/ Disabled		

HOWEVER, with **variants**, everything will now be consolidated into one component. Now, the sidebar where users look and find the button in the design system, they will just see one component: button

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Interactive ▾



es

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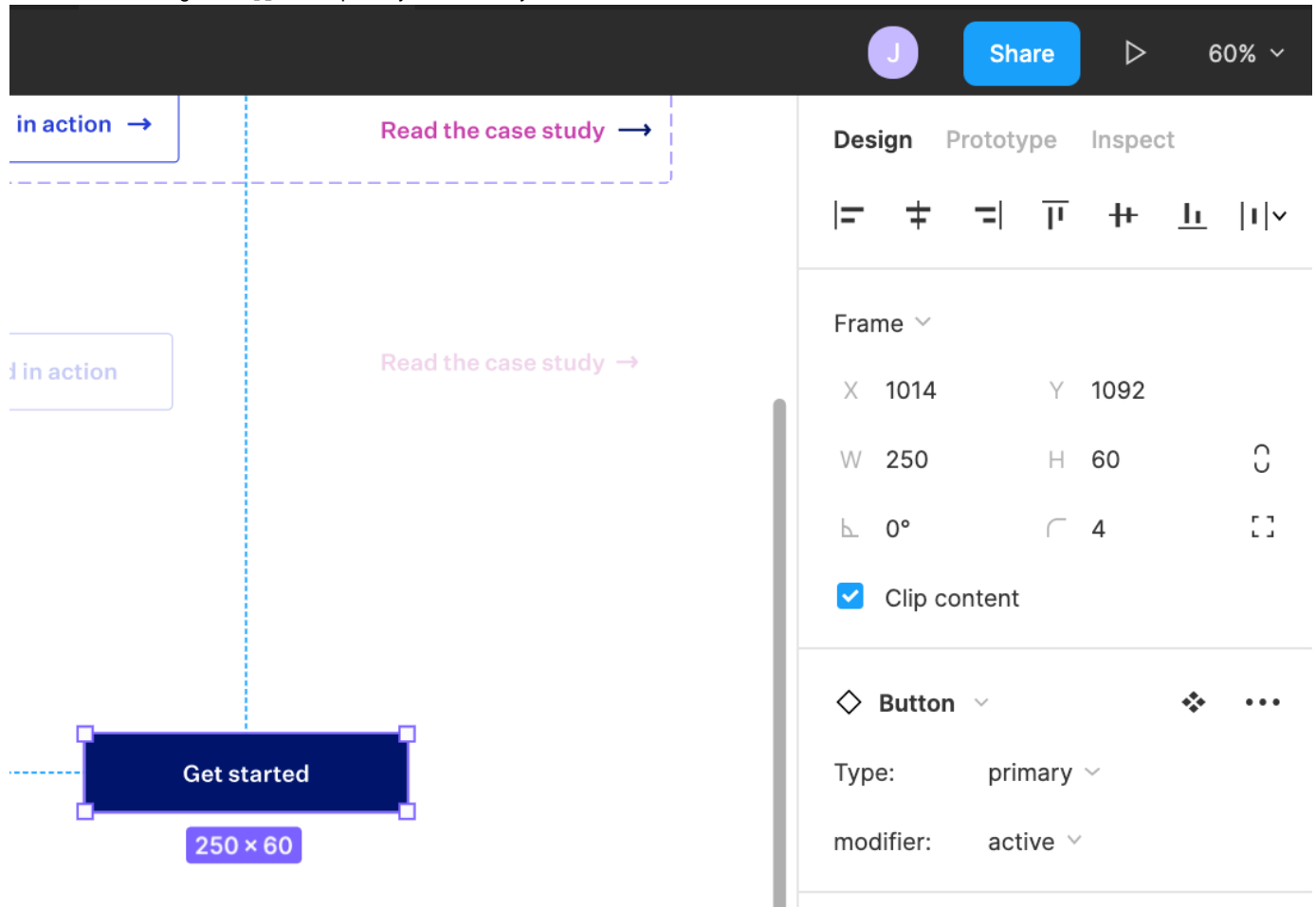
▶ 👉 Interactive / Accordions

▼ 👉 Interactive / Buttons

Get started

Now that there's only one button, a user would drag and drop the button into their file, and then they can configure the button (some work needs to be done there, but we'll explain down below) so that they can produce something like a secondary button instead of the primary button.

This is what the configuration step will look like with a component variant. Note how there's a `Type` and `modifier` property (that we set) and a user can then change the `Type` from `primary` to `secondary` and so on.



You can read more about how this benefits users [here](#).

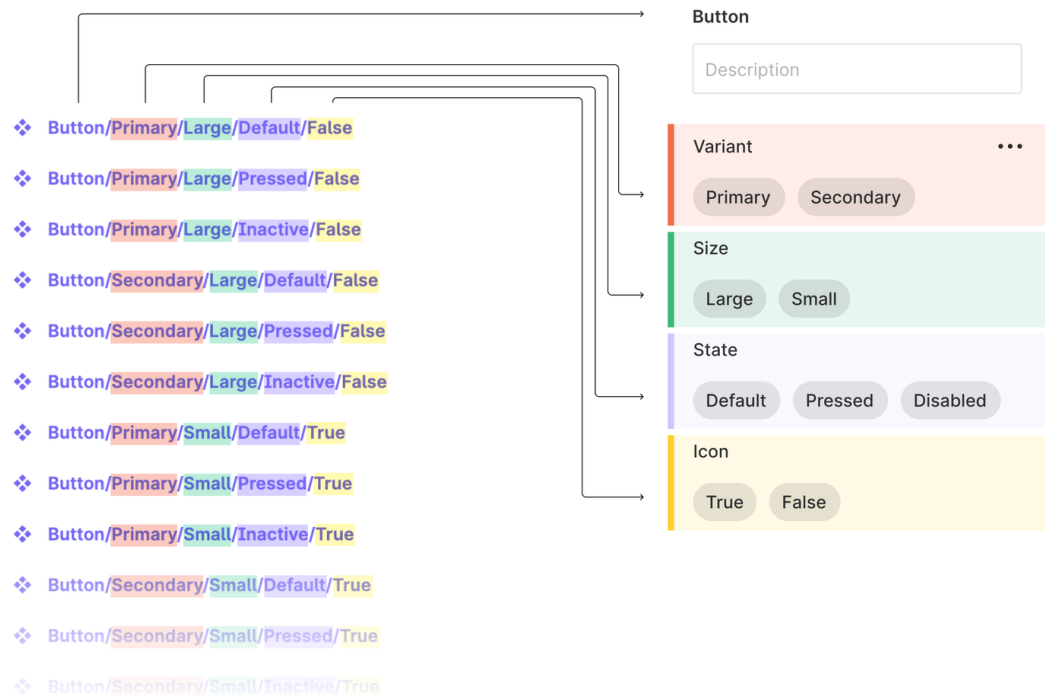
How does it work?

In order for variants to become a reality, there are a few pre-requisites. You can read more about setting up variants [here](#).

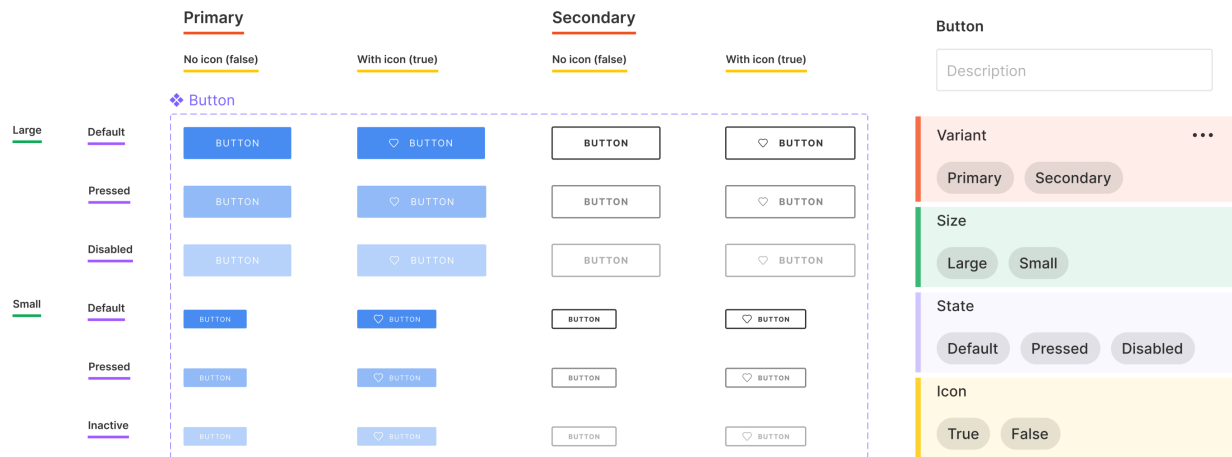
1. List all variations of the component (or create them if needed)
 - a.



2. Use consistent naming
 - a. Naming of a component is important, as it will help you migrate components into Figma variants faster.
 - b.



Button



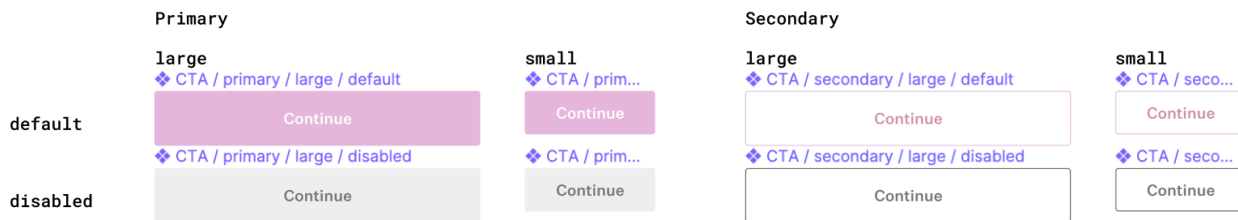
Real life (blend) example!

Here's the Figma file: <https://www.figma.com/file/si1ImCT9OAXnRBOtJYC3qv/?node-id=34%3A0>

1.) Here we have a component called CTA where there are a few variations to it:

- primary or secondary
- small or large
- default or disabled


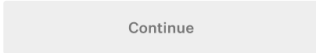

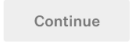




Component: CTA



2.) Here's how the component is currently named, as how we typically do things in Figma. As you can see the structure is:

Component / property 1 / property 2 / ... *This will help us in a moment!*

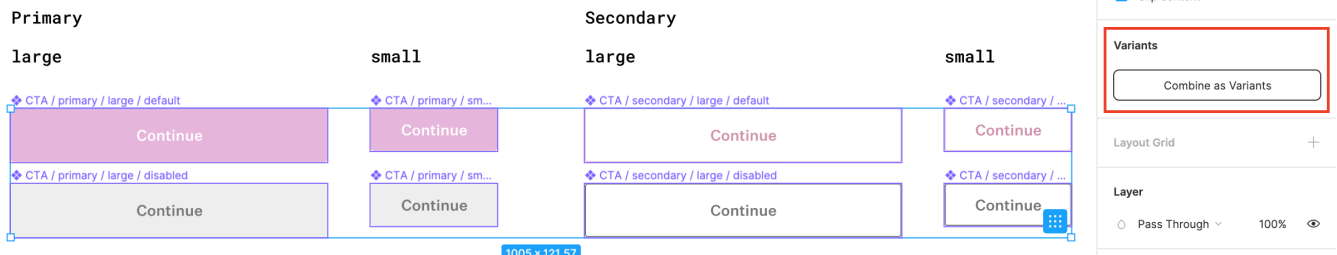
How it's named

	CTA / primary / large / default		CTA / primary / large / disabled
	CTA / primary / small / default		CTA / primary / small / disabled
	CTA / secondary / large / default		CTA / secondary / large / disabled
	CTA / secondary / small / default		CTA / secondary / small / disabled

3.) Now, what we need to do is select all of the components and Figma will have a button on the right sidebar that says 'Combine as variants'

WITH VARIANTS

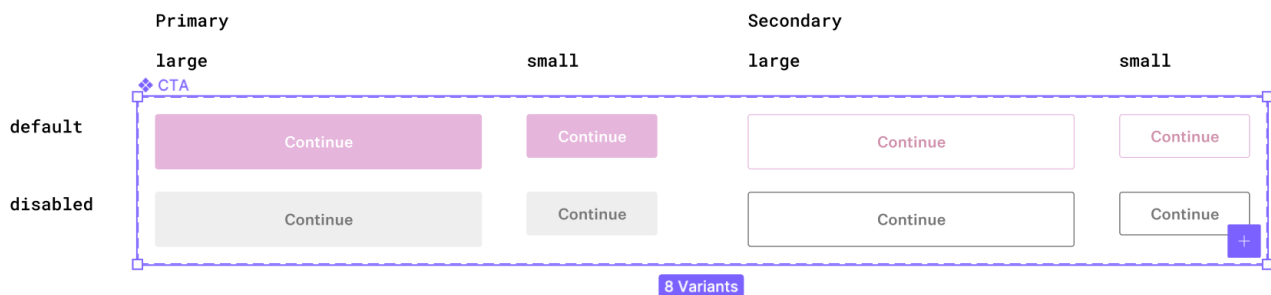
Component: CTA



4.) Once that 'Combine as variants' button is clicked, you will see a purple dotted container around all of the components like so:

WITH VARIANTS

Component: CTA



5.) We're almost done! now back to **naming**. In this specific case, we will structure the naming to correspond to:

CTA / type / size / modifier where:

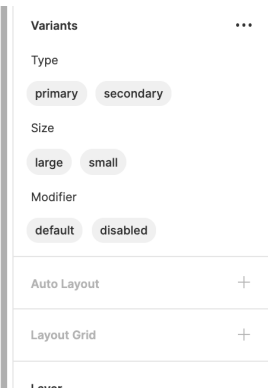
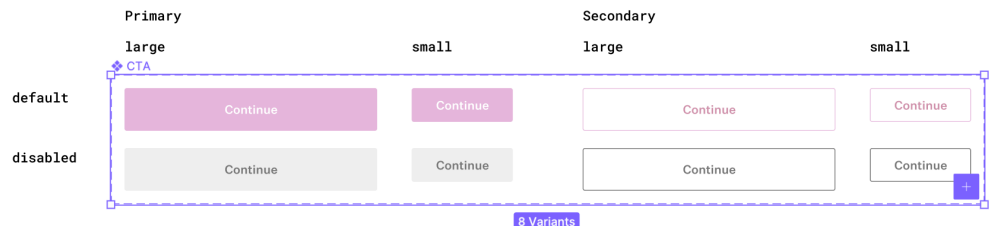
- type: 'primary' | 'secondary'
- size: 'large' | 'small'
- modifier: 'default' | 'disabled'

As you can see in the sidebar, the properties are still listed as `Property 1`, `Property 2`, and `Property 3`. We will need to rename them. Think of **Properties** as attributes to a component, just like react props or points of configuration for a component.

Additionally, each property can be set to whatever values you want it to be. For example, we see that the `type` property can be set to either 'primary' or 'secondary' as a value. It should be noted that these values are defined by the creator of the component.

WITH VARIANTS

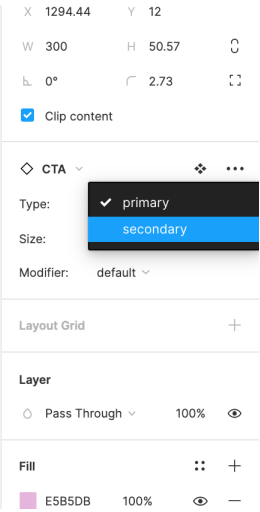
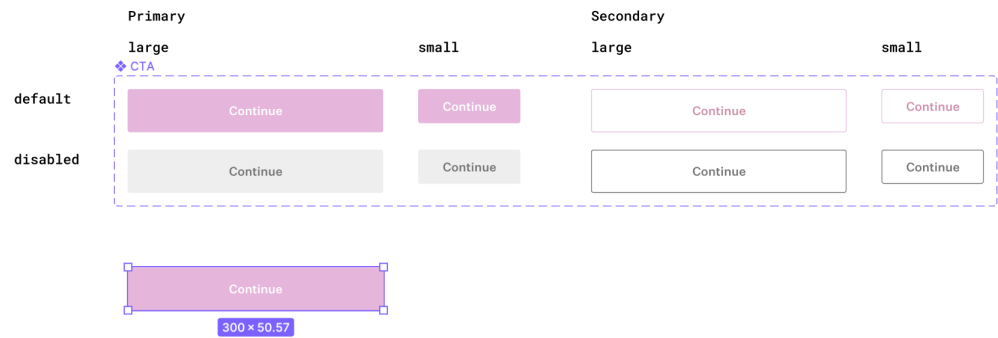
Component: CTA



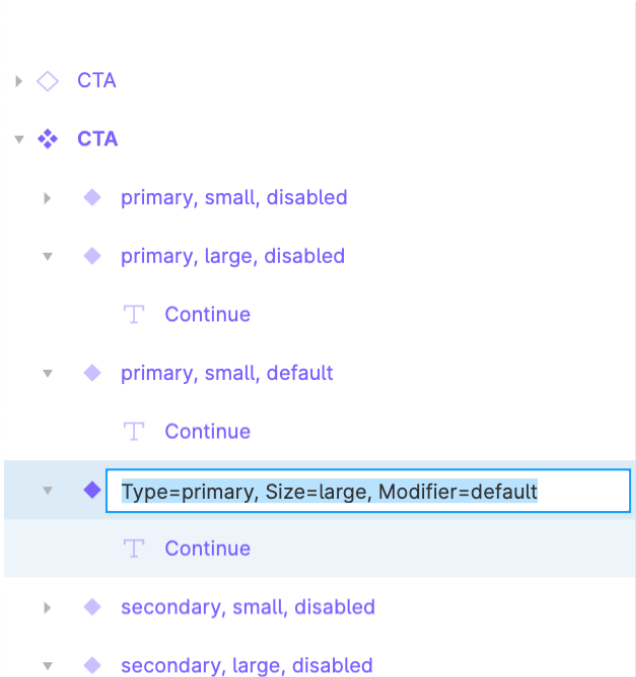
6.) Once you've renamed the properties, you're all set! When you create an instance of the component, now you can use the sidebar to configure your component.

WITH VARIANTS

Component: CTA

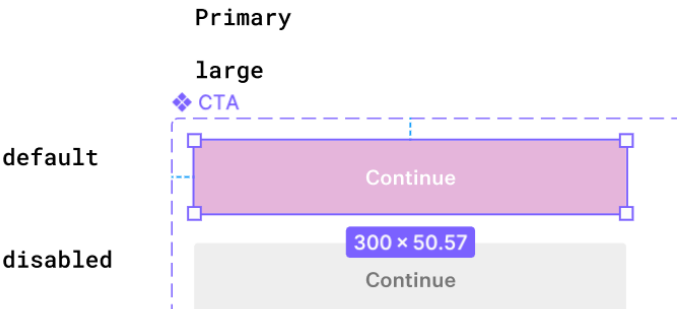


Also, here's how Figma 'magically' handles naming your layers based on the properties that you've just set. look below 🙋



WITH VARIANTS

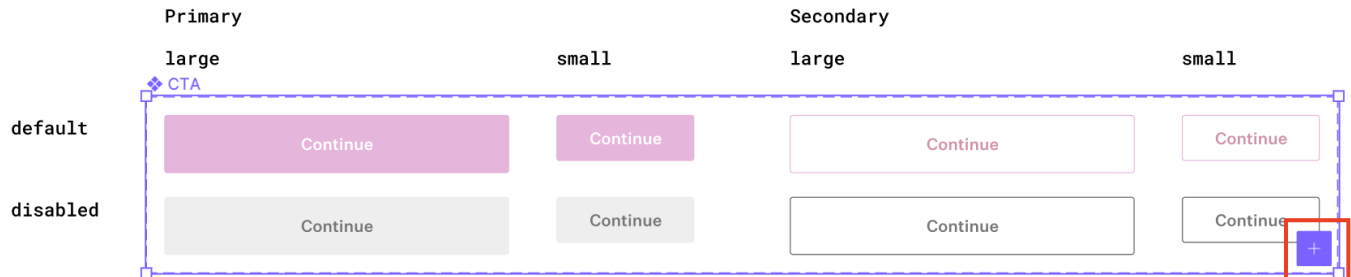
Component: CTA



T Continue

7.) If you want to create a new component variation, can click the purple plus button around the button variant container (the purple dotted container).

Component: CTA

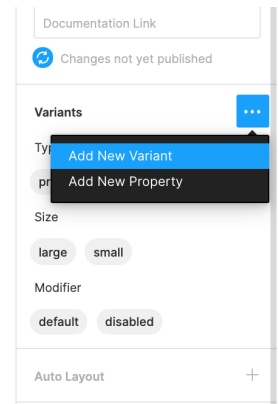
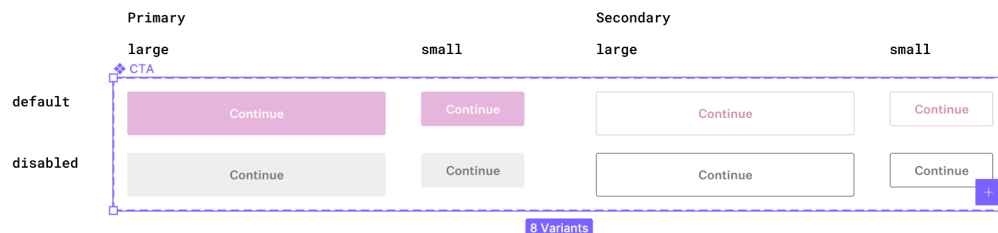


When the button is clicked, Figma will automatically create another variation for you. There, you can style the component variation accordingly (treat it like as if it was a main component).

You can then create a new variant of CTA as well as add a new property to accompany a new variant. An example of adding a new property would be to add an icon.

WITH VARIANTS

Component: CTA



Why does this matter?

Figma Variants help provide the end user (someone consuming the design system) with a simpler and more delightful experience.

Think of it this way: instead of having to pick from 24 different button components, now you just drag and drop a single button component and you configure it with the specific properties you want, and *voila* you have your component.

Resources

- [Prepare for Figma Variants](#)
- [Figma Variants tutorial \(video\)](#)
- [Figma Variants playground \(Figma file\)](#)