

5 things that aren't true about design systems

@yaili

Microsoft Reactor, Sydney, October 2019

Azure DevOps

Plan smarter, collaborate better
and ship faster with a set of
modern dev services.

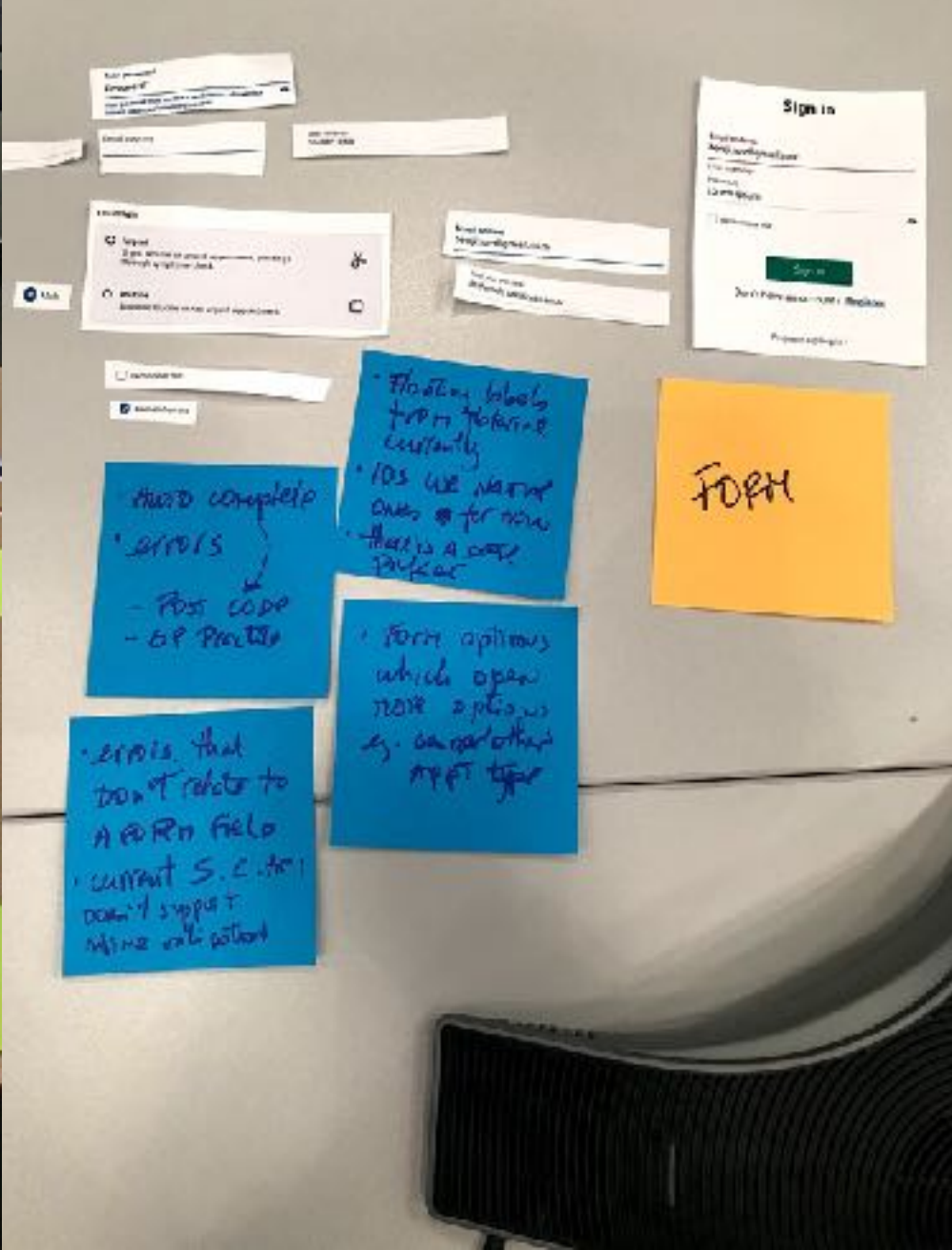
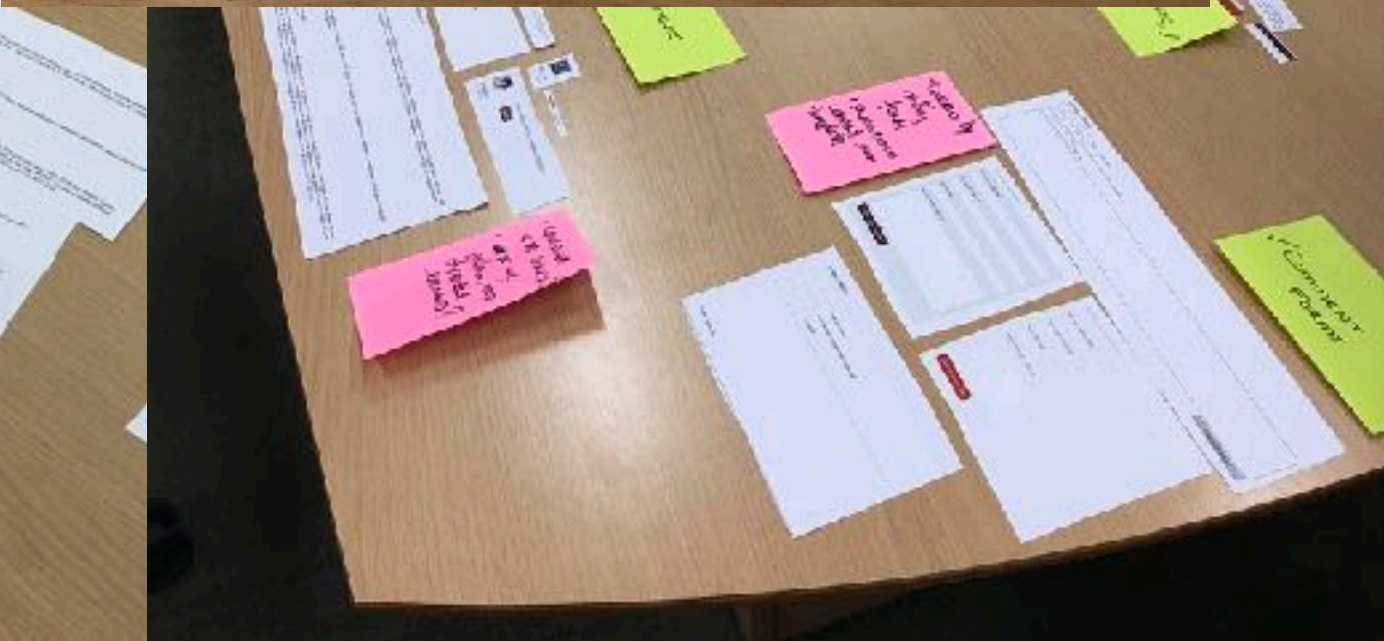
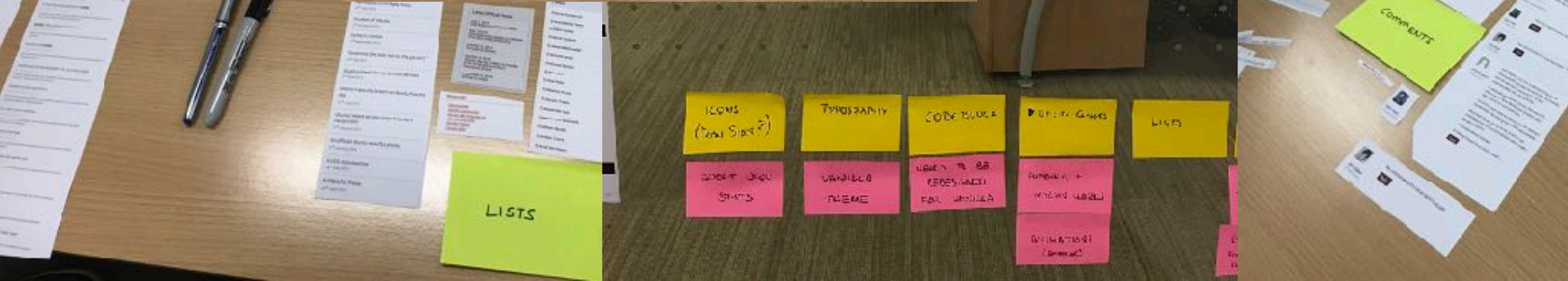
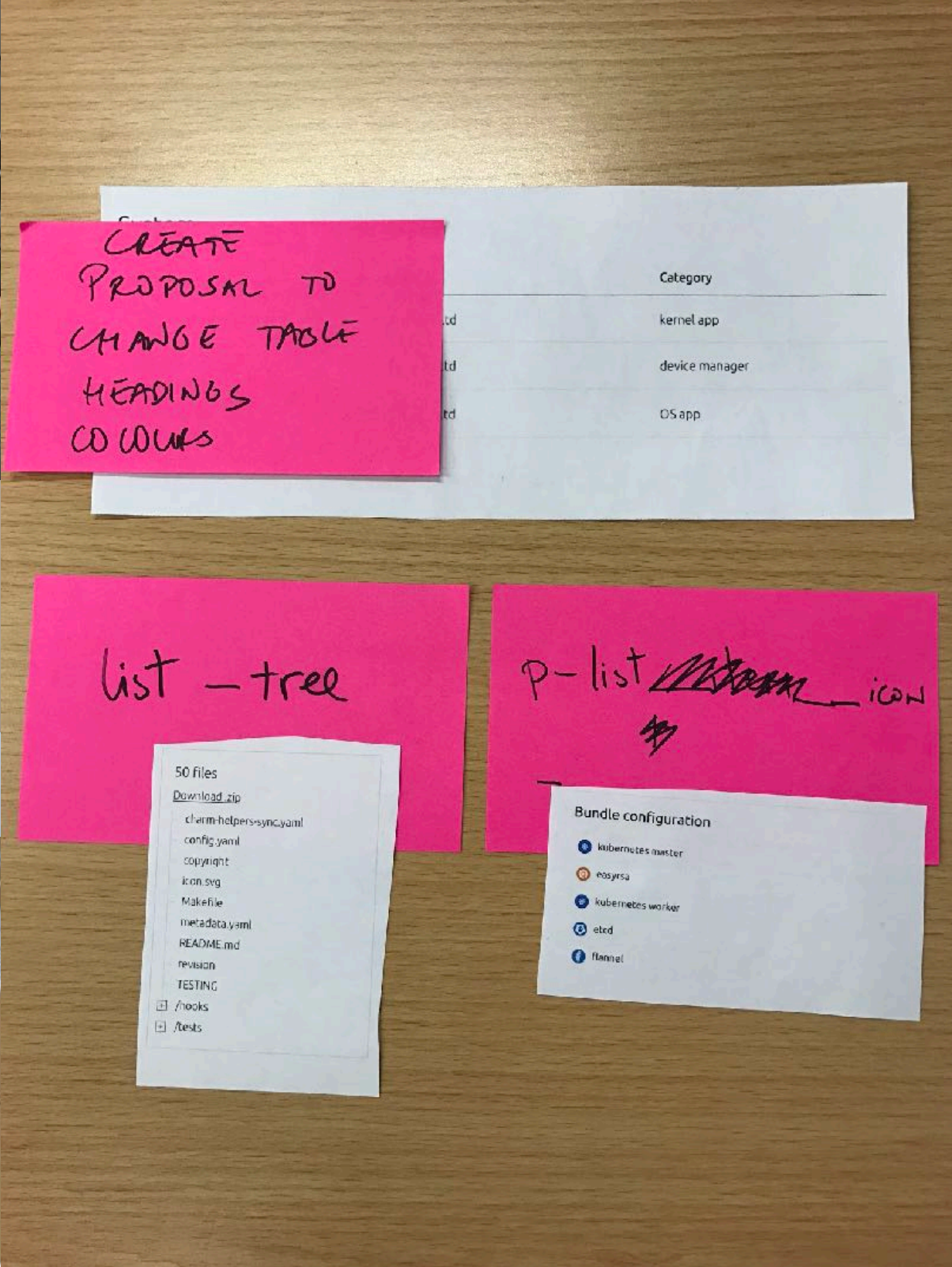
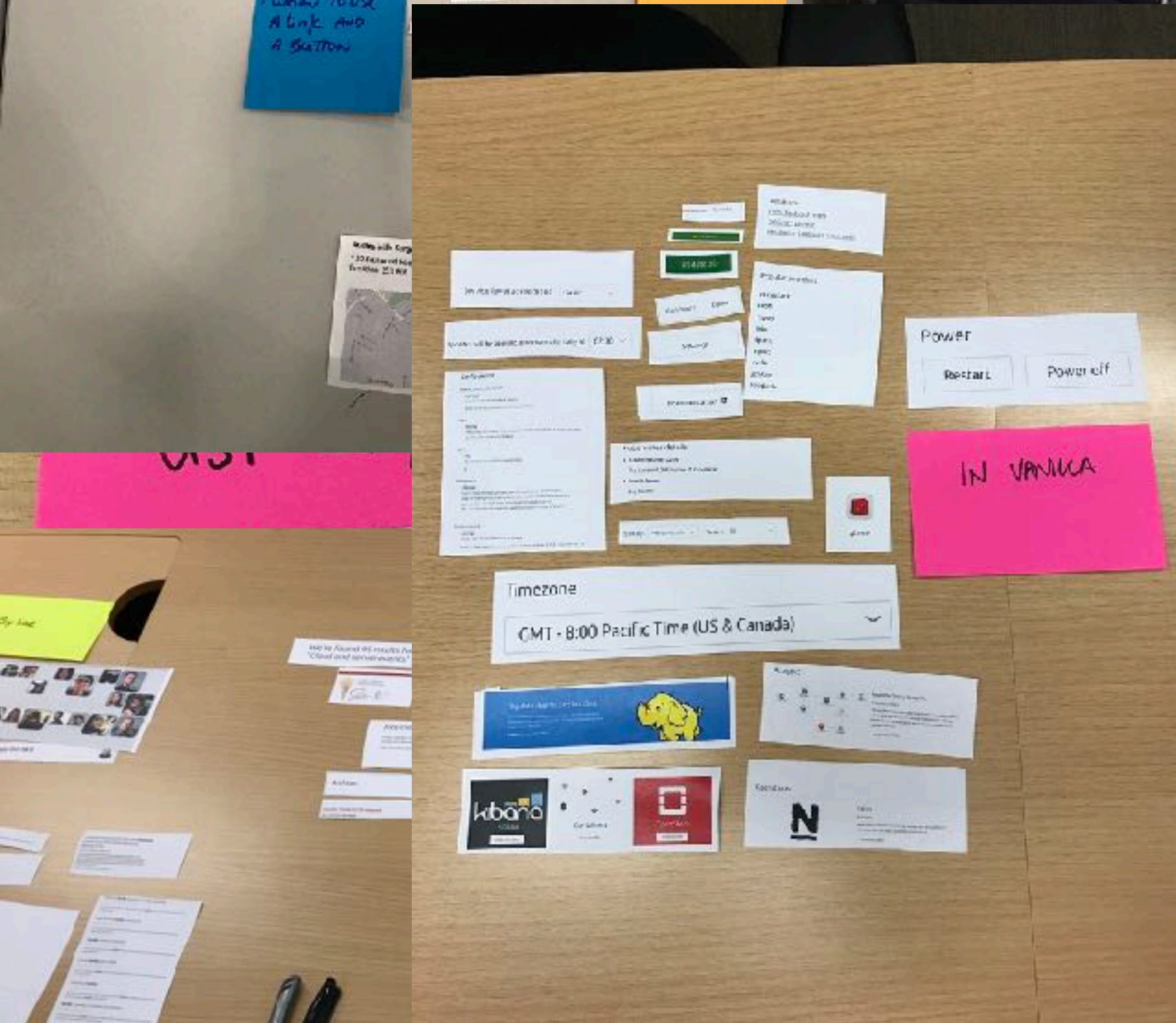
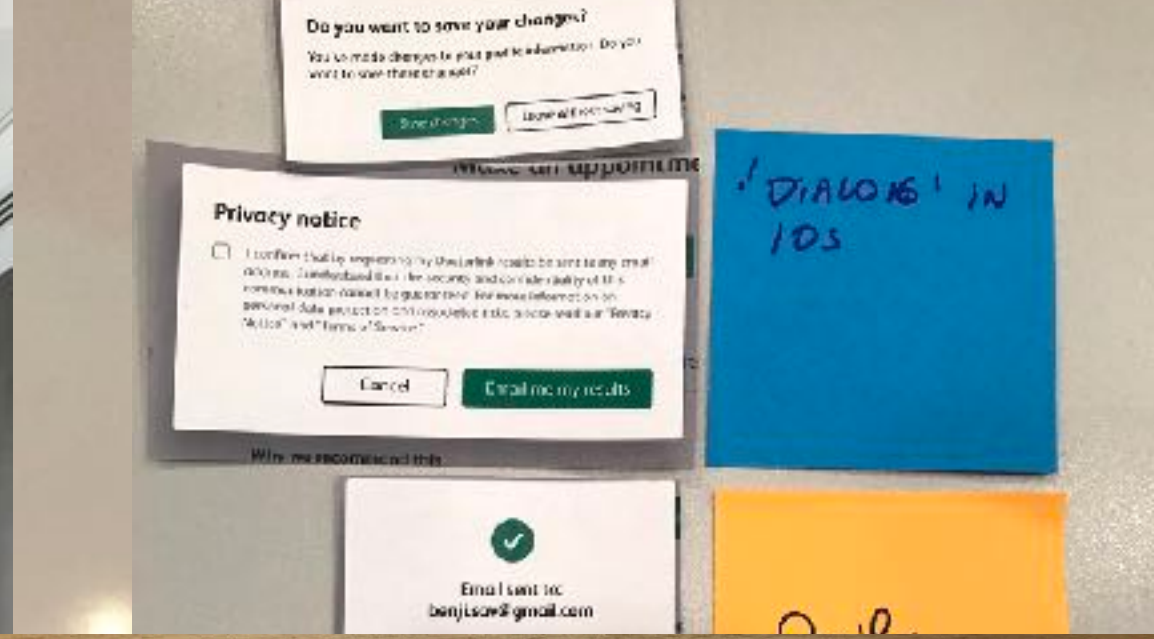
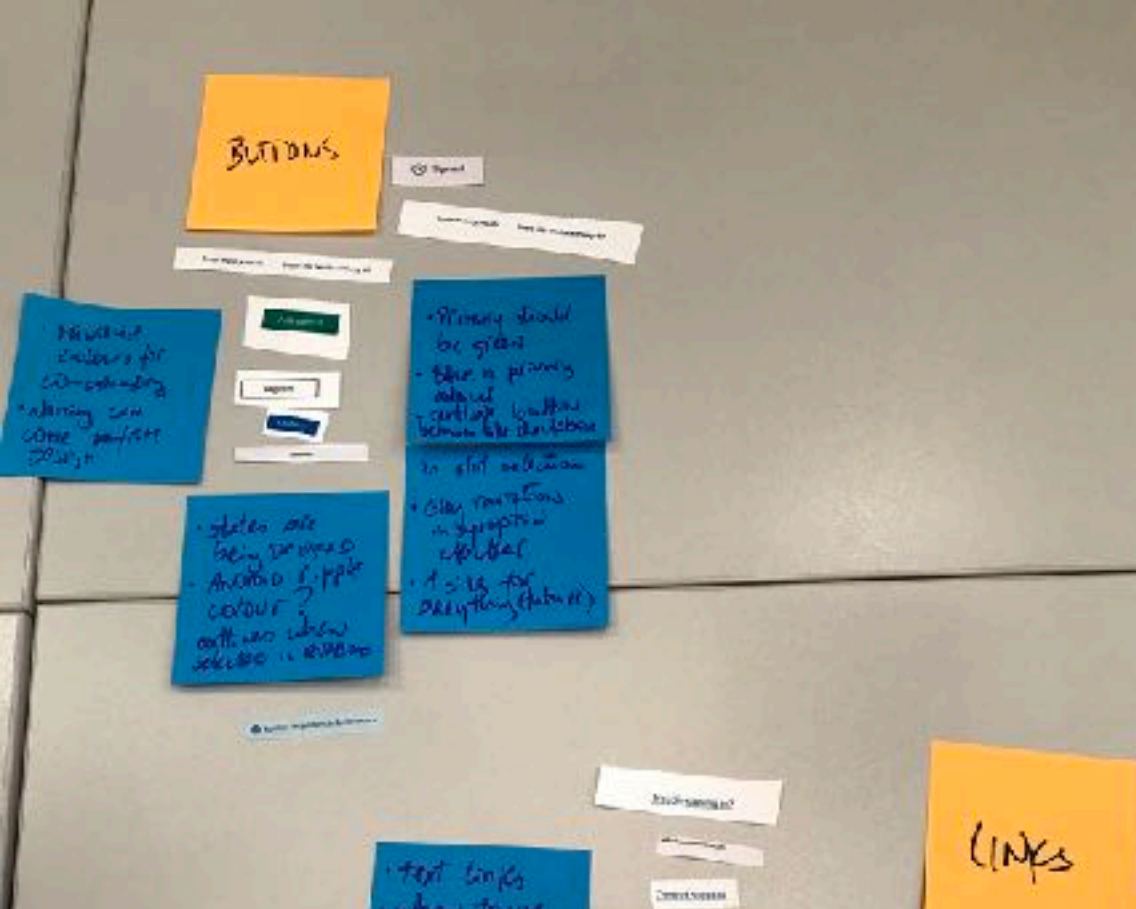
[Start for free](#)

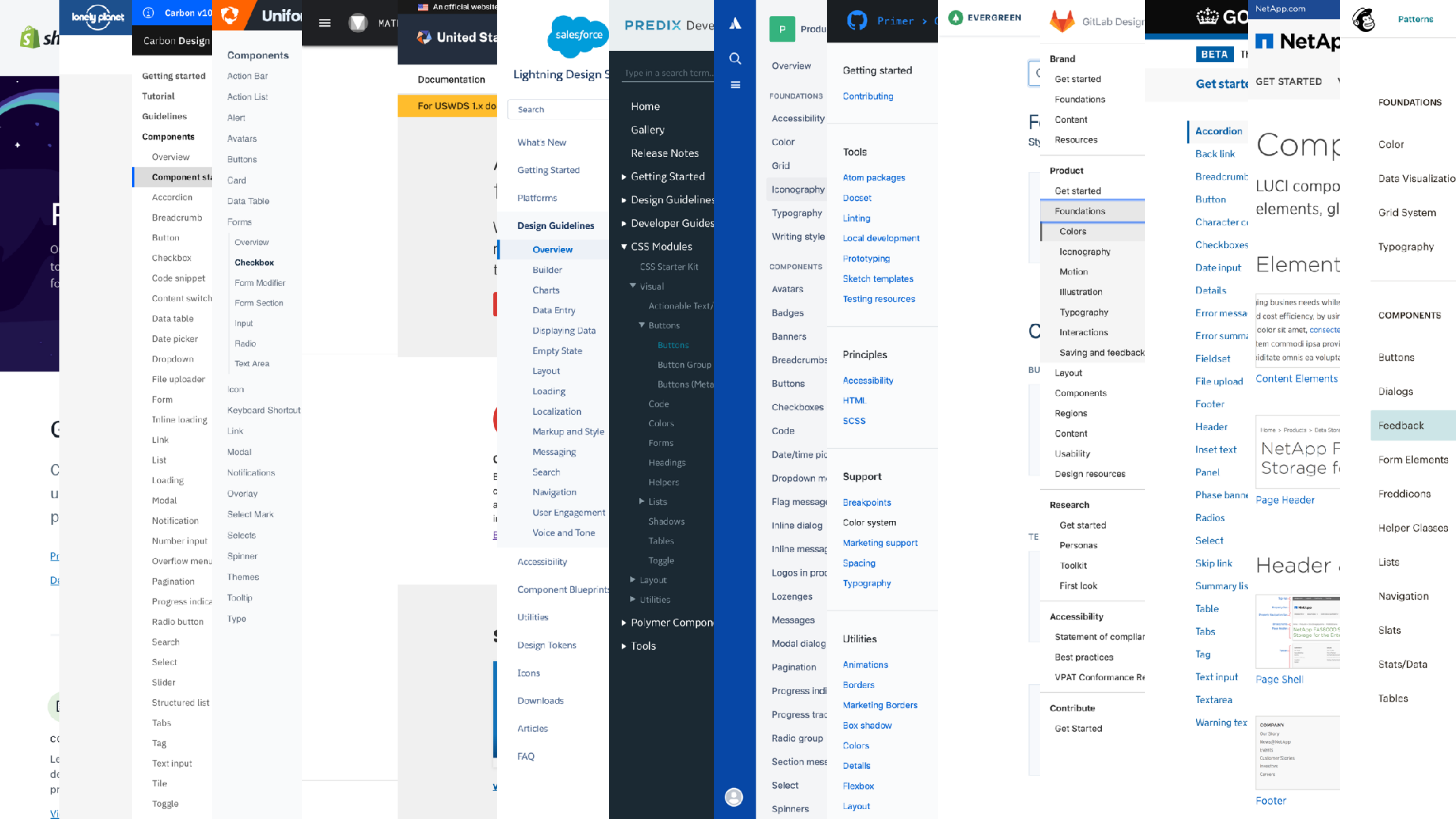
Already have an account?

[Sign in to Azure DevOps](#) 















Untruth #1

**“Everyone loves and
understands our work.”**

Untruth #1

“Everyone loves and understands our work.”

“Some people hate us, and many don’t know what we’re trying to do.”

#1 “Everyone loves and understands our work.”

“Material?”

#1 “Everyone loves and understands our work.”



#1 “Everyone loves and understands our work.”



Untruth #2

**“Our documentation
is always up to date.”**

Untruth #2

“Our documentation
is always up to date.”

“We don’t always have time
to document things.”

Home

Getting started

Design basics

Develop

Components

Utilities

Experimental

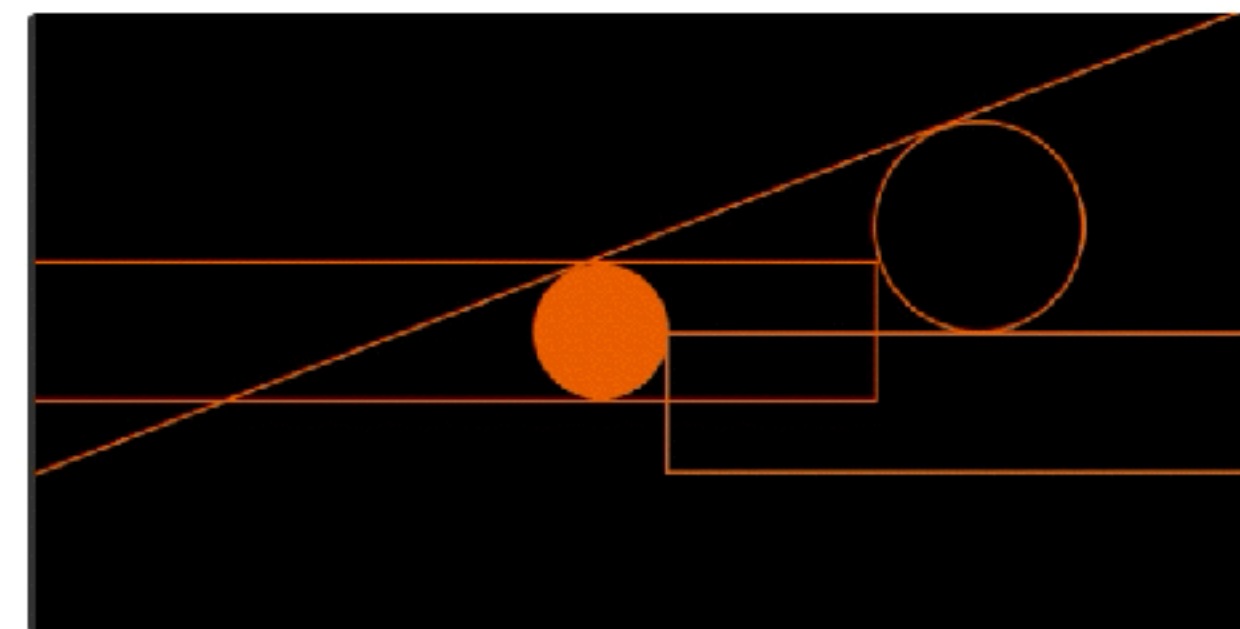
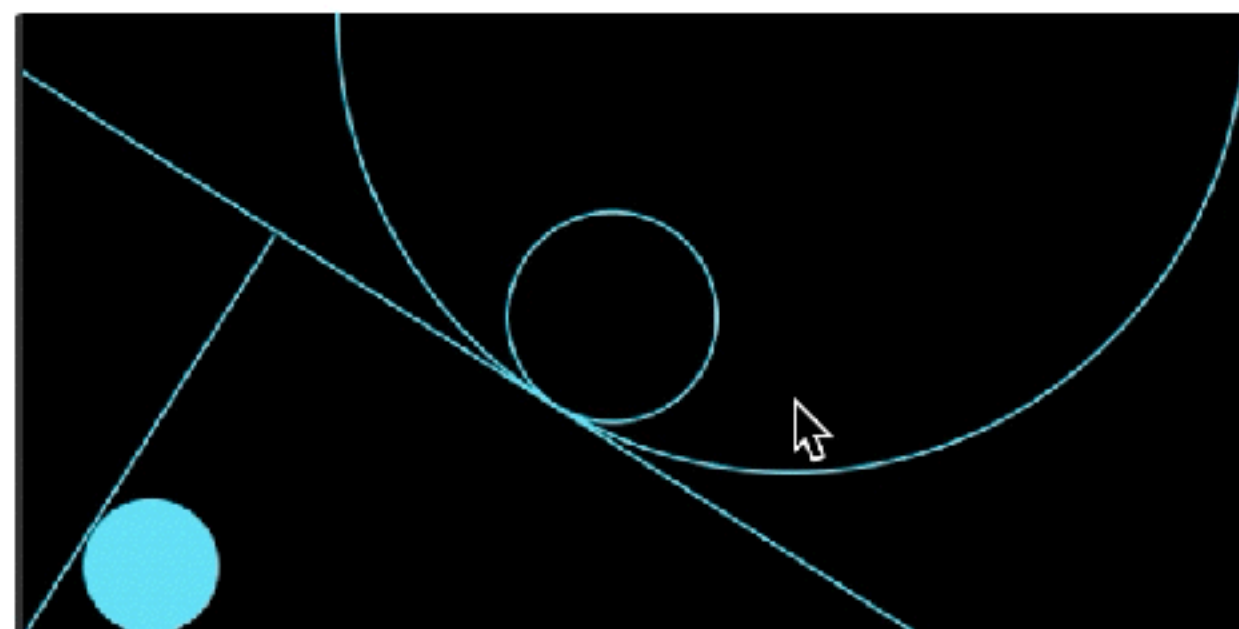
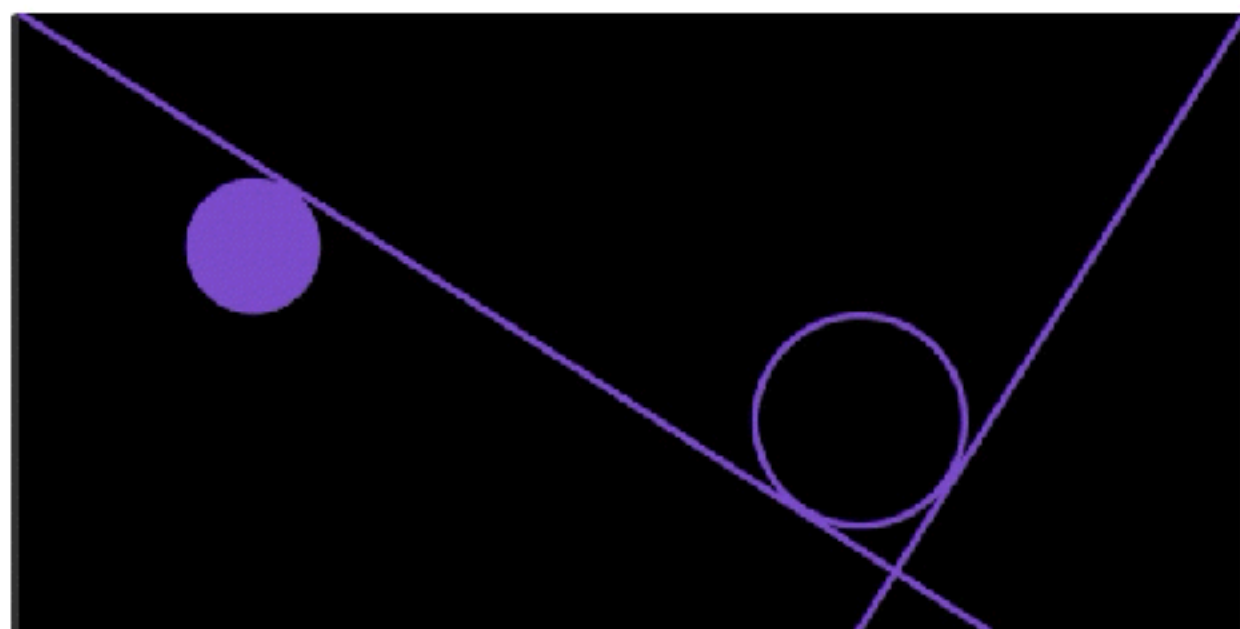
Feature packages

Component status

Release notes

Design and build great experiences for Developer Services

Get started



#2 “Our documentation is always up to date.”



Photo by [Ben Smith](#) on [Unsplash](#)

#2 “Our documentation is always up to date.”



Buster Keaton in “The General”, 1926. GIF from [r/silentmoviegifs](https://www.reddit.com/r/silentmoviegifs)

#2 “Our documentation is always up to date.”



Photo by [Filip Bunkens](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- **Example**
- **Usage**
- **Anatomy**
- **Developer guidance**
- **API**

Usage

Do

- Keep the content of a card related to a single concept
- Keep content inside cards aligned, even in cases where dividers extend to the edge of the card
- Avoid scrolling inside cards; rely on scrolling of the parent container instead
- Avoid placing a card on a background lighter than Neutral-2

Don't

- Place cards within cards
- Include many calls to action within a single card
- Use card to replace similar components, such as dialog

Untruth #3

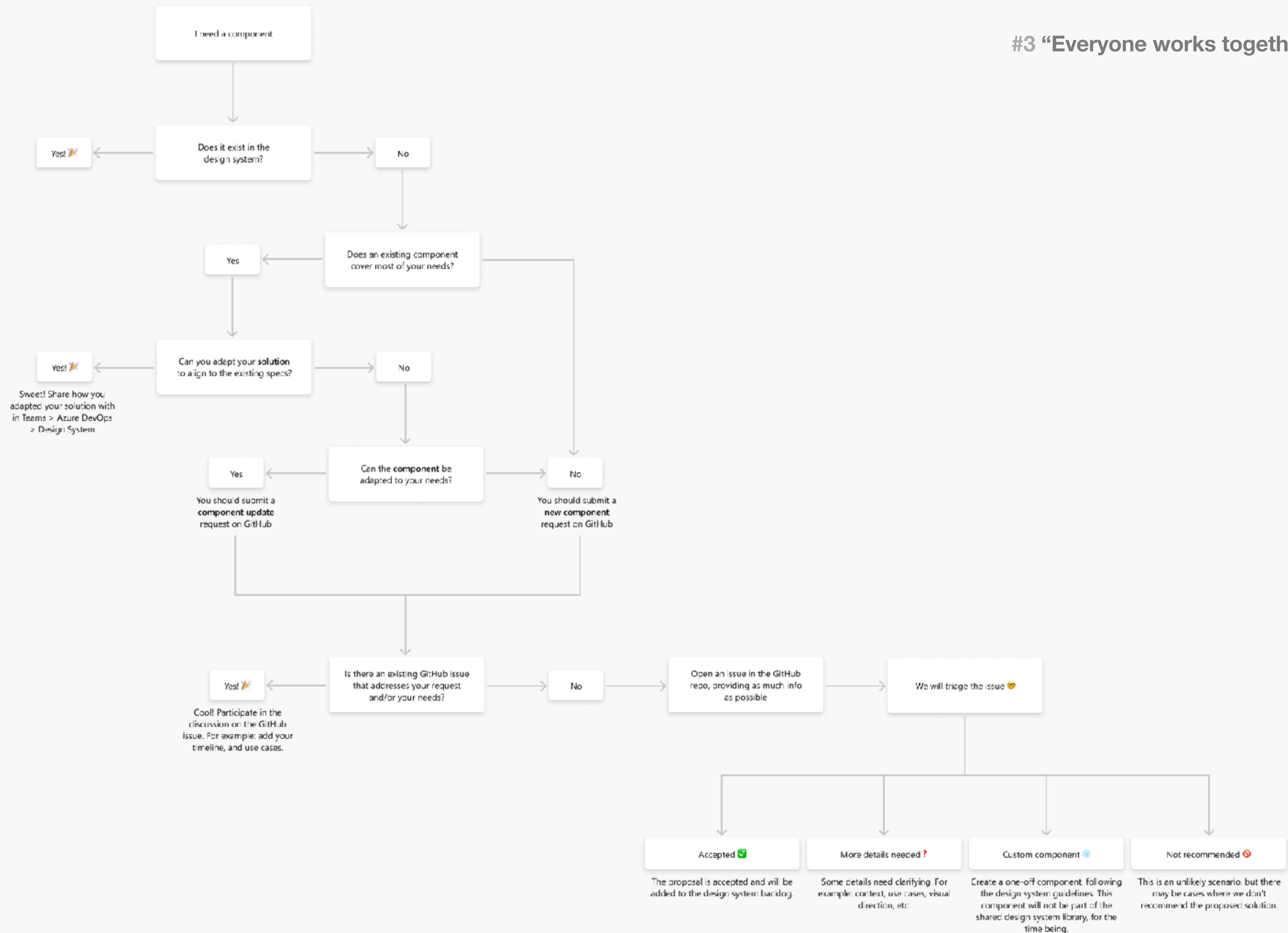
**“Everyone works
together in harmony.”**

Untruth #3

**“Everyone works
together in harmony.”**

**“We block each other
all the time.”**

#3 “Everyone works together in harmony.”



#3 “Everyone works together in harmony.”



Photo by [Luke Brugger](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Untruth #4

**“No one ever needs
custom components.”**

Untruth #4

**“No one ever needs
custom components.”**

**“Someone needs a
custom component
every day.”**

#4 “No one ever needs custom components.”



Photo by [Brendan Church](#) on [Unsplash](#)

#4 “No one ever needs custom components.”



Seinfeld, “The Soup Nazi”, 1995

#4 "No one ever needs custom components."



Photo by [Vidar Nordli-Mathisen](#) on [Unsplash](#)

#4 “No one ever needs custom components.”



Photo by [DorkyMum](#) on [Flickr](#)

Untruth #5

“We validate everything.”

Untruth #5

“We validate everything.”

**“Most times we push
to the system
without testing.”**

#5 “We validate everything.”



Photo by Kai Pilger on [Unsplash](#)

#5 "We validate everything."



Photo by [Annie Spratt](#) on [Unsplash](#)

#5 “We validate everything.”



Show
and tells

#5 “We validate everything.”



Photo by [Mimi Thian](#) on [Unsplash](#)

(I'm nearly done!)



Thank you!

@yaili, references bit.ly/reactor-sydney