

data-quest

# Design System in **STUD.IP**<sup>®</sup>

Building Consistency and Scalability using Tailwind CSS

Murtaza Sultani  
February 2026

## Agenda

### Design System

-  What is a Design System?
-  Why do we need it?
-  How?

### Tailwind CSS

### A Quick Demo of Tailwind CSS

## What is a Design System?

A Design System is a shared collection of:

- Design **guidelines** and **rules**
- Design **tokens (colors, spacing, typography)**
- Reusable patterns (**Layouts, Break points, radius, ...**)
- UI Components Library (UI-kit) (buttons, inputs, layouts, ...)
- Documentation for designers & developers

## Current challenges

- **Inconsistent** UI-Component styles and layouts
- **Repeated** design and development work
- **Slower** development process
- **Harder collaboration** between teams

## Spacing and sizing systems

- Linear scale
  - Point spacing system (4pt or 8pt)
- **Relative scale**
- Sizing units
  - rem, em, px, pt ???
- Other spacing systems are...

## Other spacing systems

◉ Semantic system

◉ e.g: *xs, sm, md, lg, xl, 2xl*

◉ Percentage

◉ e.g: *20%, 34%*

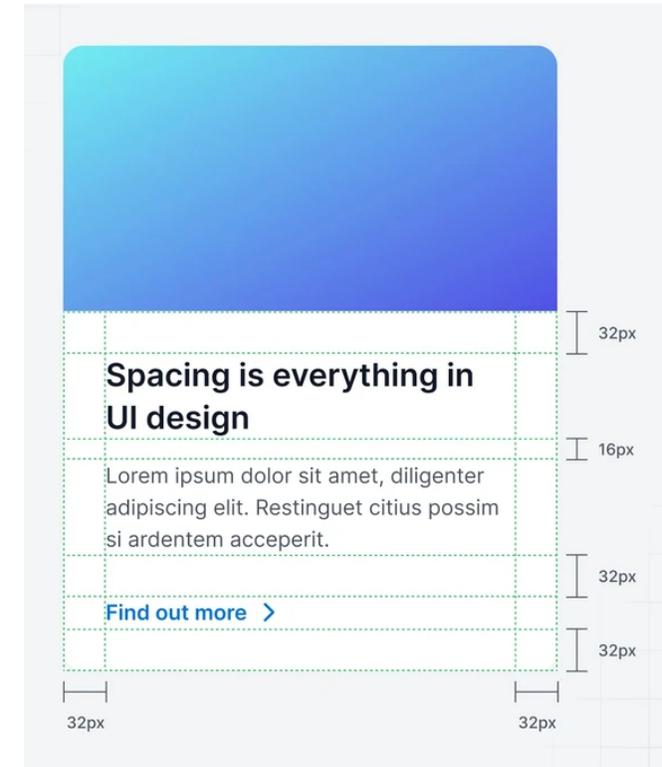
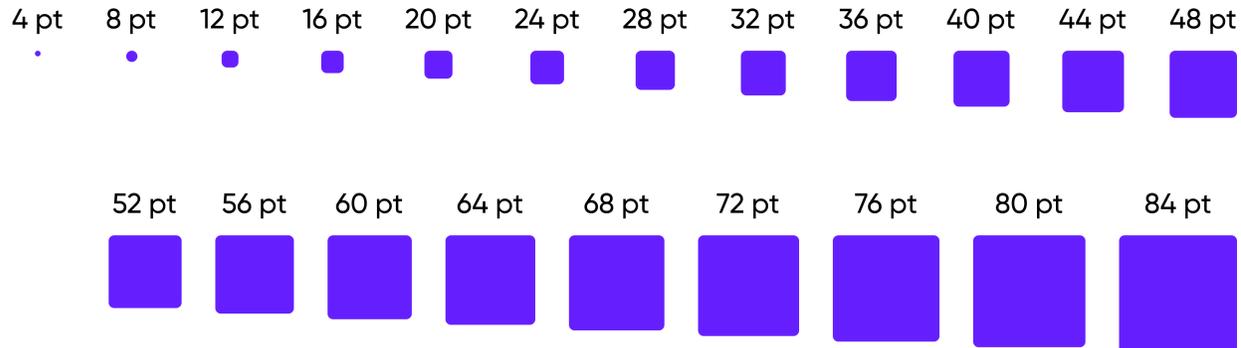
◉ Fractional

◉ e.g: *3/5, 6/9*

## Point spacing system

Make sure everything is a multiple of  $4n * pt$

$pt = 0.25rem \sim 4px$



## A linear scale won't work perfectly

Relative difference between adjacent values.

12px → 16px ≈ 30%

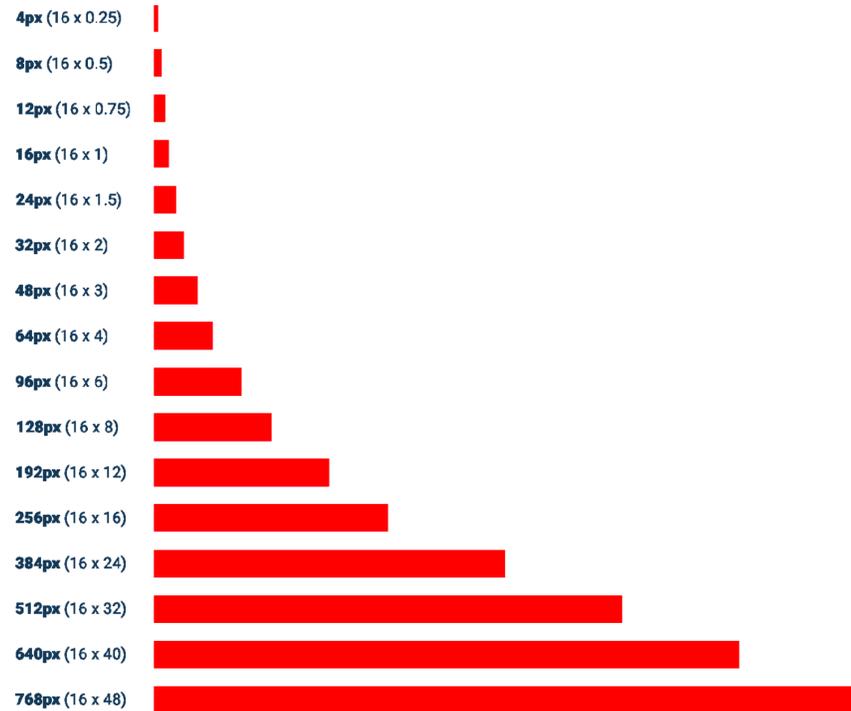
500px → 520px ≈ 4%

Solutions?

**Relative scale**

Make sure no **two values** in your scale are closer than 25%

# Relative scale spacing system



 No arbitrary spacing and sizing scale

Relative scale spacing system - [Refactoringui](#)

# Reusable patterns and Layouts

e.g: a common **radius patterns** for Different UI elements

Component Type	Radius Token
Tooltips	sm ~ 0.25rem (4px)
Buttons	md ~ 0.375rem (6px)
Inputs	md ~ 0.375rem (6px)
Cards	lg ~ 0.5rem (8px)
Modals	xl ~ 0.75rem (12px)
Badges (chips)	full ~ calc(infinity * 1px)

## Reusable patterns and Layouts — Continue...

e.g: a common **break points** for different screen sizes

Device Example	Min width
Small devices, phones	sm ~ 40rem (640px)
Tablets (portrait)	md ~ 48rem (768px)
Laptops / desktops	Lg ~ 64rem (1024px)
Large desktops	Xl ~ 80rem (1280px)
Extra-large screens / wide monitors	2xl ~ 94rem (1536px)

## Color palettes

### ◉ Color Tokens

#### ◉ Primitive Tokens

◉ Blue, green, gray, and ...

#### ◉ Semantic Tokens (Purpose-driven)

◉ e.g. Primary, Secondary, Success, Warning, Error and ...

## Color palettes — Color Scales

### Color Scales

 e.g. 50 100, 200, ... ,900, 950

### Reason:

 Hover states

 Active states

 Disabled states

 Dark mode support

# Color palettes - Color Spaces

## Color Spaces

### sRGB (Standard RGB)

CSS: `rgb()`, `rgba()`, `hsl()`, `lab()`, `hexadecimal`, and ...

### P3

Introduced by Apple

**25%** more colors than sRGB

CSS: `oklch()`, `color(display-p3 0.9 0.2 0.1)`

# How can Tailwind CSS help us?

## What is Tailwind CSS?

An API for our design system.

- ◉ Help us to build and **work within the constraints of a system** instead of littering your stylesheets with **arbitrary values**. Utility classes make it easy **to be consistent** with **color choices, spacing, typography, shadows, and everything else that makes up a well-engineered design system.**

## What is Tailwind CSS?

↓ Weekly Downloads

37,119,741



Version

4.2.0 

License

MIT

Unpacked Size

775 kB

Total Files

34

Last publish

21 hours ago

[NPM](#)

A utility-first CSS framework for rapid UI development.

[tailwindcss.com/](https://tailwindcss.com/)

- css
- postcss
- responsive
- css-framework
- functional-css
- utility-classes
- tailwindcss

-  Readme
-  MIT license
-  Contributing
-  Activity
-  Custom properties
-  93.6k stars
-  624 watching
-  5.1k forks

[Github](#)

## Brands that are using Tailwind CSS



Almost all modern UI libraries, such as **Flowbite**, **daisyUI**, **Preline UI**, **Tailwind CSS UI-kit**, **Shadcn**, **ALL Laravel UI libraries**, and many [more...](#)

# How Does Tailwind CSS Work in Practice?

# References

<https://www.contentful.com/blog/design-token-system/>

<https://www.contentful.com/blog/design-system-explained/>

<https://www.telerik.com/design-system/docs/foundation/color/>

<https://www.sublimau.com/blog/the-complete-guide-to-the-4pt-spacing-system-in-ui-design>

<https://headspinui.com/blog/spacing-system/>

<https://vansedesign.com/web-design/rhythm-proportion-grids-typography/>

<https://tailwindcss.com/>

<https://refactoringui.com/>

<https://developer.apple.com/design/>

# Fragen & Diskussion