

Figma Feature Survey Results

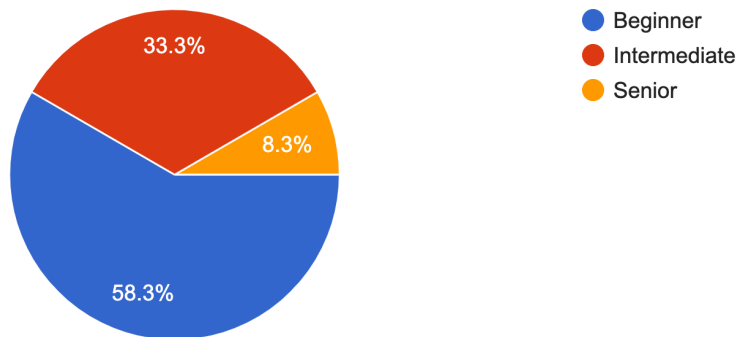
There were 12 participants of varying design levels.

Designer level

Most of the respondents described themselves as beginners.

How would you describe your design level?

12 responses

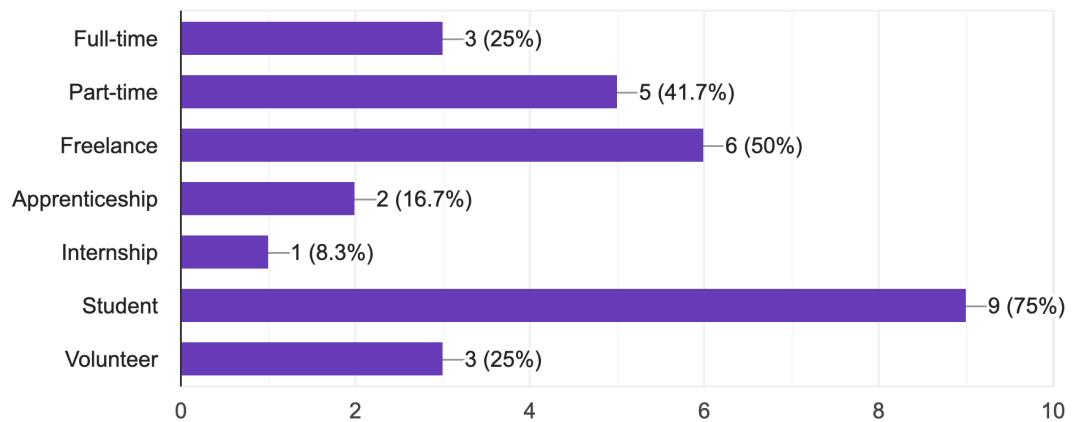


Work Status

Most are students with part-time jobs, and yet 50% of all respondents do freelance work.

What kind of work are you doing? (select all that apply)

12 responses

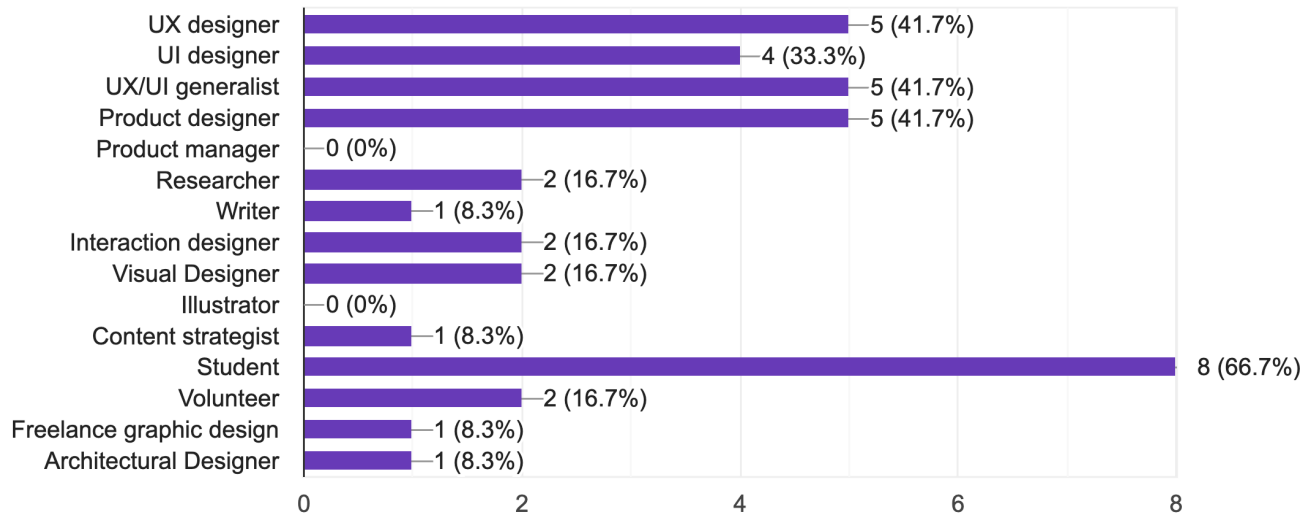


Roles

Again, most are students, but some still identify as other design roles they aspire to.

What is your role? (select all that apply)

12 responses

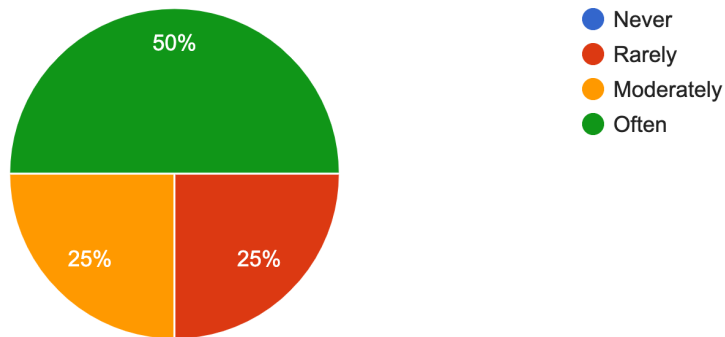


Component Use

All respondents use components to some degree, with half claiming to do so often.

How often do you use components in Figma?

12 responses

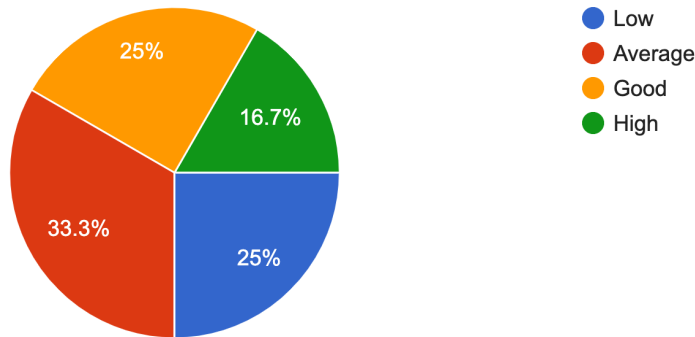


Confidence

There is a pretty even spread on confidence level, but a minority claim high levels.

What is your overall confidence level with using components?

12 responses



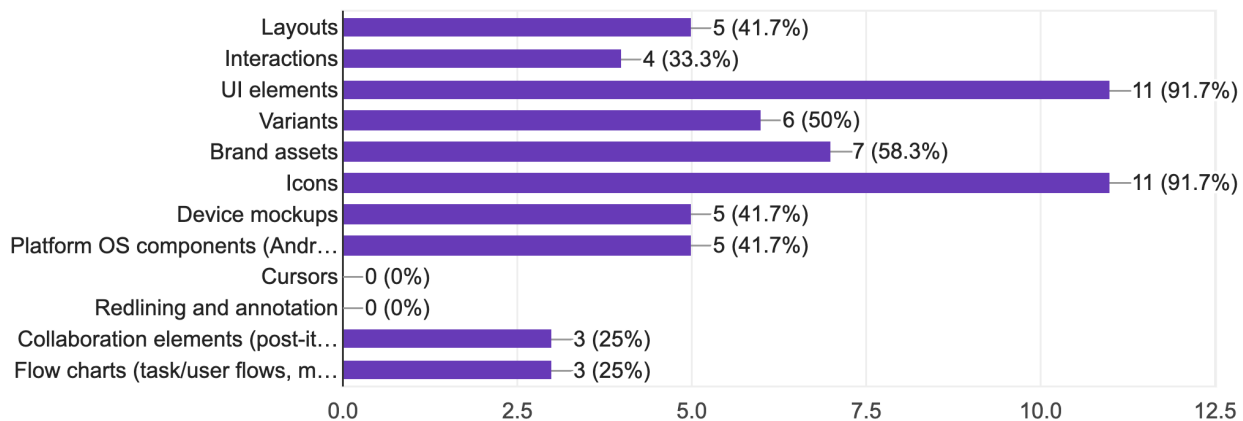
Use Cases

Many use cases were picked, with a majority for UI elements and Icons. Cursors and annotation got no selections. This list was populated by what Figma says are common use cases in their documentation.

<https://www.figma.com/best-practices/components-styles-and-shared-libraries/>

What do you use components for? (select all that apply)

12 responses

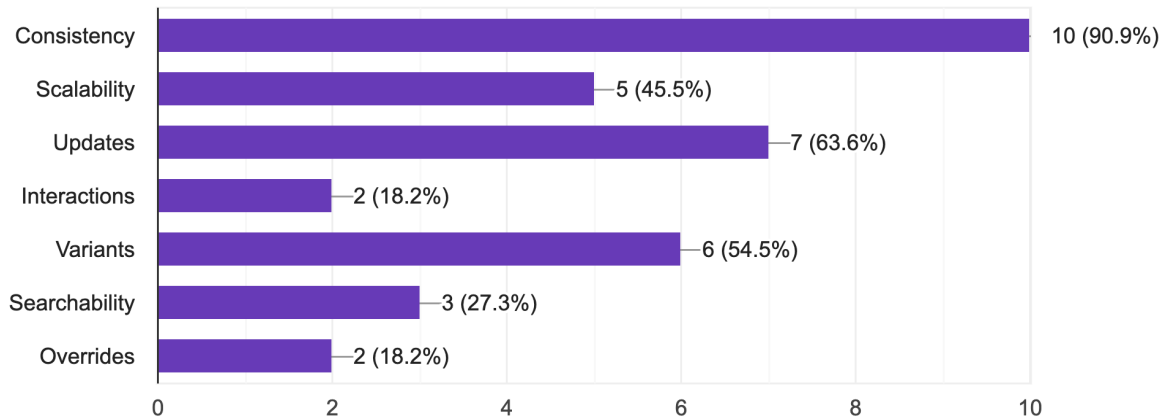


Gains

Consistency easily is the highest gain among responses, followed by updates, which is the crux of the problem I am vetting needs solving.

What works well about components? (select all that apply)

11 responses

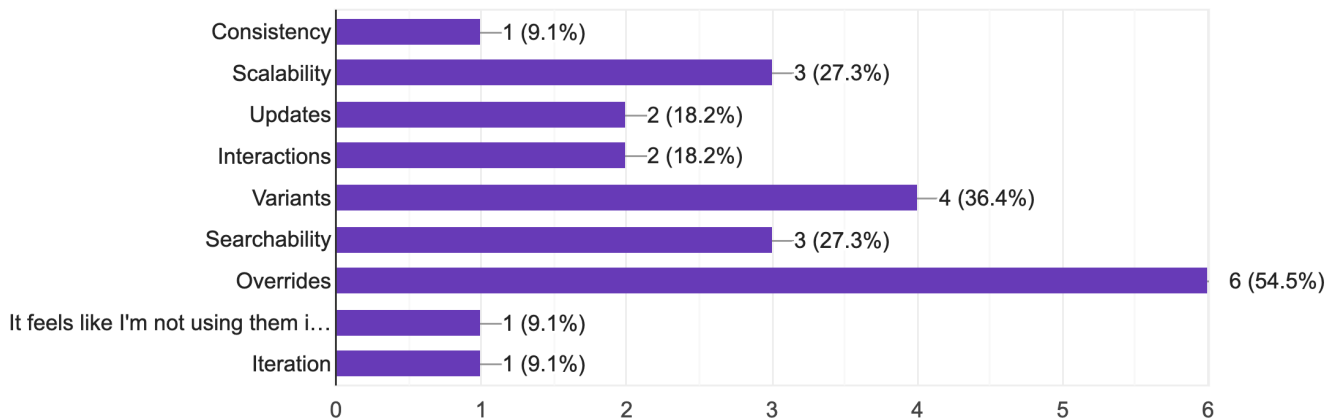


Pains

As expected, there is an inverse response to the previous, most noticed in the Consistency and Overrides options, but some fields strangely have similar numbers for pains and gains. I wonder if “updates” should have been “iteration”, since one respondent added that in as an “other” field, but they really mean the same thing.

What is difficult about components? (select all that apply)

11 responses



Workarounds

Main insight here is that if things are not going as hoped, the component is broken and abandoned. The only actual solutions are to create new ones or modify as needed.

What are your workarounds to those obstacles?

8 responses

None yet. I either use them or I don't.

Nothing super useful, just trying to keep everything named properly I guess!

I spend a set amount of time trying to learn something - but after a certain point I may resort to a manual solution due to time constraints and make a note to look into my issue later.

If a component is not working to what I need it to be working as, I end up exploding it to its individual elements and grouping them instead.

detach instance

Break the component

Create different sizes of components

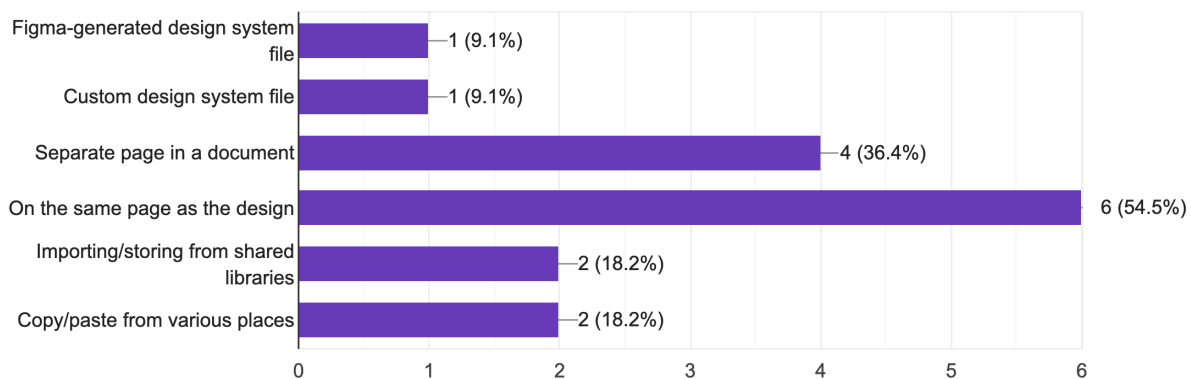
Modifying by myself when needed

Organization

Most users organize the component on the same page as the design, followed by storing them in a separate page of the document.

How do you organize components into your projects? (select all that apply)

11 responses

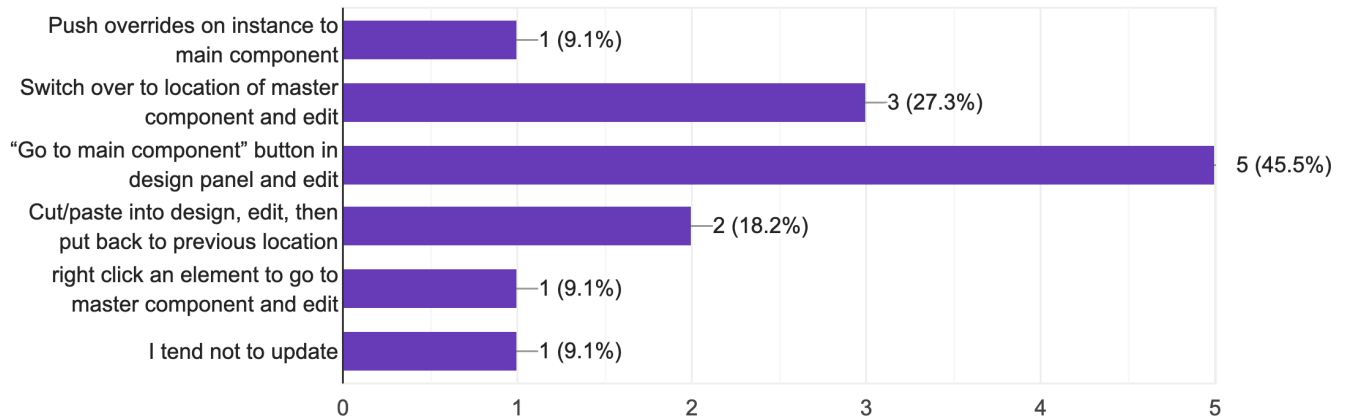


Updates

Using the “Go to main component” button is the most popular method to edit a master component, followed by switching to the location and finding it. Only 2 respondents said they move the file temporarily to edit in place.

What is your process for updating master components? (select all that apply)

11 responses



Plugins

None of the respondents use plugins

Can you list any plugins you use for components, and why?

2 responses

none

At the moment I don't use plugins

Experience Impact

Along with overall responses, I want to explore what the trends were for beginners versus what intermediate and senior designers, to see if maybe that impacts the responses.

Beginners

- Most are students
- Fairly even stats on use frequency
- Even stats on confidence levels, but only one selected “High”.
- No distinguishable relationship with usage and confidence, with some with higher use still having low confidence, and vice versa
- Organize components mostly same page in a document

Pains

- Scalability and overrides prevalent
- Searchability and Variants follow

Gains

- Consistency, updates, variants prevalent
- Scalability and searchability follow

Workarounds

- More overall reported workarounds
- Mostly detaching instances
- One mentioned naming
- One mention of creating different versions of a component

Insights

- Lower confidence overall but similar usage frequency
- Fewer reported pain points than higher level
- Most organize in separate page or same page as design
- Only 1 uses external location

Intermediate & Senior

- Most are students too
- Most use components often or moderately
- Only 1 low confidence level, one high, and the rest good or average
- Often use is correlated with Good and High confidence, but also a rare user reporting higher confidence than someone with higher use frequency
- Split between organizing components on the same page or separate page, versus some form of external design system file. The latter has a senior and both are frequent users of components.

Pains

- Variants and overrides prevalent
- Searchability and updates/iteration follow

Gains

- Consistency and scalability prevalent
- Updates and variants follow

Workarounds

- Breaking the component and modifying

Insights

- Higher confidence and use overall
- Pains and Gains per user are inverse relationships
- More utilization of external design system files