Design System Product Team

Sprints 1 & 2 review

October 2021

Sprint 2

October 2021

Engagement Plan

Short term

- Promote **awareness** of the ongoing work:
  - wiki presence
  - blog posts
  - social media
- Increase **participation** in the direction of the GC design system through:
  - GC Digital **Slack** community
  - **consultations** with GC Web Priorities and other communities
  - **research** with community members
  - **opportunities to contribute** and offer feedback

Long term

- Promote **use** of the GC Design system by increasing :
  - **awareness** of how and when to use the design system
  - **participation** in evolution through a contribution model that allows for continuous improvements
  - **broad based adoption** throughout the GC

GC Design System Product Team

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About

The GC Design system product team began working together in July 2021. The group includes members from the Canadian Digital Service, Digital Transformation Office, Principal Publisher and the Office of the Chief Information Officer. The team is working together to build an updated centralized design system and accompanying elements (guidance, styles, code and components). They are building on the initial work of the Design system working group, consolidating elements of the Canada.ca design system and GC Web (WET), and laying the foundations of a modern, comprehensive design system that can support modern needs of digital teams working in the GC.

Sprint review

At the end of each four-week sprint, a summary of what has been worked on will be posted here

- Sprint Review 0 - September 2, 2021
- Sprint Review 1 - September 29, 2021

Reference

- Template and pattern library for Canada.ca
- Alpha design system

Newsletter

- Special COVID newsletters
- Sign up to the Digital Transformation Office mailing list

Archived Design system working group notes (2019-2020)

https://wiki.gccollab.ca/GC_Design_System_Product_Team

Preparation of GC Web for design token integration

Prep work

Principal Publisher is untangling the layers of GCWeb & WET to eliminate all the layers of files and reorganize all components together in a single file.

This work will:

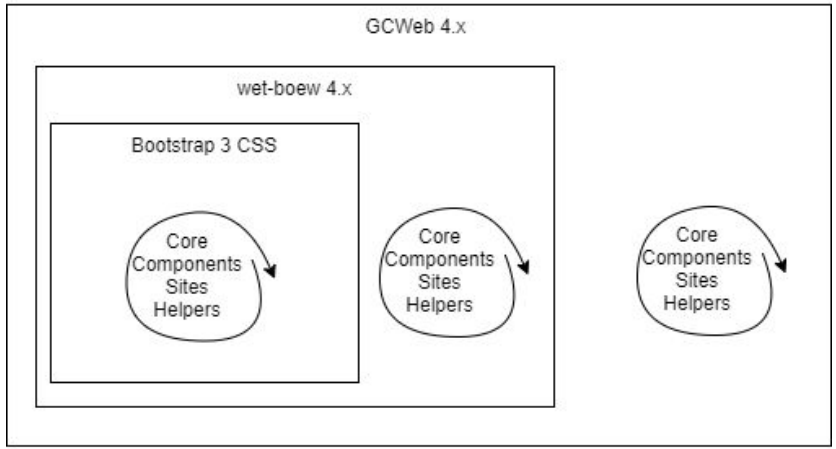
- ease implementation of a design token library
- help maintenance of existing components
- allow for future CSS optimization
- isolate technical improvements that improve accessibility without needing to reverse engineer component javascript

Target structure

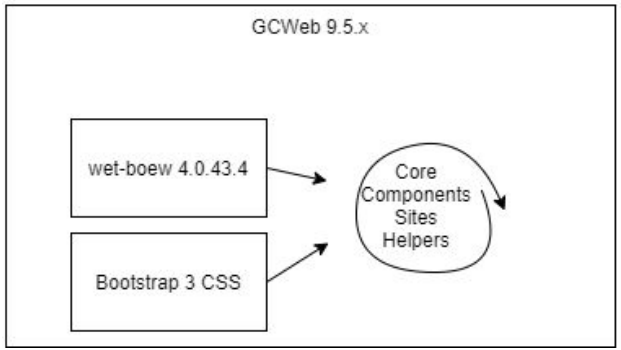
Eliminating layers will allow us to know what files are impacted by a change (like an alert or font).

This will make it easier to pinpoint where and how to apply overrides.

Currently, as October 2021



Target structure



Minimum viable product

Minimum viable product: ~ 3 months

Prioritization

- Coded components will be the starting point (building blocks) to prioritize information served in the context of the task
- General guidelines and guidance will follow later to fill in the gaps of information not covered in component documentation

Coded components will:

- follow policy and the canada.ca standards
- provide an opportunity to uncover any incongruity through testing and learning

Basic web UI

Technical solutions (design elements)

- Design tokens
- Basic UI components

Technical solutions (process/infrastructure)

- Basic modularity
- Basic IA
- Semantic versioning

Design tooling

- Basic Figma library

Documentation

- Design tokens
- Component pages
- Dev/Figma workflow
- Accessibility
- Basic change log
- Mandatory elements

Onboarding

- Installation: project quick start
- Design and content

Communications

- Sprint updates - GC wiki
- Blog posts
- Roadmap updates
- Working groups - tech discussions

Research

- Collect and define research questions (ongoing)
- Define learning goals for the basic web UI
- Invite participation

Research insights for an alpha documentation site

Background

To form a **hypothesis from which to start to build an alpha documentation site** of the GC Design System we:

- asked participants to **try tasks** on the **Canada.ca design system** and **other design systems** (from both government and private sector)
- **analyzed what worked and what didn't** for:
  - **navigation**
  - **search**
  - **guidance** (content, design and code)
  - **installation**
- came up with a **set of evidence-informed starting points**

What we looked at

Global guidance

- Navigation (landing page, global, in-page)
- Search
- Visual foundations (typography, colours)
- General content guidance (writing guidelines)
- Installation of the design system

Component guidance

- Design guidance
- Content guidance
- Code guidance
- Versioning and change history

Who we talked to

- 17 participants (15 EN, 2 FR)
  - 5 designers
  - 5 developers and publishers
  - 7 communicators
- Participants were a mix of *loyal implementers* and *fearless innovators*
- Asked to complete **4 different tasks**, each in **3 different design systems**
- Tasks and design systems were **randomized**

Methodology: types of tasks

Communicators and designers

- How to capitalize headings (general content guidance)
- How to write good button text (component content guidance)
- Font and font size (visual foundations)
- Choosing the right alert variant (design guidance)

Developers

- Class to use to make radio buttons horizontal (component code guidance)
- Primary colour to use in a new design (visual foundations)
- How to install the design system (installing)
- Identify the last change to the button component (change history)

Findings - Global guidance

- A **persistent left navigation**, with clear and distinct main sections was seen to improve discoverability (especially if with the ability to expand sub-sections and explore)
- A **persistent left search/filter** was seen to improve findability of specific elements
- As a starting point, these main sections could work - **more research needed**:
  - **Get started** (installation, onboarding, etc.)
  - **Visual foundations** (brand, design tokens, etc.)
  - **Components and patterns**
  - **Writing** (general content guidance)
  - **Community** (how to contribute, contact, etc.)
  - **Latest updates**

Findings - Component guidance

- Participants wanted component pages to make it easy to find all these:
  - **design** guidance
  - **content** guidance
  - **code** guidance
- Participants looked for both **global content guidance** and **component-specific** content guidance

We can use these evidence-informed **starting points** to build the **backbone** of the alpha documentation site of the GC design system.

Full research report available on request

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