Designing with GitHub
Hi, I’m Steve
@orderedlist
How our Designers Work
Who are we?

28 designers, many disciplines
Native Applications
Desktop, iOS, Android
Illustration
Octocats, animations, branding
Print Material
Marketing, business ops
Video
Marketing, education, events
Research
User studies, product research
Words

Yes, words
In order to communicate **visually** to your users, you must be able to communicate **verbally** to your team.
Photoshop
Dem PSDs
Sketch

The software, and the book
Illustrator
Vector Victor
Web Browsers

Inspectors man...
Text Editors

Atom, Sublime, Emacs, etc.
Text Chat
Campfire, Hubot
Video Chat
Google Hangouts, BlueJeans
GitHub

Use GitHub to design GitHub
How we Collaborate
Design better together
Serendipitous Interactions
Great ideas from unexpected places
Annual Summit
Everyone in one place
Team Mini-summits

Strategy and planning
Face to Face Contact
Understand tone and personality
Remote Working

~70% of GitHub is remote
But Why?
Isn’t it easier to work in an office?
Good People are Everywhere

Limiting to geography is, well, limiting
243 GitHubbers

103 cities, as of 9pm yesterday
Freedom to Travel
Experience the world, while staying productive
Family Life
Allows for family freedom
Personal Happiness

Some people don’t want to live where you do, and that’s ok
But How?

How do you ensure productivity?
Remote First Mindset

Assume remote in most situations
Communication
Use your words
Asynchronous Workflows

Don’t assume people are available whenever you need
Text is the Best
Searchable, transcripts, notifications, etc.
Give People Time to Respond

Patience is a virtue, and all that
Chat Rooms
We have a lot of them
hmm... you may need to do this:
mkdir /Users/mattgraham/github/octicons-generator/.tmp/
It's on my list to figure out if that's a thing

This svg cannot be added because it contains more than one path.

you'll need to "expand" the path in illustrator
if you open the svg in a text editor, you'll see multiple 'path' elements inside it

got it
Everyone Uses Chat
Even if you’re in the office
/virtual office me

Video chat for that in-office experience
GitHub Team
Our Internal Status App
Don’t Email People

No history, terrible threading, it’s just bad
And of Course, GitHub

Communication with results
How we use GitHub
Ideas and workflows
Teams
Permissions, mentions, notifications
What do you think @github/design

github/design Design

github/desktop Desktop

github/guides guides

github/destinations Destinations

github/speakerdeck speakerdeck
Design-specific Repos

Repos aren’t just for code
Assets, sometimes
Not always, but it can be great
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SourceList</td>
<td>Make bookmark flippy flop thing shorter at 32px</td>
<td>14 days ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>graph-button-pressed.png</td>
<td>Moved mac assets to its own folder</td>
<td>7 months ago</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:graph-button-pressed@2x.png">graph-button-pressed@2x.png</a></td>
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Issues
For problems, not solutions
- **File Menu on the Mac**
  - Opened by mdiep 8 days ago
  - 8 comments

- **Displaying descriptions**
  - Opened by lukehefson 9 days ago
  - 5 comments

- **What does magic stashing look like in Desktop?**
  - Opened by robrix 12 days ago
  - 2 comments

- **Merge Conflicts - Never Forget**
  - Opened by shiftkey 18 days ago
  - 3 comments

- **Can we improve the message for merge conflicts when syncing?**
  - Opened by half-ogre 19 days ago
  - 3 comments
Design Documents and Projects
Keep an up-to-date record of current efforts
Markdown Files

Text with benefits
History

See changes to project direction over time
Discussion
See the thoughts that lead to conclusions
Pull Requests
A workflow for proposing changes
Woah, Woah, Woah
I don’t want to use Git
Deal with it, it’s not difficult
Let Me Show You

github.com/orderedlist/design-example-repo
Questions?
How Design Works
Features are Expensive

Creation, maintenance, complexity, real estate
Approachable is Better Than Simple

Simple ideas don’t mean simple execution
Mind Your Words
They are important
Communicate Concisely
Your customers deserve it
Communicate Thoughtfully

Your colleagues deserve it
Put Effort Into Your Words
They are more important than your designs
Speak Like a Human

Please
Non-blocking is Better Than Blocking

Don’t get in people’s way
Block by Interruption
Confirmation, popups, dialogs
Block by Overstimulation
Over-design, too many options, distractions
Block by Complication
Requiring too much from the user
Favor Focus Over Features

Say no to things
Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery
Anything Added Dilutes Everything Else

Be careful about additions
When many good ideas present themselves, it's easy to become distracted. Don't let good ideas get in the way of great execution.
Starting is Easy, Finishing is Hard

The process of shipping is incredibly difficult
Wrapping Up
A Few Key Points
Communication is Important
For your designs and your colleagues
Design Happens Anywhere
Not just your office
Backup Your Designs with Words

Keep those words meaningful and documented
Design Better Together
It’s better than designing alone
Questions?
Thank you!