Design System

Introduction

After a months of working and many conversations with my team, I took an initiative to create a basic design system.

Problem to solve/my task

To create a base of reusable, accessible, good-looking components that we will use in our applications to speed up and to improve our work.

Process steps

01. Initial determination of what should be included in the design system and looking for some references.

02. Writing down the assumptions and tools possible to use in the process of creating (I was using, for example, Leonardo Color from Adobe and Contrast Checker from Heiswayi Nrird).

03. Working on the specific parts one after another, preceded by creating official tasks for every part. Most of the assumptions and actions are listed below.

Colors palette:

* to pick colors for texts with the 2.0 AA accessibility standards (>= 4.5 ratio),

* to create unified names for the colors,

* to create a simple usage guide for the colors,

* to test the palette with an accessibility contrast checker,

* to match components (when finished) with the palette.

Spacing:

* to create spacing scale based on doubling every another step,

* to name every step in this scale.

Typography & texts:

* to pick one font for all apps (font criteria: proper kerning, proper letters

counter-space, proper x-height of the letters – not too large, not too small, sans-serif, readable on bold),
* to show weight, styles and sizes for the font,
* to match the components with the texts,
* to test the accessibility of the typography after matching with the colors.
Elements/components:
* to create a library of the most often used elements/components in our apps,
* to design the elements/components in the harmony with the colors palette, spacing, typography and accessibility practices.
Accessibility:
* to prepare a list of wanted and needed behavior for all elements (semantics, keyboard access, aria and role attributes and so on) – to verify with the developers.

Some of the results

Here's the link to the presentation: https://xd.adobe.com/view/576ff532-b479-4b68-7385-78910750515d-215e/?fullscreen.
If you have never been using Adobe XD, it's possible to display the list of all wireframes at once and move between them out of the order (after leaving full screen preview and clicking on the breadcrumbs/grid icon in the left top corner).