

# The Design System Every Organization Needs



No matter the size of your organization, you face an array of internal challenges managing digital development. Small teams launching a new project must ensure it meets existing design standards in a secure and reliable way. Plus, should you need to launch a similar project in the future, you need the ability to avoid reinventing the wheel and deliver work that's built upon the same, high-quality foundation.

At complex organizations, your managerial problems run much deeper. You need to streamline development to allow for speed, flexibility, and self-sufficiency for separate departments. But you must also maintain consistency to ensure new projects meet your branding, functionality, and regulatory standards at an affordable cost. The more projects you have under a single umbrella, the more difficult it becomes for your development resources to meet your business needs.



**Enter the Emulsify Design System: the flexible, multi-faceted solution for retaining design consistency and efficiency no matter the scale of your development needs.**

Emulsify now offers a suite of products [released in 2020](#) pairing the efficiency of a component library with authoritative and robust documentation.

Emulsify allows your organization to save time and money in the development process by functioning like a living style guide for your website's codebase.

Plus, with the ability to accommodate multiple platforms and provide seamless testing for code quality and accessibility, Emulsify allows teams of all sizes to enjoy increased flexibility, speed, and security for digital project development.

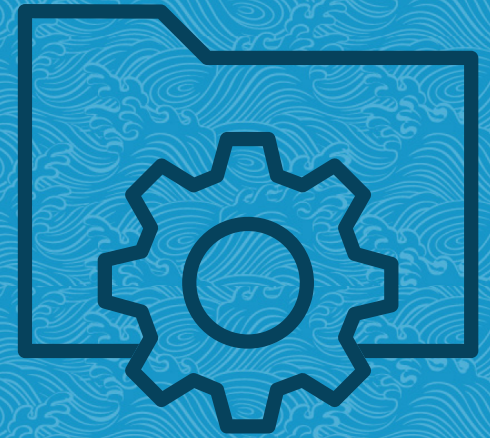


# What is the Emulsify Design System?

In the beginning, there was Emulsify—an open-source design and prototyping tool for Drupal. This first iteration of the tool combined the template development of [Twig](#) with the style guide capabilities of [Pattern Lab](#). Allowing developers to store and share the building blocks of a digital property, Emulsify helped organizations using Drupal to retain design consistency and enjoy the benefits of component-driven development.

Providing a library of individual buttons, fonts, and cards up to full pages and forms, Emulsify creates a hierarchy of your website's user interface in accordance with [atomic design](#) principles.

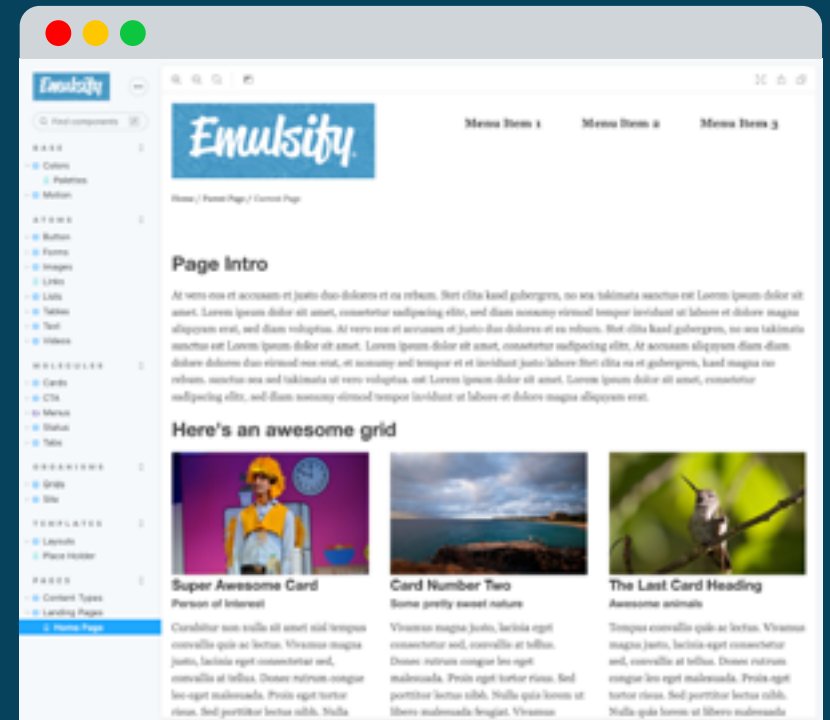
However, without a centralized and shareable documentation component, larger organizations struggled to keep pace with their digital teams' demands. As projects grew in scope, Emulsify's capabilities were no longer sufficient.



In its latest version, Emulsify expands to include a documentation component that allows it to function as a complete design system. Emulsify follows the precedent of [IBM's Carbon Design System](#) without incorporating a proprietary design standard, providing a flexible style guide for your organization.

While your developers build and share projects structured from existing components, the rest of your web and marketing teams align around this shared documentation to ensure organizational consistency and success across all projects.

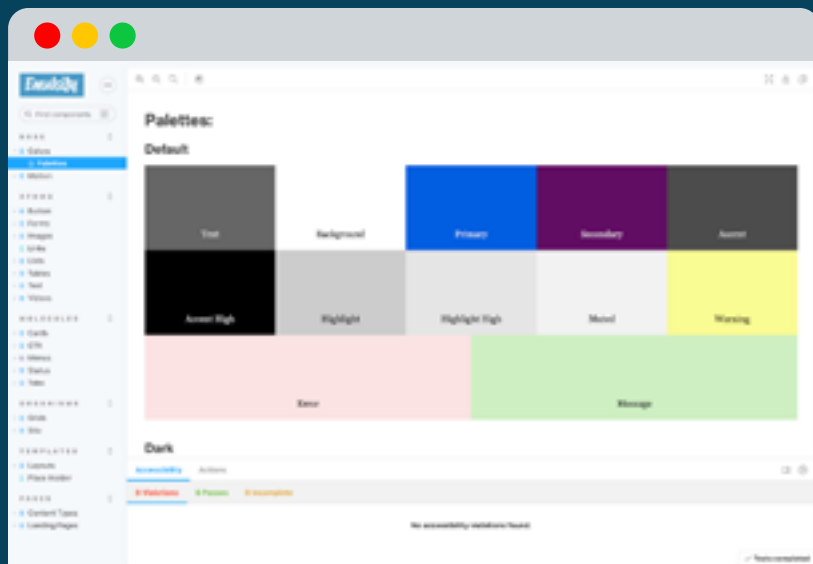
[By upgrading to the Storybook development environment](#), Emulsify can be used to theme pages for Drupal as well as WordPress, [Contentful](#), and other standalone project platforms. Development teams can write UI components in Twig, [React](#), and a variety of other languages and follow the best practices indicated in clear and current documentation. As a result, all your teams begin project development atop an established baseline.



With the expansive tools of the Emulsify Design System, the original Emulsify concept is now part of a suite as Emulsify Drupal. Providing the same best practices for component-driven development, Emulsify Drupal still powers individual websites. But with multi-platform theme capabilities and a living style guide, the full design system does so much more.

# How the Emulsify Design System reduces development time

“Build once, use everywhere” is the mantra of component-driven development. Emulsify brings that mantra to life by providing a dynamic library of your components with detailed guidelines for their use. Once a new component has been developed within your digital project, it then lives on for use across your organization and its properties.



This ability to bring disparate teams together with a centralized development resource is critical at a large organization. Higher education and financial institutions often operate with multiple subsidiaries, which must function with a degree of autonomy to remain effective. However, those departments may not have the budget to create the custom website features they need. With the Emulsify Design System, components that have been created for the most highly funded parts of your organization are shareable site-wide.

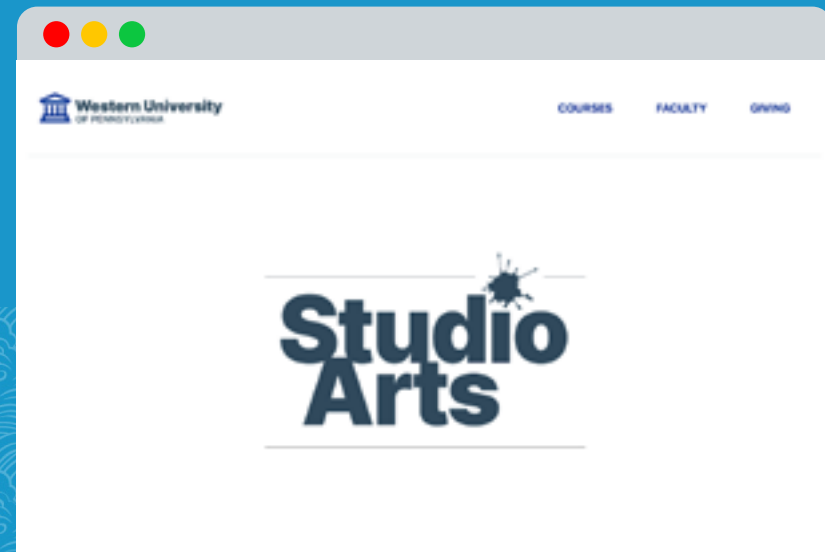
Using the documentation capabilities of Storybook, Emulsify establishes a streamlined build system across your organization. Rather than starting every project by assembling the required page assets—or “sprint zero,” in Agile development terms—your developers are already completing designs and creating code audits. In addition to cutting down on prep work, authoritative, centralized documentation reduces onboarding time. Rather than requiring established, system-specific knowledge, Emulsify allows new or junior developers to contribute to projects that much faster.

By providing a library of components that conform to best practices, Emulsify grants IT teams the security of knowing new projects are built on a proven foundation. Plus, as your team introduces more site features through component-driven development, projects are developed more rapidly.



# Emulsify creates unified designs that allow for flexible customization

Managing the digital demands of a complex organization requires an equally complicated list of development needs. Along with creating a consistent design experience, you also have to allow for some departments to establish distinct identities while enabling teams to develop resources that suit their specific business needs.



Development languishes behind a production bottleneck that forms without a library of well-defined and readily shared components to inform future products. As delays mount, design standards deteriorate while teams pursue their own solutions to launch new features.

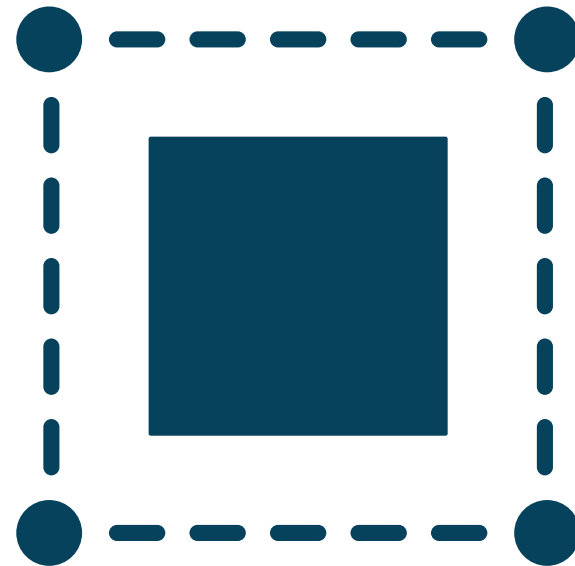
**Emulsify Design System allows designers, project managers, and your whole production team to remain on the same page with access to a robust component library. Instead of a development cycle that takes months, your teams can create custom designs based on standardized templates in days.**

But beyond unifying production, Emulsify establishes workflows that incorporate every department. As new components progress, they can be readily accessed by your internal specialists.

Designers, accessibility specialists, branding experts, and IT team members are incorporated into the development workflow.

Instead of managing the delays that result from communication breakdowns, you keep every digital stakeholder invested in digital development and its documentation.

Your whole organization reaps the benefits from your website's capabilities when your digital efforts are unified.



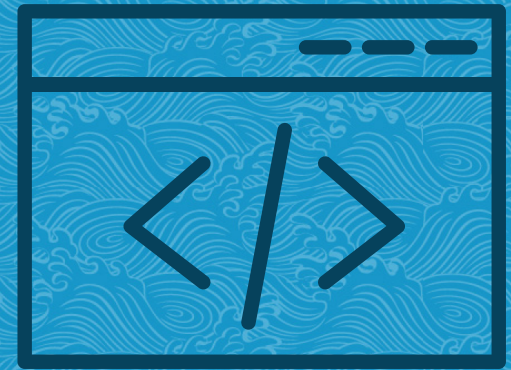


# Minimize code bloat and maintenance time for new features

Along with the savings that come with extending the reach of existing components, Emulsify delivers peace of mind for IT directors. The benefit of a component library is that errors have a single point of failure. So when inevitable errors are located, they are dealt with in one place and the fix applies across all components.

But more than providing safeguards against poor coding, Emulsify provides the blank slate your organization needs. Instead of cluttering your codebase with pre-designed components like buttons and menus, Emulsify delivers just the raw materials all of which can be removed or changed as necessary to suit your project.

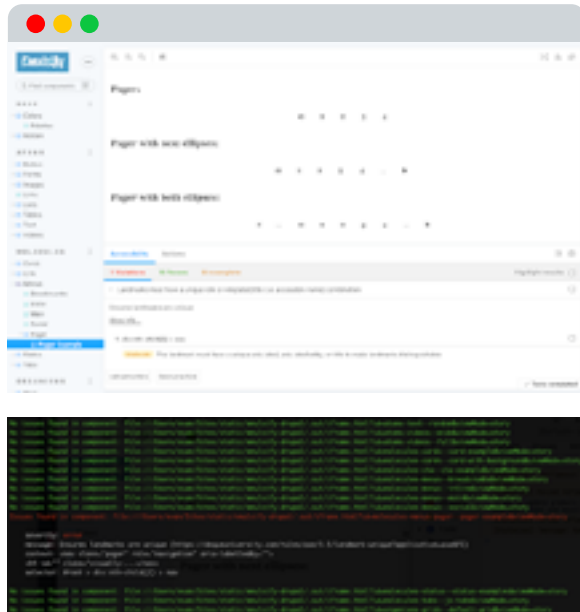
Some design systems best serve organizations that need to spool up hundreds of websites fast by incorporating pre-designed components. Emulsify, however, best suits teams that need to build bespoke projects to satisfy complex demands. Though it begins as a design blank slate, the system supports custom development to suit the needs of the most complex organizations. Once your team has built these components, you now have your own component library that can be reused across other projects enabling you to spool up custom, branded projects quickly.





# Decrease errors and debugging efforts

Without the assurances of component-driven development, every iteration of a given project introduces the possibilities for errors. As projects change hands across teams, the likelihood of incurring maintenance costs only increases.



Emulsify also minimizes the expense of resolving the errors introduced by bad code. Emulsify comes with built-in code quality testing that provides two lines of defense. Through testing in Storybook, your developers are passively notified from committing errors to the code repository (or "repo").

Then, at the command line and/or continuous integration stage of deployment, Emulsify can also provide active testing, which can flag errors, blocking further development work or code submission.

**The design system safeguards against problems entering your codebase. By catching coding mistakes early, you shrink the debugging phase of project development. Plus, your organization gains better security and stability for its entire digital operation. With heavier, JavaScript-intensive projects in frontend design, bad code introduces big security concerns.**

In addition, Emulsify's component-driven development approach means you are solving errors in one location and the fix is applied everywhere that code is used.

# Mitigate legal issues by retaining accessibility compliance

Your organization needs a website that's stable and secure. But you have to maintain an equitable experience as well. The worst-case scenario for IT directors isn't necessarily allowing bad or buggy code to publish. [Federal guidelines and legal precedent are abundantly clear](#). Higher education institutions, government agencies, and ecommerce sites are [required to accommodate for accessibility](#).

If not properly considered during design and development, accessibility violations can be costly to an organization's bottom line and reputation. With accessibility baked into its process, Emulsify provides the capability to better ensure compliance with every project.

Emulsify offers multiple resources to test every newly developed project against accessibility guidelines. In the development stage, your developers receive passive notifications of flaws that don't account for differing abilities. Then, for more active testing, developers can also test code at the command line and code deployment stages to verify it meets specific accessibility standards.

**With Emulsify, you determine the accessibility standards applied to each new project in accordance with your organization's needs—or the litigious nature of your industry. For the best results, you can incorporate manual testing that will consider details beyond the scope of automated testing.**

However, depending on the project's size and its deadline, your organization may only require passive testing. Emulsify will notify developers of issues, but it won't impede their progress. That said, if accessibility is a priority for your organization—as it should be—you can block code that, upon launch, may lead to costly legal consequences.



# How the Emulsify Design System streamlines your digital efforts

All organizations need to deliver positive digital experiences that maintain a consistent identity. But large organizations face a problem of scale with individual properties introducing design needs that must remain connected but establish a unique identity.

**The Emulsify Design System allows teams to share components, document their use, and retain best practices to streamline digital development and ultimately reduce costs.**

As your developers create and test any project for functionality and compliance, they remain shareable and flexible. By ensuring centralized access to project development, every website feature and their attached components have a limitless lifespan.

But even if your organization doesn't face such complicated development needs, Emulsify serves to future-proof your digital needs. Centralized access to your website components allows your resources to remain flexible and accessible for any future need. By documenting and sharing code that's proven and consistent, you can take your web projects further than ever before.

**Need help creating a design system for your website?**

**GET IN TOUCH →**



**FOUR KITCHENS**