

Advanced Design Systems Considerations

JSConf Hawaii 2020



The image features the Stripe logo, which consists of the word "stripe" in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. The logo is centered on a light gray background. Surrounding the logo are several abstract, geometric shapes in various shades of blue and light blue, including rectangles and parallelograms, some of which are partially cut off by the edges of the frame. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some appearing to be layered behind others.

stripe

Stripe colors

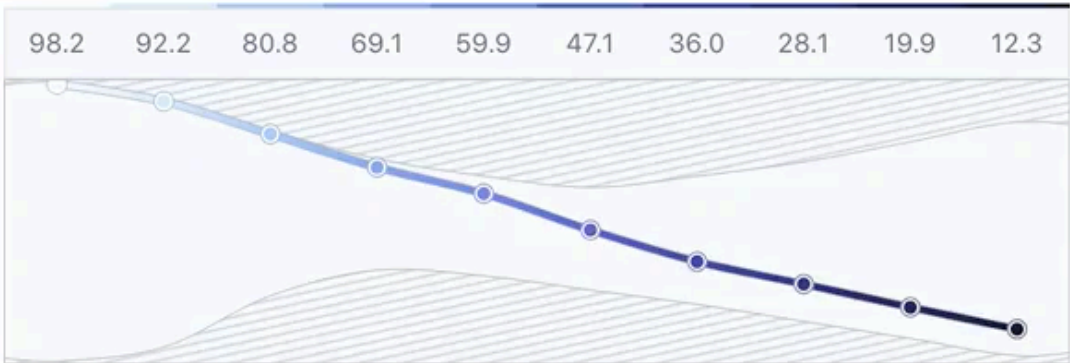
| | 50 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Gray | 4.61 | 3.92 | 2.89 | 2.11 | 1.53 | 1.01 | 1.51 | 2.06 | 2.73 | 3.36 |
| Blue | 4.63 | 3.98 | 2.93 | 2.08 | 1.55 | 4.83 | 1.51 | 2.02 | 2.68 | 3.34 |
| Cyan | 4.62 | 3.98 | 2.86 | 2.13 | 1.51 | 1.03 | 1.51 | 2.03 | 2.70 | 3.38 |
| Green | 4.65 | 3.99 | 2.85 | 2.11 | 1.55 | 1.00 | 1.52 | 2.08 | 2.70 | 3.36 |
| Yellow | 4.57 | 3.89 | 2.87 | 2.06 | 1.54 | 1.02 | 1.51 | 2.05 | 2.70 | 3.35 |
| Orange | 4.64 | 3.90 | 2.81 | 2.11 | 1.54 | 1.02 | 1.50 | 2.07 | 2.72 | 3.34 |
| Red | 4.60 | 3.94 | 2.84 | 2.00 | 1.49 | 1.02 | 1.52 | 2.08 | 2.70 | 3.35 |
| Purple | 4.63 | 3.94 | 2.84 | 2.09 | 1.52 | 1.01 | 1.51 | 2.07 | 2.71 | 3.31 |
| Violet | 4.60 | 3.93 | 2.84 | 2.08 | 1.53 | 1.02 | 1.52 | 2.07 | 2.73 | 3.34 |

Overlay WCAG contrast

Blue



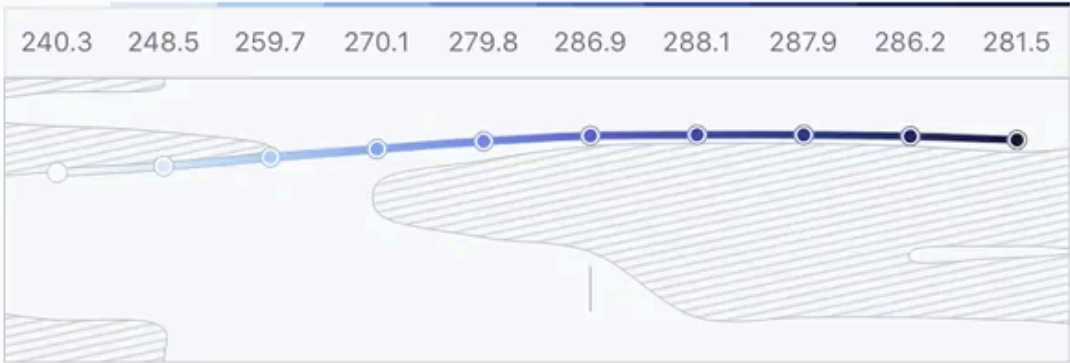
Lightness



Chroma



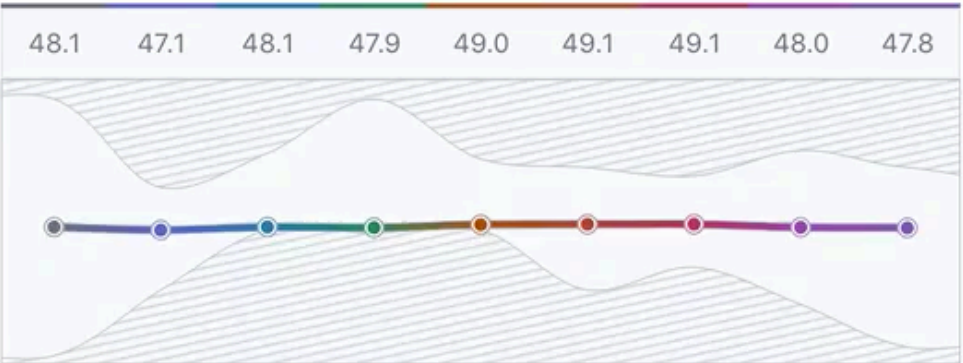
Hue



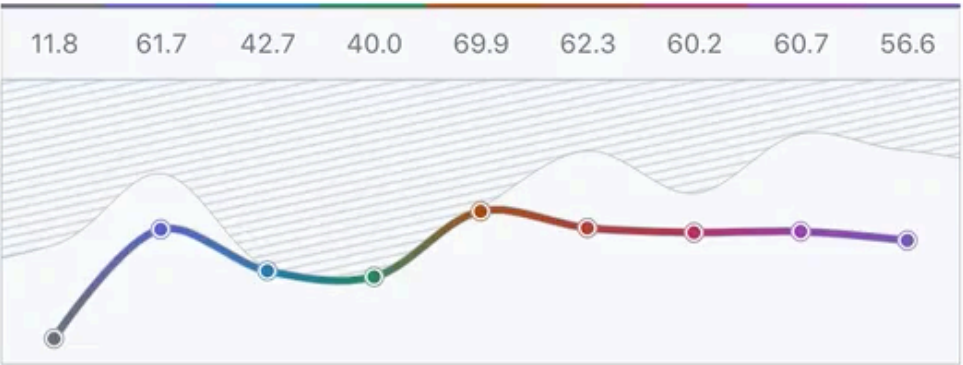
500



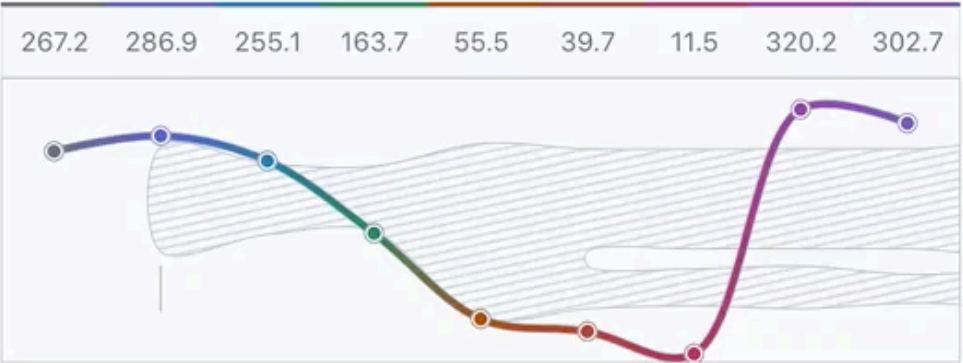
Lightness



Chroma



Hue



- Home
- Payments
- Balance
- Customers
- Radar
- Sigma
- Subscriptions
- Connect
- Orders
- Developers**
 - API keys
 - Webhooks
 - Events
 - Logs
- ☐ View test data
- Business settings

API version

Upgrade available...

| VERSION | LAST USED | LAST 7 DAYS | USAGE |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| 2018-02-28 LATEST | Mar 16, 2018 | | 98% |
| 2016-03-07 DEFAULT | Mar 16, 2018 | | 2% |

You may be using multiple API versions due to your client libraries or plugins. [Learn more](#) →

Monitoring

☒ Show card errors 4h 12h 24h 1w

API requests

API error distribution

by endpoint ↕

Webhooks


Webhooks response time


Connected account

acct_1BLeTM439Xkh4w0nw

Charles Wu
VERIFIED


Payments

 Enabled


Payouts

 Manual

Total balance


\$300.00 USD
 

Lifetime volume

\$6,400.50 USD
 

Identity


Edit

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| Name | Charles Wu | Email address | charles.wu@yahoo.com |
| Date of birth | 04/25/1986 | Phone number | Not provided |
| SSN | Provided | Address | 185 Berry St. Suite 550 |
| Identity document | Not provided | | San Francisco, CA 94107  |

Balance


Send funds

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Total balance | Available to pay out | Available soon | In transit to bank |
| \$300.00 | \$150.00 | \$100.00 | \$50.00 |


Activity

Payments

Transfers

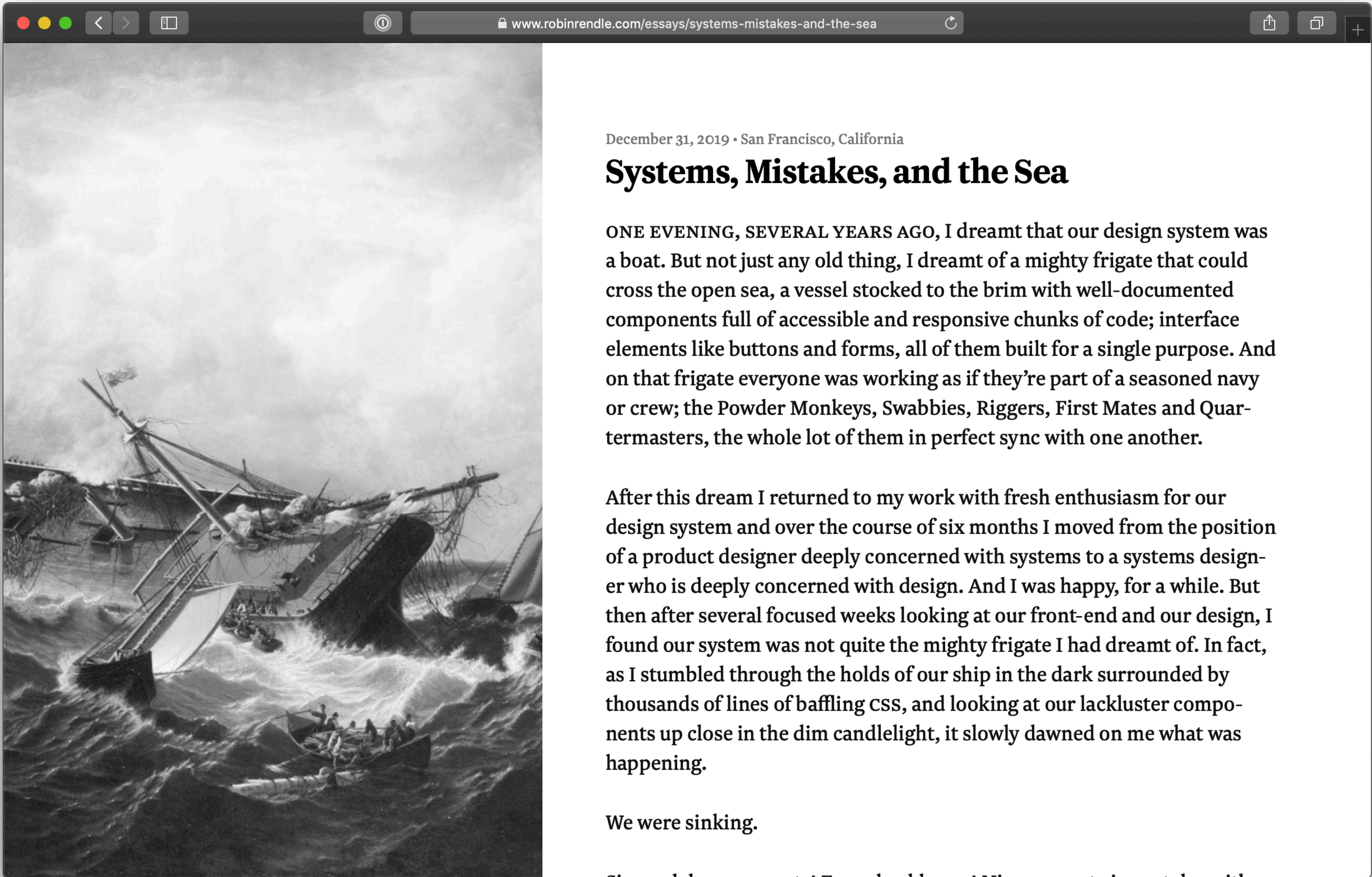
Payouts

Collected fees

| AMOUNT | BANK ACCOUNT | ESTIMATED ARRIVAL | ID | DATE INITIATED |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| \$50.00 USD  | Citibank ... 7412 | Expected Jun 15, 2018 | po_25032Zq9BF2345 | Jun 13, 2018 3:45 PM |

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Graphics Standards Manual

NASA



December 31, 2019 • San Francisco, California

Systems, Mistakes, and the Sea

ONE EVENING, SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I dreamt that our design system was a boat. But not just any old thing, I dreamt of a mighty frigate that could cross the open sea, a vessel stocked to the brim with well-documented components full of accessible and responsive chunks of code; interface elements like buttons and forms, all of them built for a single purpose. And on that frigate everyone was working as if they're part of a seasoned navy or crew; the Powder Monkeys, Swabbies, Riggers, First Mates and Quartermasters, the whole lot of them in perfect sync with one another.

After this dream I returned to my work with fresh enthusiasm for our design system and over the course of six months I moved from the position of a product designer deeply concerned with systems to a systems designer who is deeply concerned with design. And I was happy, for a while. But then after several focused weeks looking at our front-end and our design, I found our system was not quite the mighty frigate I had dreamt of. In fact, as I stumbled through the holds of our ship in the dark surrounded by thousands of lines of baffling CSS, and looking at our lackluster components up close in the dim candlelight, it slowly dawned on me what was happening.

We were sinking.

“ ...a thing that surrounds us, envelops and entangles us, but that is literally too big to see in its entirety. Mostly, we perceive hyper objects through their influence on other things – a melting ice sheet, a dying sea, the buffeting of a transatlantic flight. Hyperobjects happen everywhere at once, but we can only experience them in the local environment. [...] in fact, they stand outside both our perception and our measurement. They exist without us. Because they are so close and yet so hard to see, they defy our ability to describe them rationally, and to master or overcome them in a traditional sense. Climate change is a hyperobject, but so is nuclear radiation, evolution, and the internet.

James Bridle, *The New Dark Age*



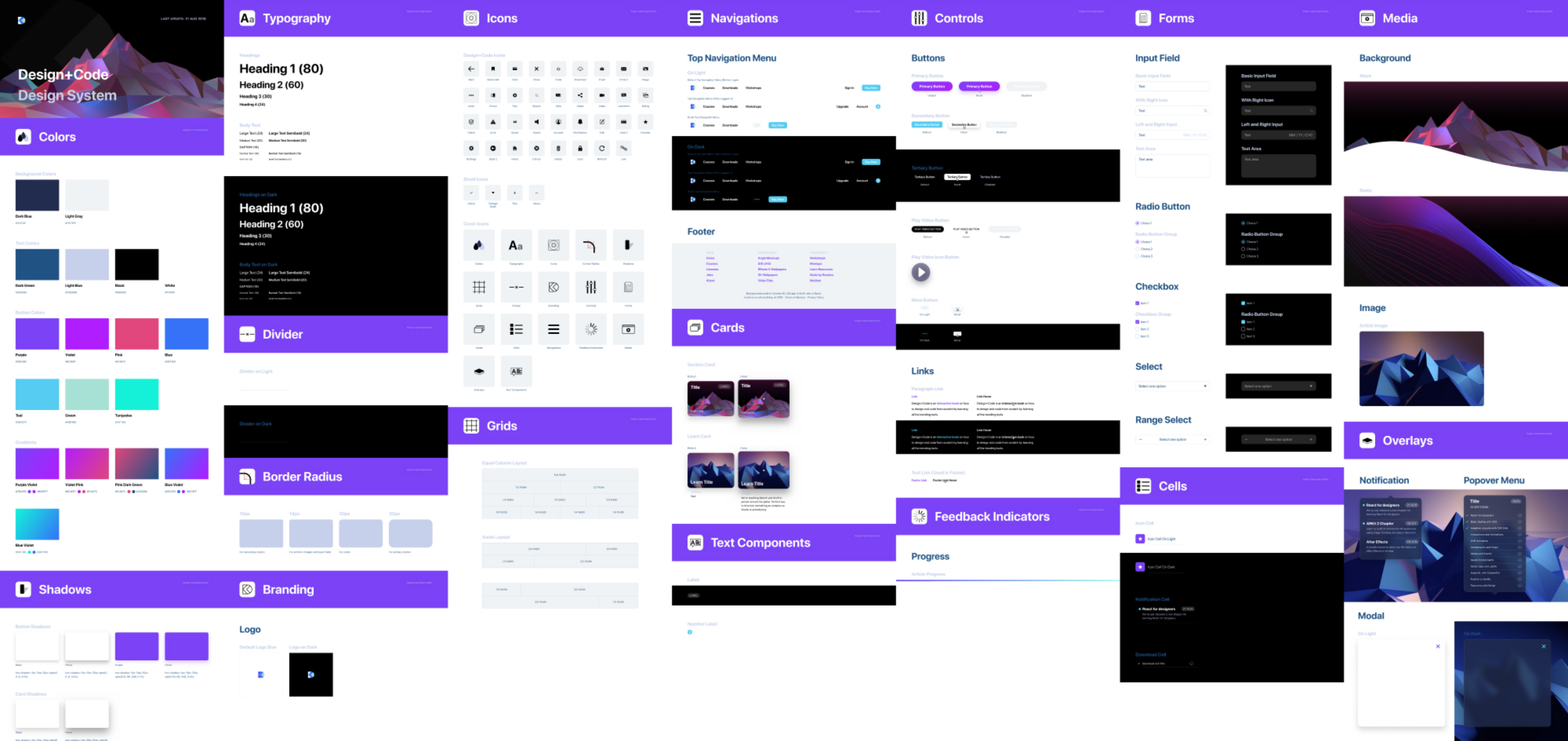
systems

of

systems



Prior art





Blend in



thank you for not thanking

+3 -72,498 ■■■■

values

COMPONENTS

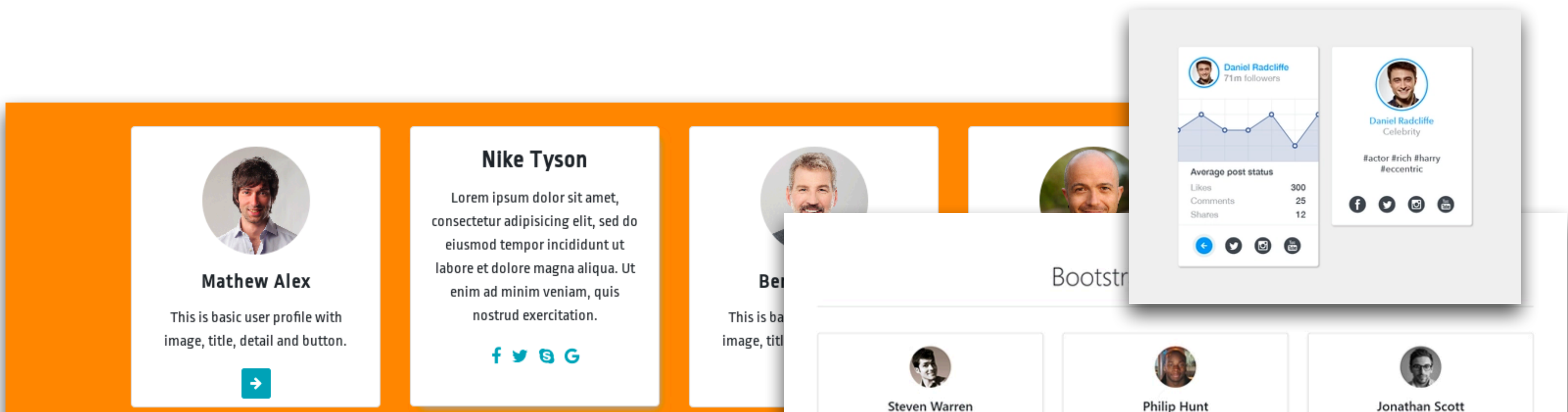


**more components
does not guarantee more efficiency**

fight for atomic components

avoid manifest destiny

avoid manifest destiny





**solve people problems
in meatspace**

values over everything

design systems are for quality
in the face of deadlines


```
5 <Icon />  
6 <ButtonIcon />  
7 <ActionIcon />  
8 <MenuIcon />
```


only relevant for
inside of a button

```
11 <Icon
12   sideOfButton="right"
13   menuStyle="dark"
14   hoverAction="open"
15 />
```



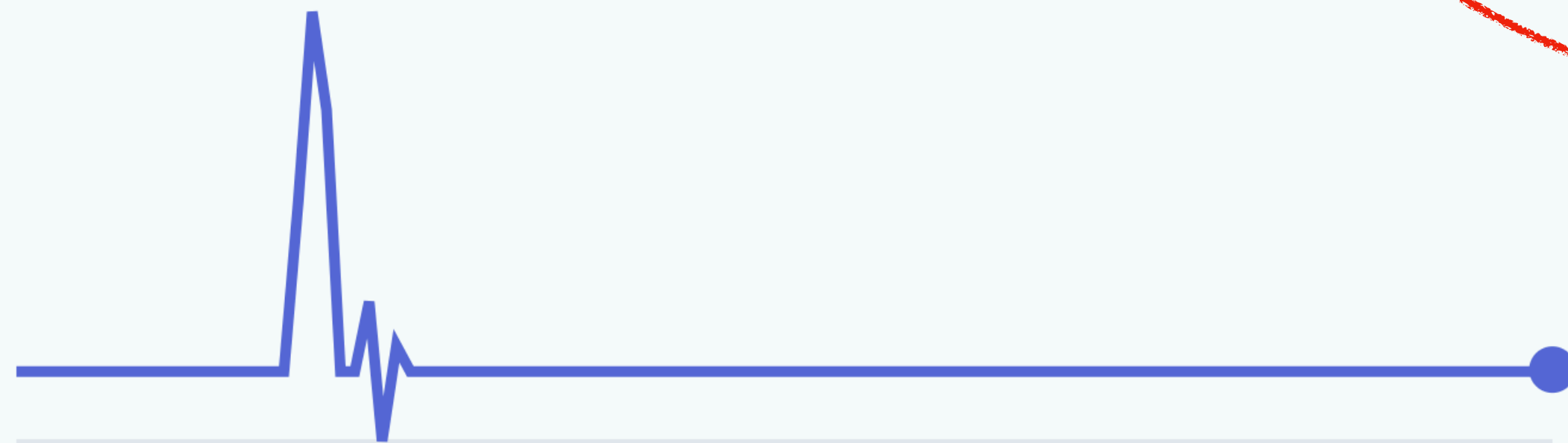

Customize

this is a button icon

Net volume from sales 

\$31.49

this is a regular icon



Jan 2011

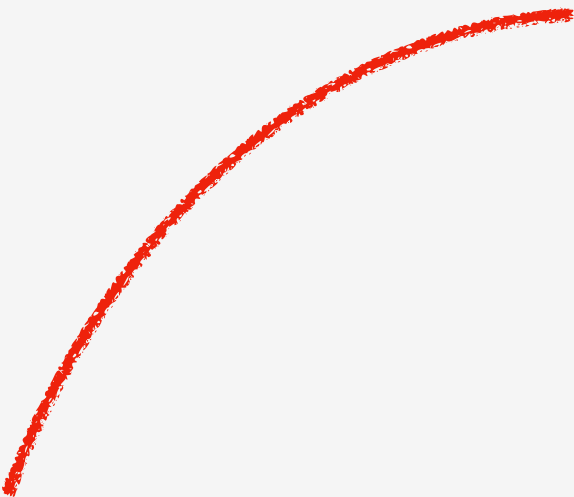
Feb 2020

Button injects
its own Icon

```
18 <Button icon="gear">  
19 |   Customize  
20 </Button>
```

```
26 <Button>
27   Customize
28   <Icon type="gear" />
29 </Button>
```

wrong size icon
for inside a button




```
31 <Button>
32   Customize
33   <ButtonIcon type="gear" />
34 </Button>
```

Special icon type for
inside buttons...

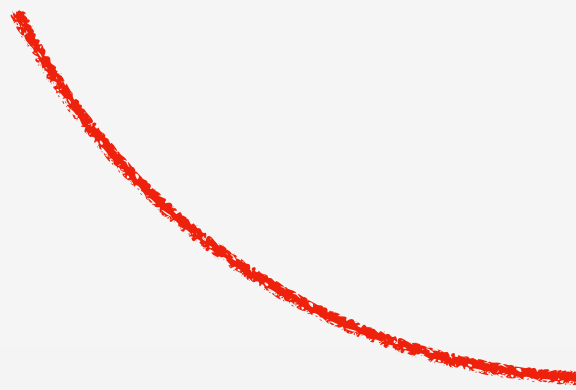


Pass it in as a prop
so we can modify it

```
36 <Button
37   |   icon={<Icon type="gear" />}
38   |   >
39   |   Customize
40 </Button>
```



```
42 <Button
43   icon={<Icon type="gear" />}
44   label="Customize"
45 />
```



Disallow children to avoid
jamming an icon in there

```
26 <Button>
27   Customize
28   <Icon type="gear" />
29 </Button>
```

nice looking &
intuitive, just need
to fix the size...



Icon knows about **Button**

-VS-

Button knows about **Icon**

```
48  if (isInButton) {
49      return <CommonIcon
50          size={12}
51          type={type}
52      />;
53  } else {
54      return <CommonIcon
55          type={type}
56      />;
57  }
```

Inside of Icon, we render ourselves differently if we can tell that we're in a button


```
26 <Button>
27 |   Customize
28 |   <Icon type="gear" />
29 </Button>
```

```
18 <Button icon="gear">
19 |   Customize
20 </Button>
```



```
2  import Icon from 'ds/Icon';
3
4  // ...
5  if (containsComponent(children, Icon)) {
6    |   modifyEachIconToHaveSmallerFont();
7  }
8  // ...
```



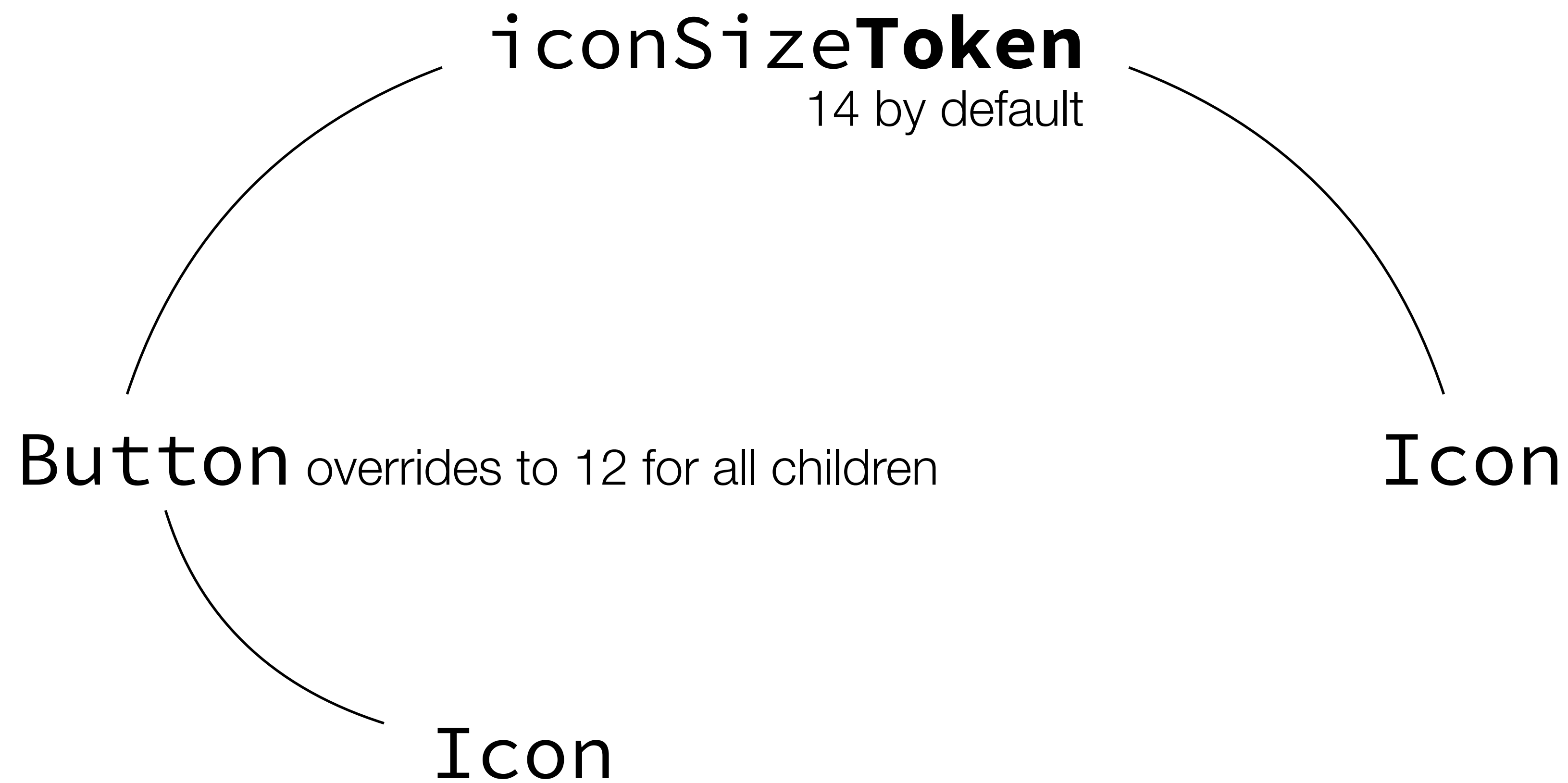
oh no.

```
3  .Button > .Icon {  
4      width: 12px;  
5      height: 12px;  
6  }
```

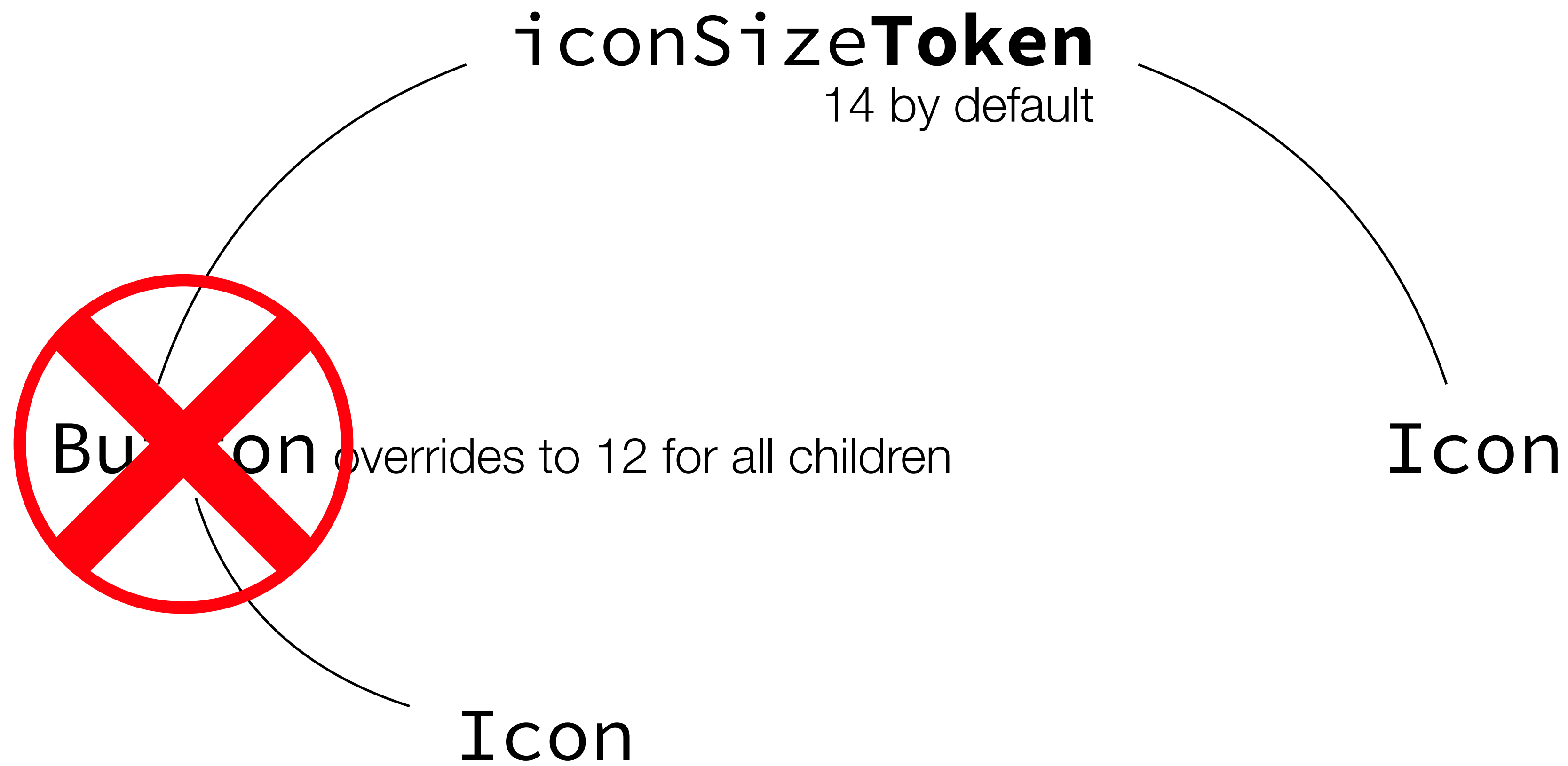

**create relationships
without encoding strict dependencies**

kinda like a foreign key





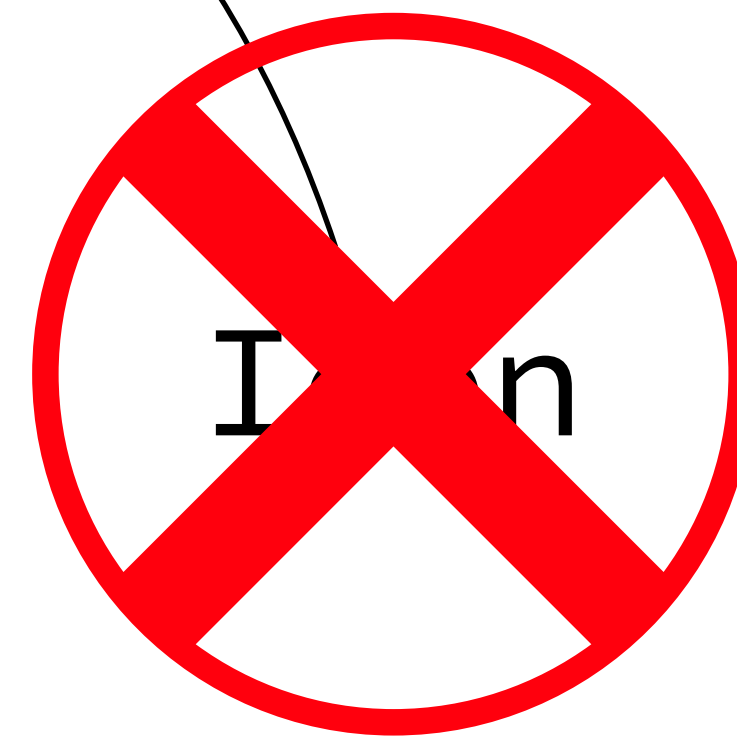
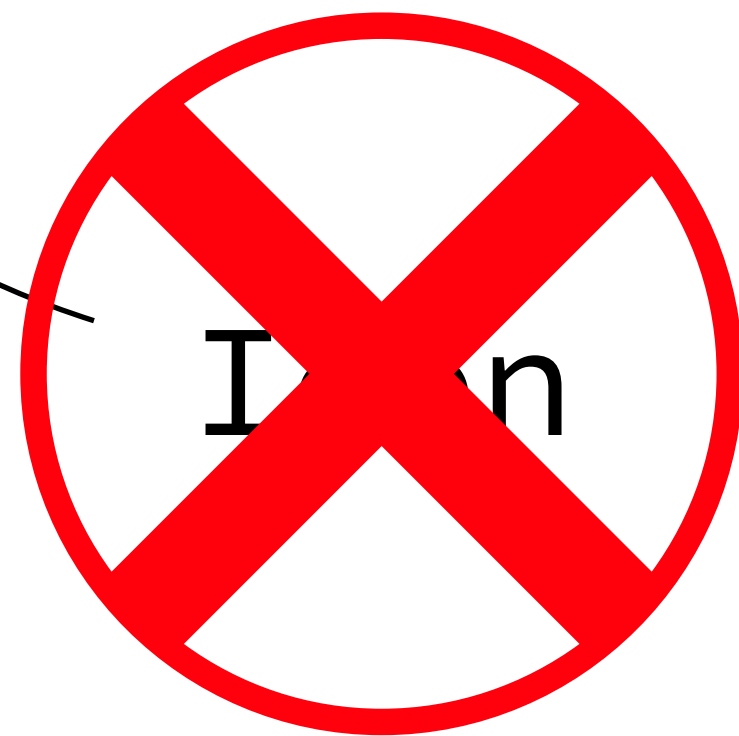
not pictured: probably some context shenanigans



not pictured: probably some context shenanigans

iconSizeToken
14 by default

Button overrides to 12 for all children



not pictured: probably some context shenanigans

overrides iconSizeToken
for its children to 12px

```
26 <Button>
27   Customize
28   <Icon type="gear" />
29 </Button>
```

reads the value as
12px for this context

decentralization

```
26 <Button>
27 |   Customize
28 |   <Icon type="gear" />
29 </Button>
```


**Configuration is
centralized by default** and that isn't super great

**inversion of control
as a means for configuration**

```
4  // colors.js
```

```
5
```

```
6  export const brandColor = Token.create( '#c0ffee' );
```

```
7
```



```
15    // homepage.js
16
17    import {brandColor} from 'ds/colors';
18
19    brandColor.override( '#bada55' );
20
21    return(<Homepage theme={ [brandColor] } />);
22
```

**only do
internationalization once**

```
14
15 <CountrySelect
16   placeholder={
17     props.i18nLookup( 'country-placeholder' )
18     || 'Select country...'
19   }
20 />
21
```


**good composition allows for
good internationalization**

**borrowing good ideas
from apple**

```
<View modifiers={ [  
  box, pressable, button  
]}>
```

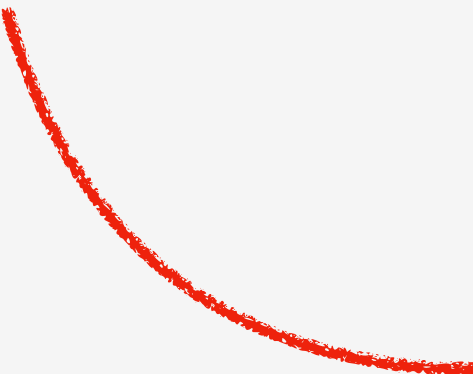
vs.

```
<Button>  
  <Pressable>  
    <Box>
```



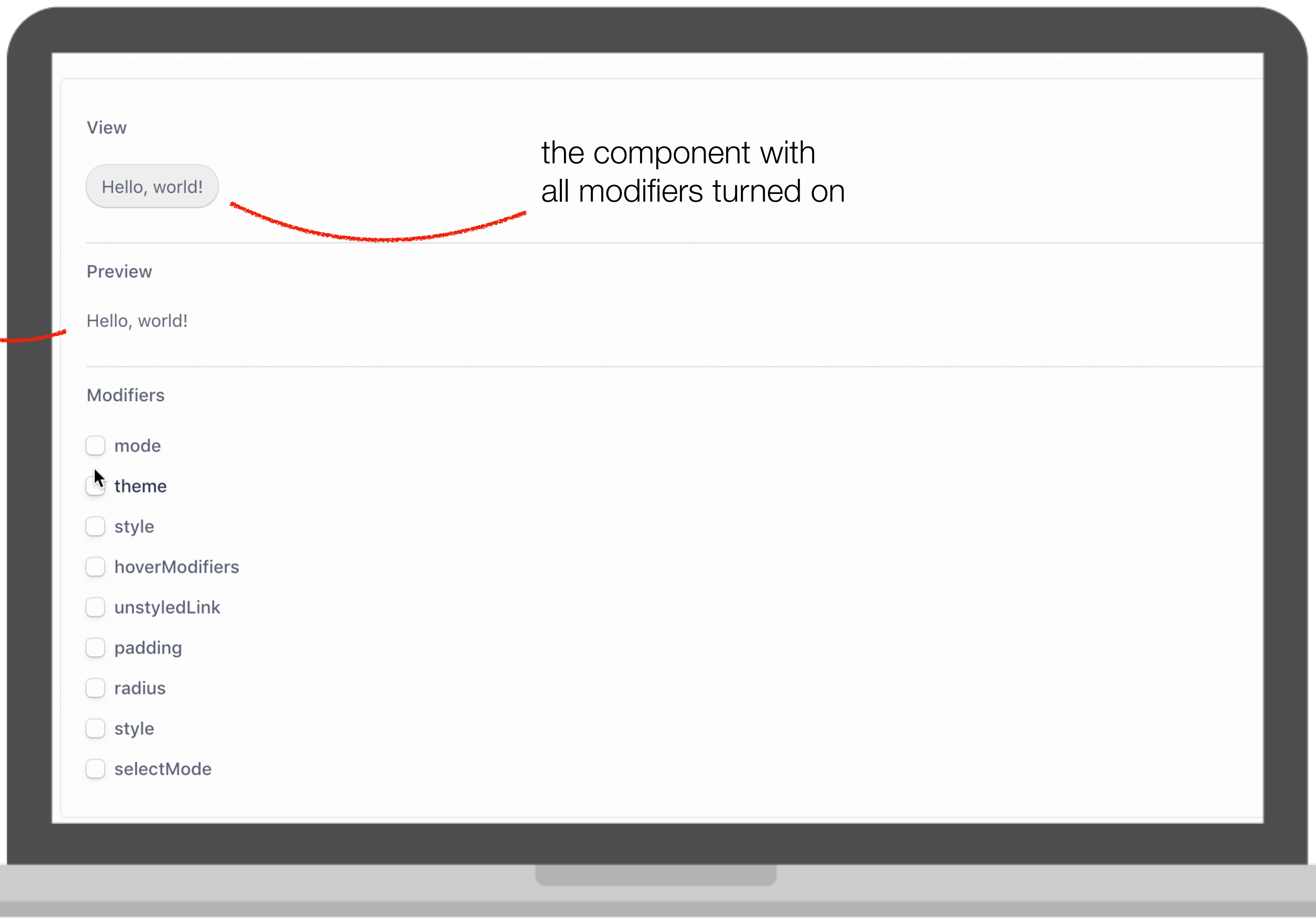
```
3 struct PrimaryLabel: ViewModifier {
4     func body(content: Content) -> some View {
5         content
6         .padding()
7         .background(Color.red)
8         .foregroundColor(Color.white)
9         .font(.largeTitle)
10    }
11 }
```

```
<View modifiers={ [  
  box, pressable, button  
] }>
```



the modifiers run in order before
the `View` ever renders anything

the result of
each modifier
being turned
on



the component with
all modifiers turned on

a react component that knows
how to take the output from the modifiers

```
<View modifiers=[  
  box, pressable, button  
]>
```

runs first,
has nothing to do with react

**render anywhere that you can
implement View**

**your design system should
last longer than react is "cool"**

**what does
success look like?**

**every arbitrary subset of your
design system should be "complete"**

**decentralization &
inversion of control**

**values outlast
implementations**

**design systems
are about values**

Mahalo!

send complaints to @slexaxton

