THAT
CONFERENCE

BREAKING UP TO MAKE UP:

The UI Component Library Journey

Melissa Smith | THAT Conference 2018

Repo on Github: melismae/that-conference-starter

1.
What are they?

Background | Design Systems | Examples

2.

How can I build my own?

Storybook | React Cosmos | React Styleguidist

CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU DEVELOP

WHO ARE YOU

A funny thing happened on the way to the conference.

Things that keep me up at night

- Componentization and reusability
- Separating out concerns
- How to move quickly while maintaining a consistent user experience
- How to communicate and document components
- My dog snoring

Image: https://www.voodoodoughnut.com/

Email changed my life.

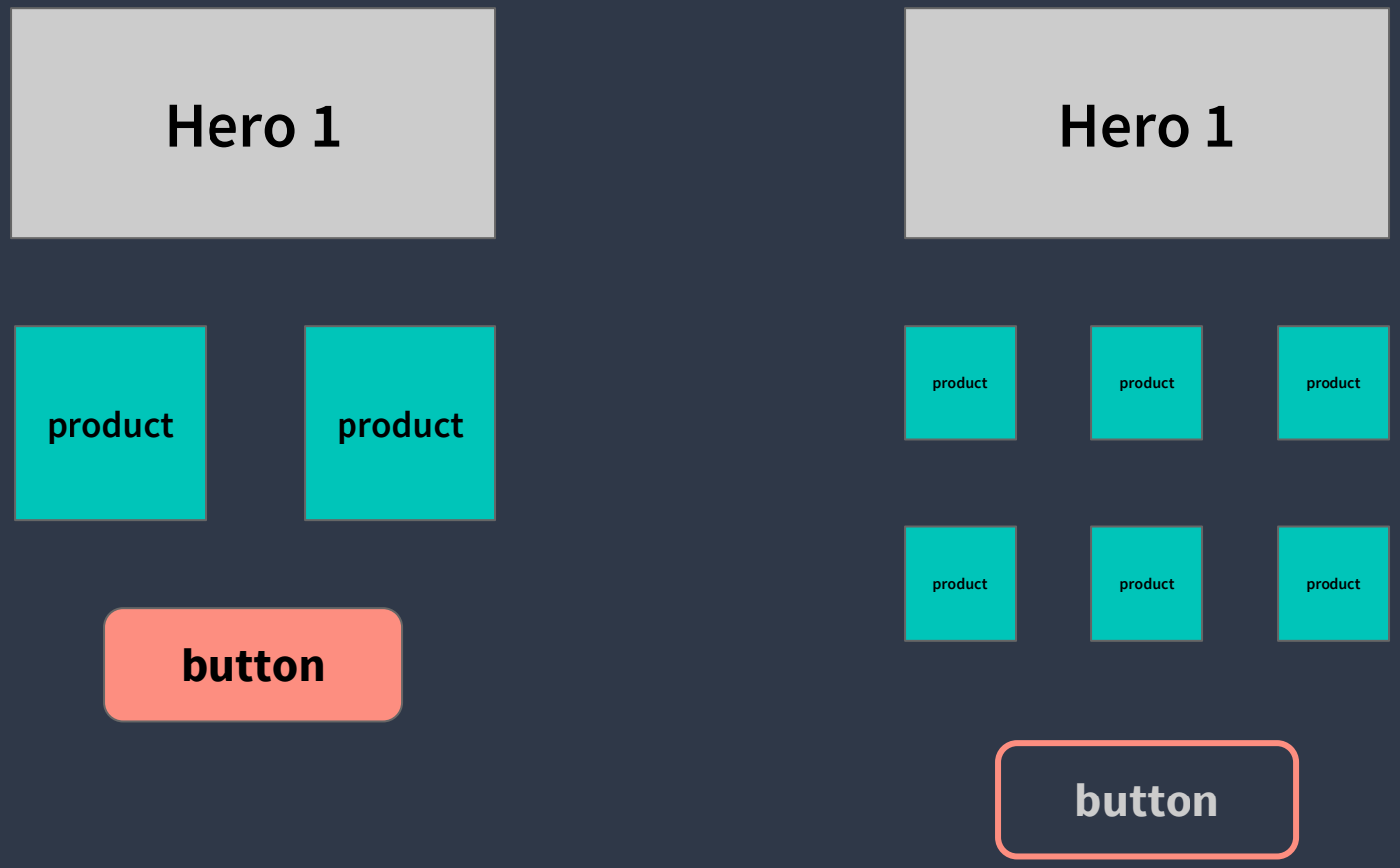
This sounds hyperbolic, but it’s kind of not.

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional //EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

Image: from *Pages to Patterns: An Exercise for Everyone*
by Charlotte Jackson in A List Apart.
https://alistapart.com/article/from-pages-to-patterns-an-exercise-for-everyone

[This exercise] creates the same starting point for everyone, and encourages a shared language and pattern thinking across the team—all of which help lay the foundations of an effective pattern library.

From *Pages to Patterns: An Exercise for Everyone*
by Charlotte Jackson in A List Apart.
https://alistapart.com/article/from-pages-to-patterns-an-exercise-for-everyone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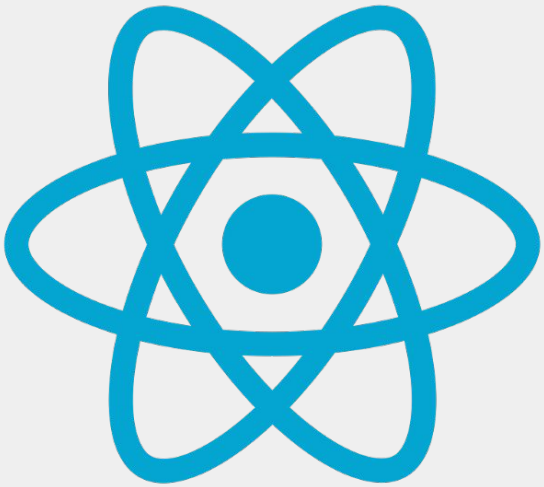
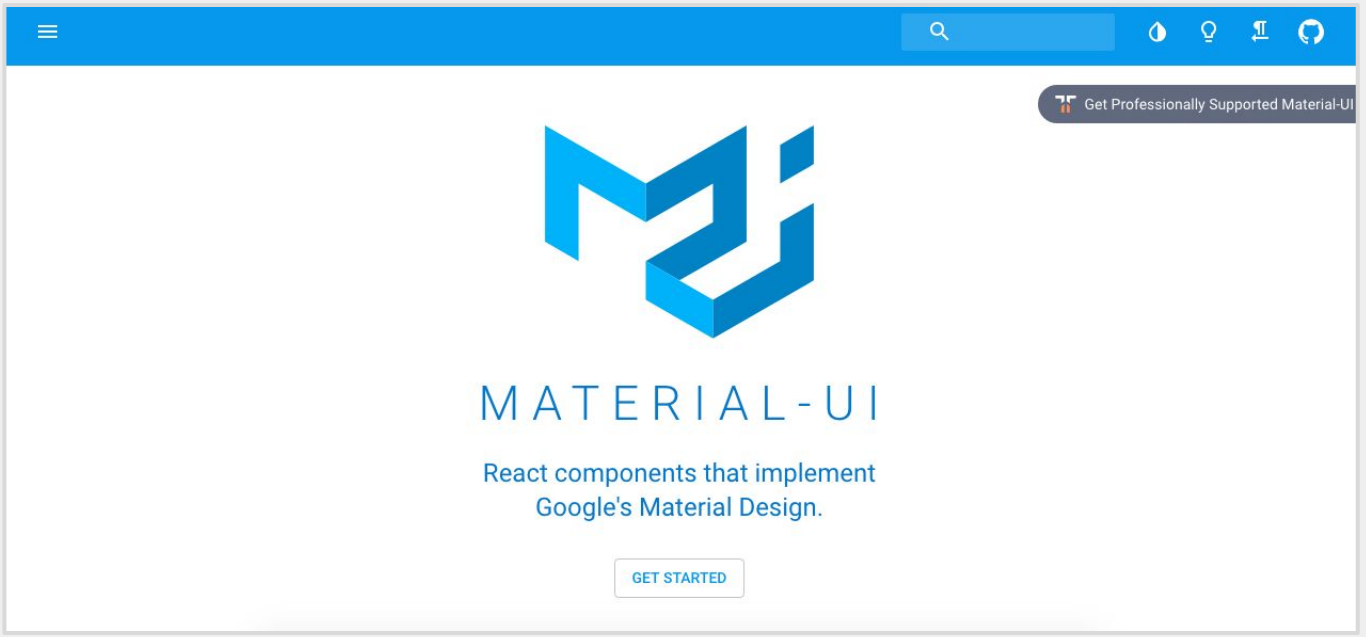


UI Component Library

What is a UI component library?

A development playground and a way to visually demonstrate your reusable components and provide developers—your primary audience—with documentation on the components' implementation.

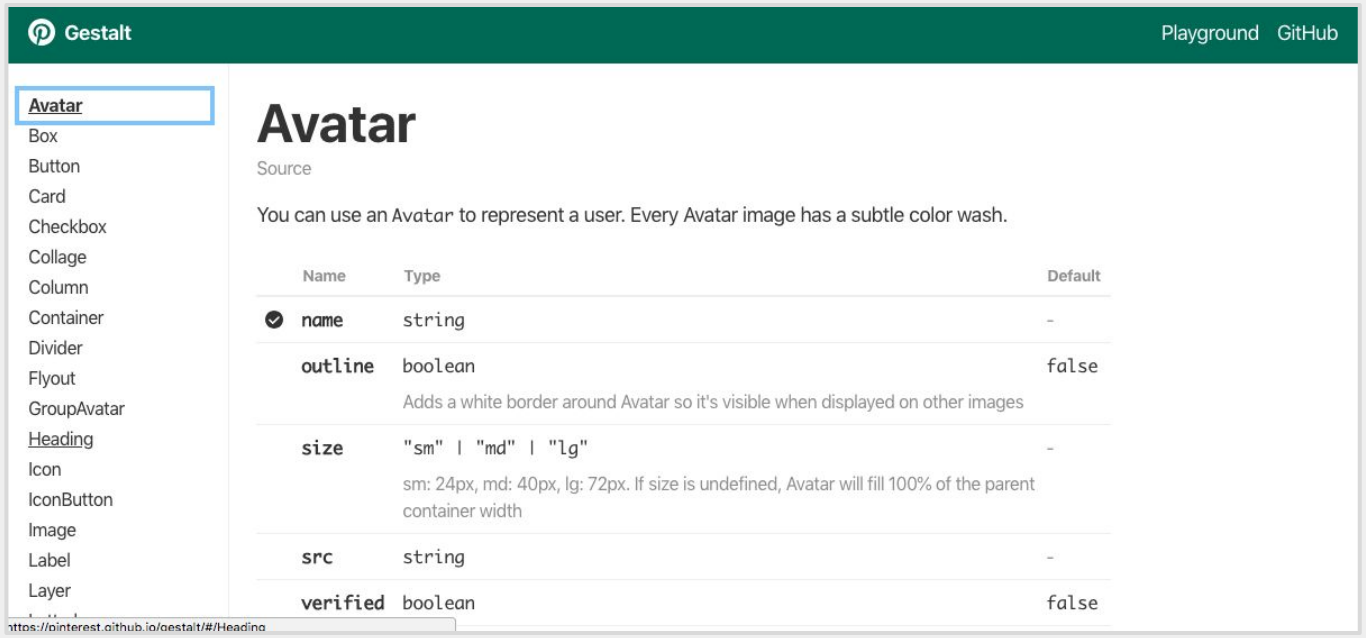
- Visualization
- Code snippet
- API



Material UI

Uses Google’s Material Design.

https://material-ui.com | https://material.angular.io



Pinterest's Gestalt

https://pinterest.github.io/gestalt/#/

Hack Oregon

https://hackoregon.github.io/component-library/
http://civicplatform.org/

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The New York Times

Tuesday, September 2, 2014 | Today's Paper | Video | Weather

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ISIS Says It Killed Reporter After Strikes in Northern Iraq

By MARK LANDLER and ERIC SCHMITT 9:26 PM ET

Relatives of Steven J. Sotloff, a freelance journalist who was captured in Syria a year ago, said they believed he had been killed, despite a plea from his mother. Word of Mr. Sotloff's beheading came two weeks after James Foley, another American journalist, was beheaded by ISIS.

RELATED COVERAGE

- Graphic: The Iraq-ISIS Conflict in Maps, Photos and Video
- Graphic: A Rogue State Along Two Rivers

Residents of Amerli, a town of Shiite Turkmens, celebrated this week after a nearly three-month siege by Sunni militants ended.
Andrea Bruce for The New York Times

In Desperate Campaign, Town Held Off ISIS

By AZAM AHMED 7:05 PM ET

The siege of Amerli, a northern Shiite Turkmen community, is thought to be the first instance in which a town has kept ISIS at bay since the group began its march through Iraq.

34 Comments

The Opinion Pages

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The alliance needs unite to push back against Vladimir Putin's expansionist tendencies.

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- Letters: Dealing With Iraq, Syria and ISIS

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

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By CLARE HUNTINGTON

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- Friedman: Ready, Aim, Fire. Not Fire, Ready, Aim.
- The Conversation: Midterms on the Menu
- Room for Debate: 'Don't Do Stupid Stuff' as Foreign Policy?

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MARKETS » At 10:25 PM ET

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15,798.10	25,017.78	2,281.16
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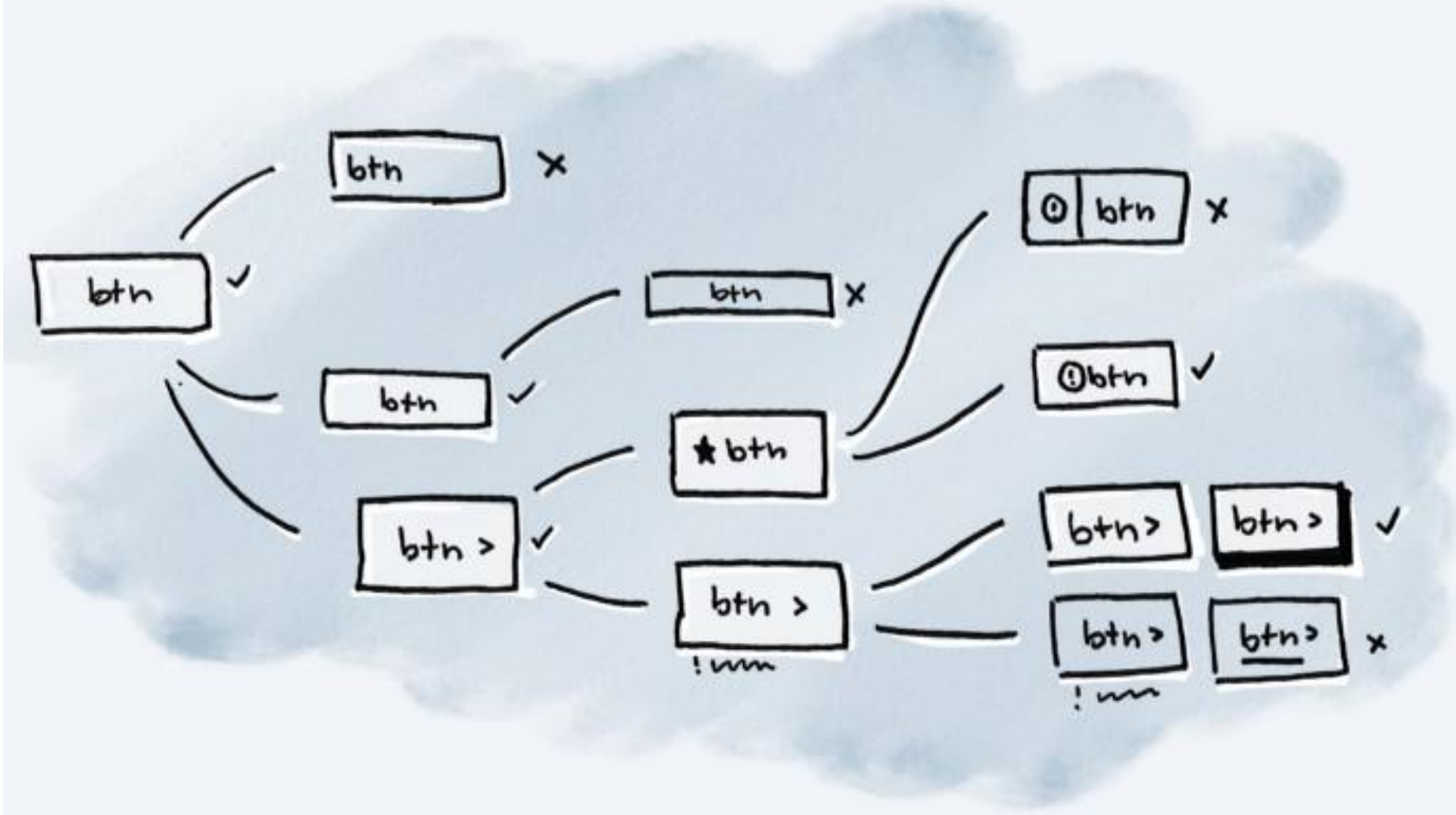


Image: https://uxdesign.cc/design-systems-in-the-wild-cbc863f41c2

Naming is hard.

Design Systems.

Design has always been largely about systems, and how to create products in a ***scalable*** *and* ***repeatable*** *way. … A unified design system is essential to building better and faster;* ***better because a cohesive experience is more easily understood by our users****, and* ***faster because it gives us a common language to work with.***

Karri Saarinen, Airbnb
https://airbnb.design/building-a-visual-language/

“A design system’s value is realized when products ship features using parts from the system.”

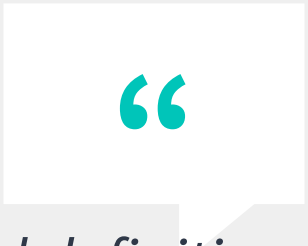
Nathan Curtis, Eight Shapes
https://medium.com/eightshapes-llc/a-design-system-isn-t-a-project-it-s-a-product-serving-products-74dcfffef935

“...part of the job of a design system is to take care of the boring stuff to free you up to tackle the more exciting and challenging bits, so some amount of convention is expected and encouraged. That genericness is what allows designers and developers to create quickly, not to overthink our interfaces and unnecessarily reinvent the wheel.”

Dan Mall, designer for the Unity Design System for Exxon Mobile
http://danmall.me/articles/distinct-design-systems/

What does it all mean?

A design system as a product in service of other products.



“The generally-accepted definition of a design system is that it’s the outer circle—it encompasses pattern libraries, style guides, and any other artefacts.

But there’s something more. Just because you have a collection of design patterns doesn’t mean you have a design system. A system is a framework. It’s a rulebook. It’s what tells you how those patterns work together.”

Jeremy Keith (Clearleft)
https://adactio.com/journal/13844

“I tend to define a design system as the official story of how your organization designs and builds digital products. There are a lot of ingredients involved in telling that story.

A kit of UI components without accompanying philosophy, principles, guidelines, processes, and documentation is like dumping a bunch of IKEA components on the floor and saying “Here, build a dresser!” The guidelines and documentation accompanying the UI components serve as the instruction manual that come with the IKEA components to help the user properly and successfully build furniture.”

Brad Frost, author of *Atomic Design*
http://bradfrost.com/blog/link/design-systems/

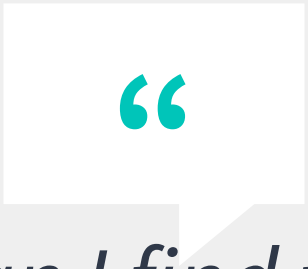
Diana Mounter on creating a design system at Github

1.
improve design and
documentation workflow

2.
reduce CSS bloat

3.
improve consistency

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZSi1bK-BRM



“Where can I find the icons?”

“What color is the button border?”

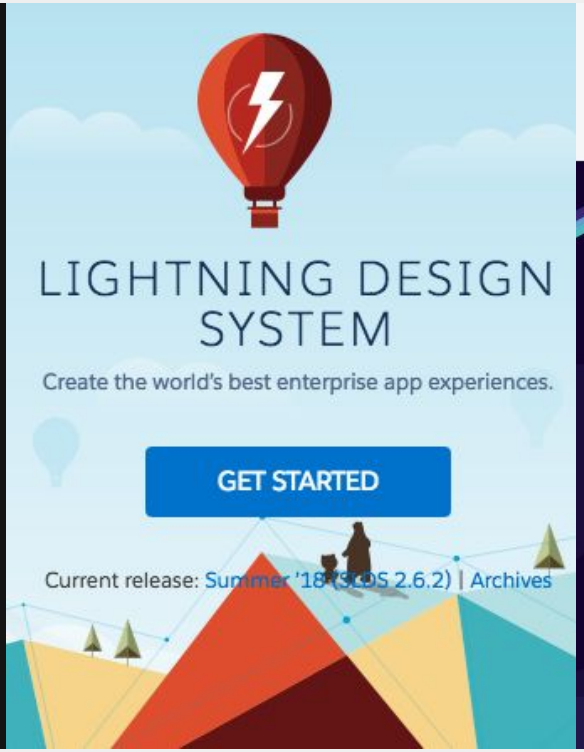
“Where can I find the icons?”

Jina Anne, Amazon (Former Apple & Salesforce)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hYOLLO2gc4

A UI Component library is part of a design system.

It is not the design system.

Living Language
A shared vocabulary for design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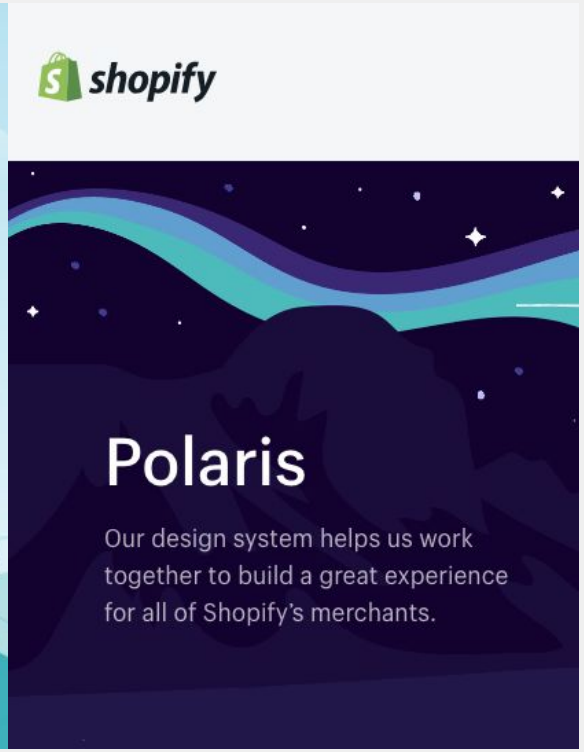

shopify
Polaris
Our design system helps us work together to build a great experience for all of Shopify's merchants.

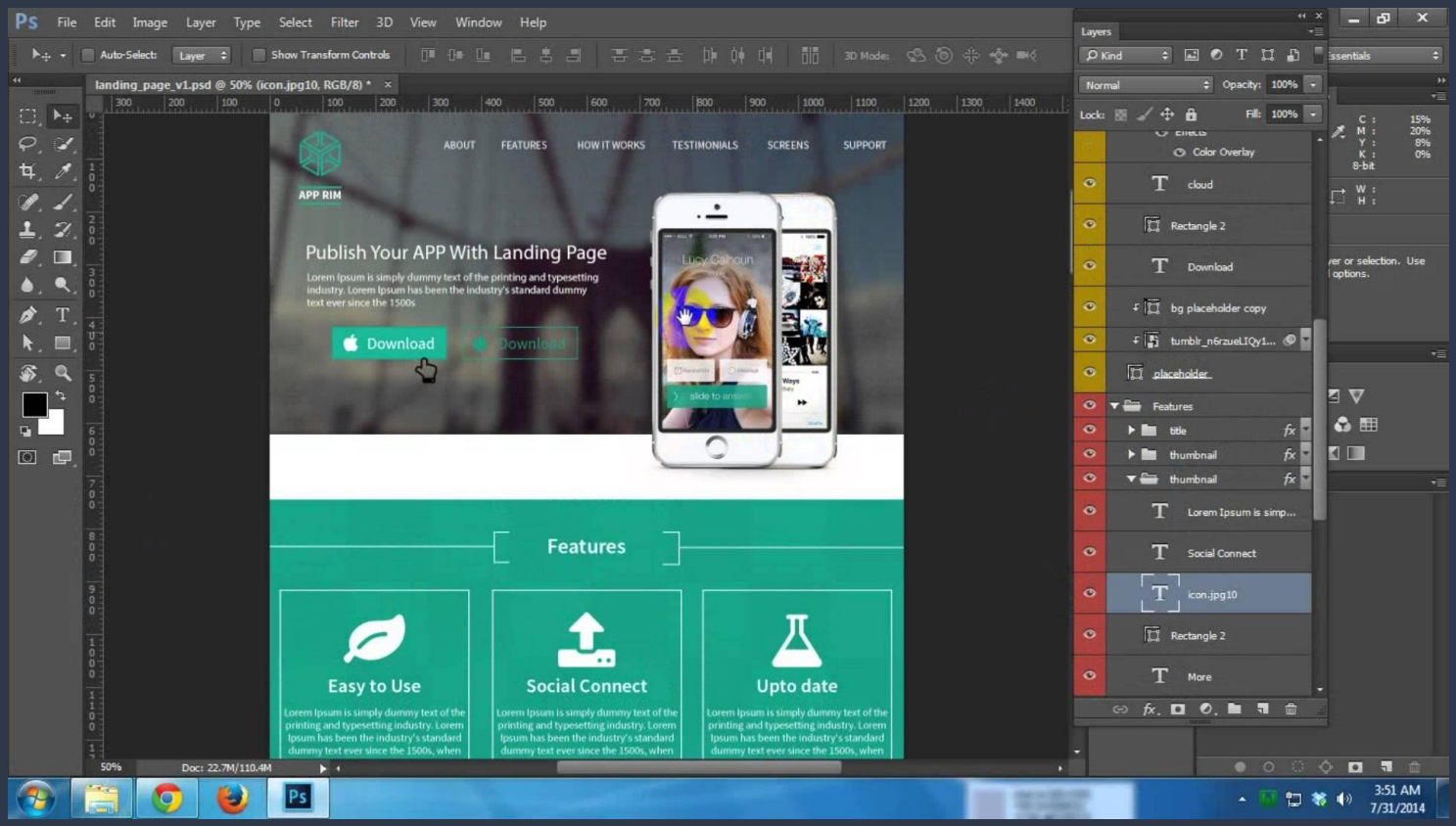


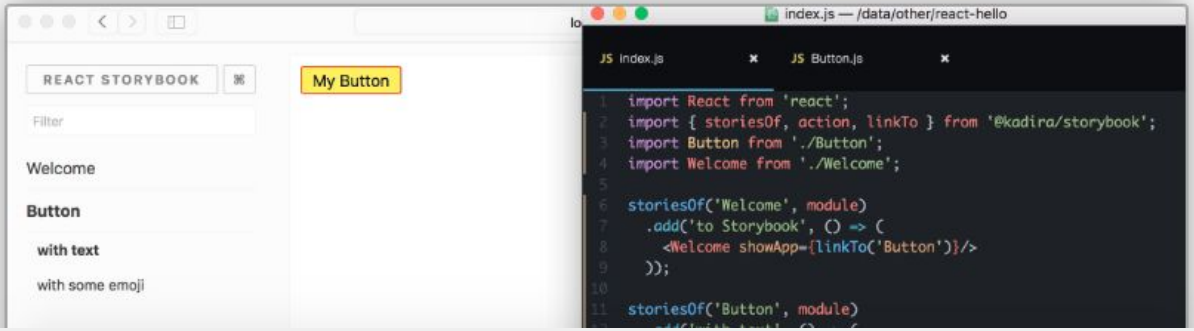
Image source https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZG9WALskYc

What do we get out of the box?

- Visualization?
- Code snippet?
- API?

Storybook

The UI Development Environment
You'll ❤️ to use



https://storybook.js.org/

Cosmos

Dev tool for creating reusable React components

Repositories 6 | People 5 | Projects 0

Search repositories... | Type: All | Language: All

react-cosmos

Dev tool for creating reusable React components

react | javascript | testing | playground | development

JavaScript ★ 4,097 178 MIT Updated 2 days ago

create-react-app-example

JavaScript ★ 1 2 Updated on May 13

Top languages

JavaScript Coffe

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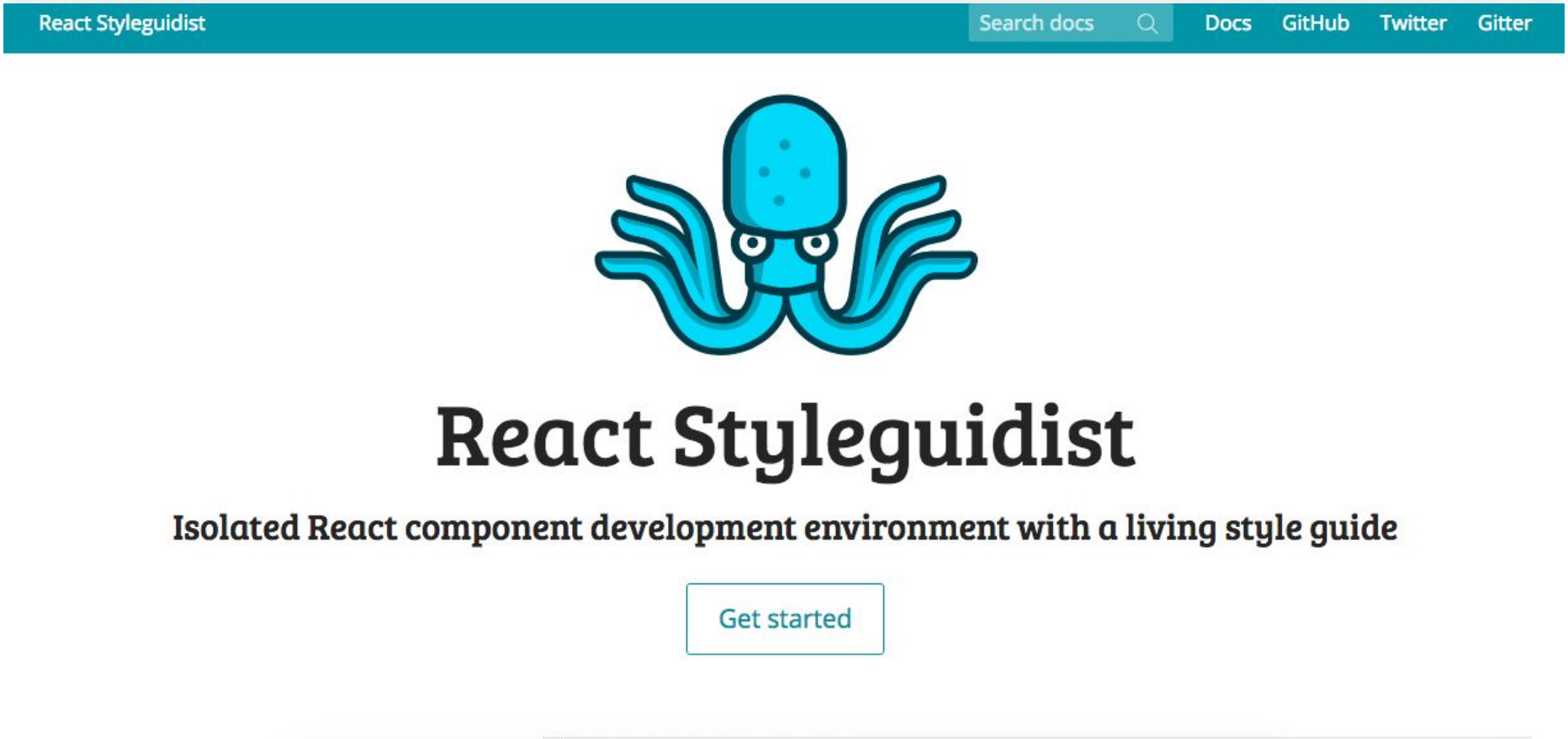
https://react-cosmos.github.io/



https://react-styleguidist.js.org/

In Comparison

	Storybook	Cosmos	Styleguidist
Visualization	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Code snippet	**Yes, but requires add'l config**	**No**	**Yes**
API (props)	**Yes, but requires add'l config**	**Sort of**	**Yes*** *** if you don't use styled-components or functional components**

In closing...things to keep in mind

Keep iterating.

Don't worry if you don't get it right the first time.

Share.

Who will be using your components now and in the future?

Think beyond your team.

A component library is a piece of a larger design system, especially if you're working at a larger organization.

Don't go overboard.

You shouldn't put every component in the component library.

Does it make sense?

Make sure your documentation is usable.

Publish!

And make all the moneys. Get all the jobs.

More Resources

Design Systems

Atomic Design: Create Design Systems, Not Pages

Design Systems by Alla Kholmatova

A Comprehensive Guide To Design Systems

Component Libraries

Other component libraries

Other

Atomize Design System

Presentation repo
https://github.com/melismae/that-conference-starter

Presentation slides

Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Minicons by Webalys
- Presentation template by SlidesCarnival

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SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
AUGUST 5 - 7, 2019

Thank you!

Any questions?

You can find me at:
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