

Design System Council

Meeting Date: Friday 05/23/2024

Agenda

- [Experimental Design Back Link](#) (Peter Russo)
- [Experimental Design for process status icons and repeat symbols](#) (Gary Homidas)

Back Link

Discussion

Peter

- When upgraded breadcrumb, styling changed, there's a gray arrow to the left and a caret symbol. We use a lot of just simple back links. We want to make it consistent to the mobile styling..
- Want to add arrow.

Ryan

- What is the difference between the grey and blue? Do we care?

Matt

- Not sure why US team didn't make the whole thing blue. We followed their lead
- We can ask them.

Ryan

- I'd rather follow what they do and update than deviate.

Matt

- Is there anything the breadcrumb component does that Link wouldn't do? Is there anything in terms of a11y? A label on the breadcrumb that we also have to add to link?
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Jami

- Under the hood it is a link so under the hood it should be the same.

Dan

- Whatever we do for back button? Do we have to do it here?

Sara

- It's not dynamic in all instances. IT's paging back one level.

Matt

- Make sure anything we're doing for mobile in breadcrumb we port to Link

Dan

- Spacing for breadcrumb. Should be consistent if we put something there.

Matt

- We make this a prop on the link, there's other things we have to make sure other things are consistent.

Ryan

- Does it span the entire row?

Matt

- It's more like a button. Could expand the row on mobile but i don't think it is what you would expect.

Martha

- Do we use arrow icon for anything else? (Matt - There's a down for download. Ryan - on this page)

Matt

- Not documented by itself. We have arrow back to navigate to page up or down. Next and before were Chevrons. That is in pagination. Some of this - we're documenting inconsistencies in US system.
- Space is probably the reason.

Martha

- Icons aren't all the same size? (matt - they're not normalized) That's a drag.

Matt

- Font Awesome was a good product.
- We are in sync with USWDS

DK

- You asked about. Might be focus management. Usually left to teams. Handle focus management. Would depend on what this is used for.

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PEter

- We will stick with this pattern. Not a big priority for us right now. I will update design file to use that pattern for back links.

Final Decision

Move forward on this.

Will add to our backlog of experimental design items.

If this is a big priority, let us know so we can prioritize or escalate it.

Action Items

Action items

Process status icons and repeat symbol

Discussion

Gary

- We're working on disability claims process. Increase transparency for Veterans
- Decided to use the accordion to list each process step and use icons to represent status update.
- Repeat icons and content box. We can let Veterans know that the step they're in has potential to repeat. We went with style like this instead of alert, b/c this is important message, it is one that is persistent. So doesn't change. Want it to stand apart from rest of content but not urgent.
- Within an accordion, we are using checkmarks to denote step is completed. Flag used to show you are here - at this step in a claim.

Matt

- Want to make sure we're clear on which things you're asking us to review. I know accordion supports icon in the header. I don't think we have both icons in the system. Are you asking?

Gary

- Checkmark is in the system. No stipulation what we're trying to communicate but just a level of completeness.

Matt

- Flag - I don't see him.

Allison

- It is listed under the hub. For service benefits

Gary

- We added a border to create a connection with where they are.

Matt

- What does flag convey? (Gary - it is conveying current step)

- Not sure Flag screams current step to me. Current step in process list, we did add status there. It is a blue outline on a number there. Blue makes sense. Not sure what appropriate icon would be.

Allison

- Do we need an icon?

Matt

- Just use the number. Not sure it needs an icon.
- The size - minimal size seems small. We should look at what we do in accordion today. It looks smaller than 16 today.
- Seems like icon and header should be same height as header.

Dan

- Is the current step user has to take an action on ? or is it in process and they're waiting for someone to take action?

Gary

- If VA has to reach out to Veteran, they would do that but if not. It denotes you are here.

Dan

- Will you need different icons? Does VA have to do something or do we need more info from you?

Matt

- Avoid the flag. That indicates something is wrong. It is used in the hub in a different way.

Ryan

- Common you are here is circle like on a map

Gary

- Saw marker but tried to stay away from that.

Matt

- Map and directions. Location or address use map drop location icon.

Ryan

- Start simple. Start with a dot. It's the pattern.

Matt

- Icon and step may repeat. Are you looking for us to add this as use of card with icon in it? Or a specific component? Looks like card with icon. We allow cards to be used to highlight content.
- Not sure you need this. Icon and text should be fine but not sure you need the card.
- Not sure we would add this specific use case to card.

Gary

- I thought this would be a variation to alert. But if we have a card, we could use in this way I think that works.

Matt

- I don't think we would make another alert style that was neutral like this b/c it ceases to be an alert.
- We don't have pattern or component that is below alert but above a typical paragraph. Have summary box. We have info alerts. Got lots of notes. We need a way to highlight content that is important for folks to read.
- Trying to draw attention to something that does not warrant an alert.
- There was an issue to add subtle text highlight. Similar use case here. We ended up talking about was inset text component that is in the UK system which is a possibility.
- You could try that.

Martha

- Eye bounces around a lot on pages.
- Everytime we add another thing it traps the eye.

Matt

- Everytime we add a sea of text, we make it hard.
- We only one we blessed to indent is the address block. I hear what you're saying with list and cards.
- Do you feel like some kind of highlight that is not an alert but not typical paragraph is needed?

Martha

- I could argue this is a note. I would like to know why one note works and one doesn't? The subtle difference. How does one decide which to use?

Matt

- Note should be in content.

Ryan

- Problem this team is trying to solve, b/c of lack of transparency of VA, black box of filing a claim, there's perception if I go back, I've lost progress I've made. I set in this one step for a bit. Trying to surface the info. Almost not quite enough. Nothing to see here it's normal.
- Hierarchy problem. There is a need between alert and plain text. Need something in between. Not a header. Not syntactically correct to give it more.
- This problem of being between two levels. Can't use conventional things. Work within our own confines.

Martha

- This is the FYI kind of content. It's not actually what Veteran sees to check status.

Matt

- You raised, about screen reader experience. UK has warning text file which is a borderless warning. Matthew Dingee (he, him) to Everyone (May 23, 2024, 11:39 AM)
- <https://design-system.service.gov.uk/components/warning-text/>
- Can see one of these styles to attach an icon that would call it out.
- Would that be desirable? (Ryan, DK , Martha)
- It's not an alert. It's not polite. Not sure what is correct in terms of drawing attention. Not a header.
- Ryan is write, visual emphasis for sighted reader. BUt not for non-visual.

Martha

- How does aria work?

DK

- Make repeat icon, not have a label b/c text next to it does the work.
- Other piece, the UK one, that is different, almost does to extra work. Icon says same work as note in bold but it is a different visual treatment. IF we did go down this path, of something like UK thing, between alert and paragraph, we could standardize.
- Tension comes from making visual hierarchy strong but not making page so verbose. Delicate balance.

Ryan

- I would argue, as soon as we codify this, it will be widely used. Guidance we provide, when, how and a11y, we have to be very clear.

Matt

- I would argue things like note we don't govern. IT is used in various ways. We need to wrap our arms around this.

Ryan

- In the past I've seen hidden screen reader text that is also visually more important.. '
- Based on icon, it could say something different

DK

- I like the UK solution with the icon. Something visual for sighted and something we can give alt-text to for no vision.

Matt

- Why did we lock down icon? That's why b/c it would be any text and any icon if it is totally opened up.
- Worry it becoming an issue - we don't want to block teams but I standardize things.
- Make a clear hierarchy. UK has a warning. What is the difference between this and warning alert.

Ryan

- When something is permanent, it is meaningful. Alert - tells me something is going on. This says it can go on but you need to know this.

Matt

- Hard to get the balance right.
- We're leaning towards UK treatment of icon and text. What do you think DK?

DK

- It's been helpful to hear people talk it out. GARY and I talked about it.
- Can see going in this direction. It would take both cases. In some you need the alt-text and in others you don't.

Matt

- We will let you all explore that solution. Follow up with MAtt once you've decided. We can make add this as a fledgling component.
- Having options that are less dominant than an alert but more than paragraph will be good.
- Inset text is better description or Call out.

From Chat

Allison Christman to Everyone (May 23, 2024, 11:25 AM)

That would probably be good for accessibility, using the number

Martha Wilkes (she/her) to Everyone (May 23, 2024, 11:25 AM)

I agree, I squint and just a circle is there

Martha Wilkes (she/her) to Everyone (May 23, 2024, 11:31 AM)

We have many "Note:" things

Matthew Dingee (he, him) to Everyone (May 23, 2024, 11:33 AM)

<https://design-system.service.gov.uk/components/inset-text/>

Martha Wilkes (she/her) to Everyone (May 23, 2024, 11:33 AM)

We have many left margins in our pages

Final Decision

Gary and DK to explore the UK solution then follow up with Matt on what is decided.
May add this as new component.

Action Items

Action items