DEV FIGMA TRAINING

Run by: Alex Maben

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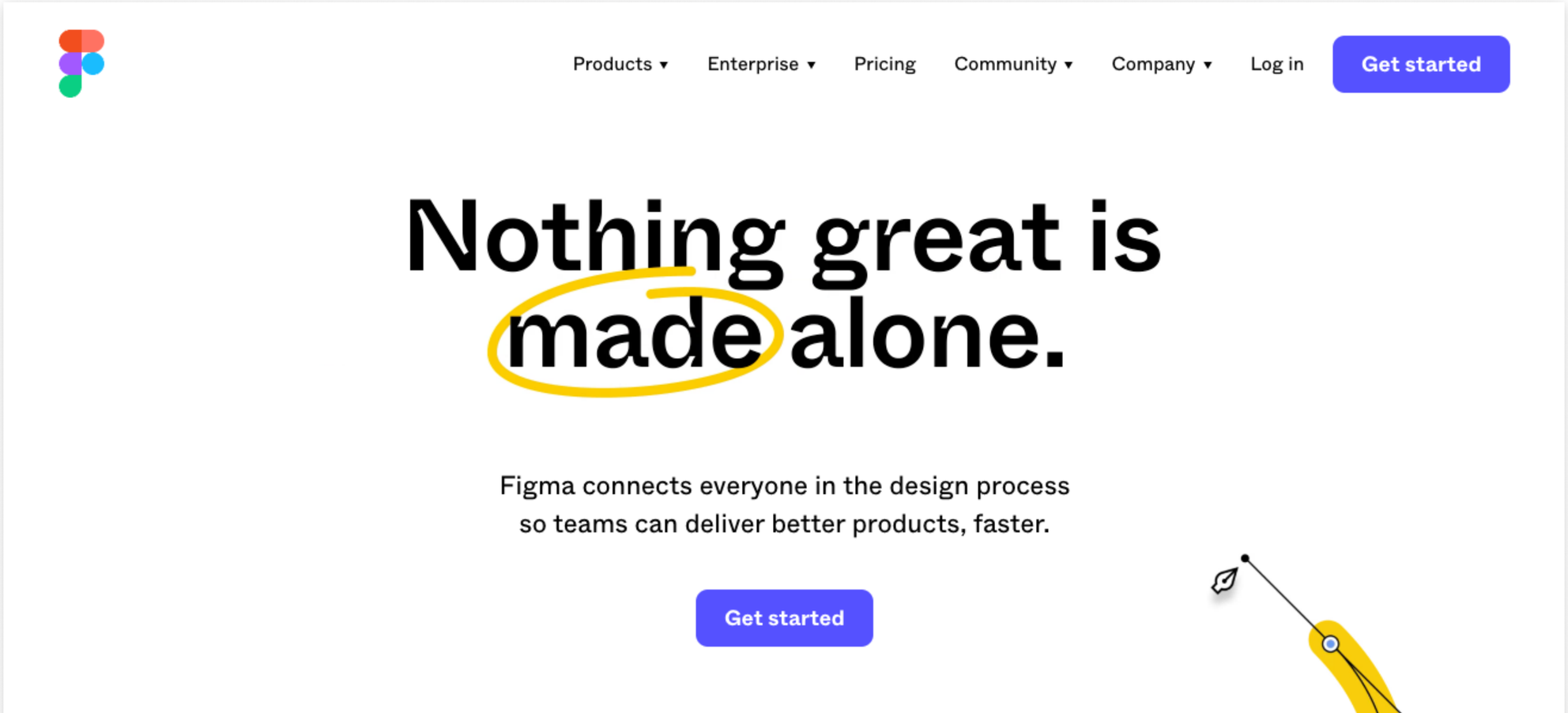
Intro to Figma

The way to fully utilize the power of Figma is to make use of its components, text, and color styles. Utilizing these library-level components allows us to remove one-offs and ensure consistency across the site. It’s up to all of us to ensure we’re adhering to the usage of our styles.



Expectations

For efficiency and consistency:

- Always refer to text & color styling and only refer to them by their defined names
- Thoroughly review designs, looking closely at each element on each screen for appropriate spacing, sizing, placement
- Account for all dev notes (usually sticky notes on the file): they are there for you and will likely answer many questions you may have about functionality, alignment, etc. Dev notes may call out changes, if this is an update to old work.
    - Moving forward, ideally, design should not have to call out specific spacing, text, or color styles in dev notes.
- Before sending something for official design QA (not just a quick check on something with a designer), look at the design closely. Are the fonts right? Colors? General alignment? Staging links should be close to perfect before coming to design for review, unless a different plan has specifically been discussed with design.

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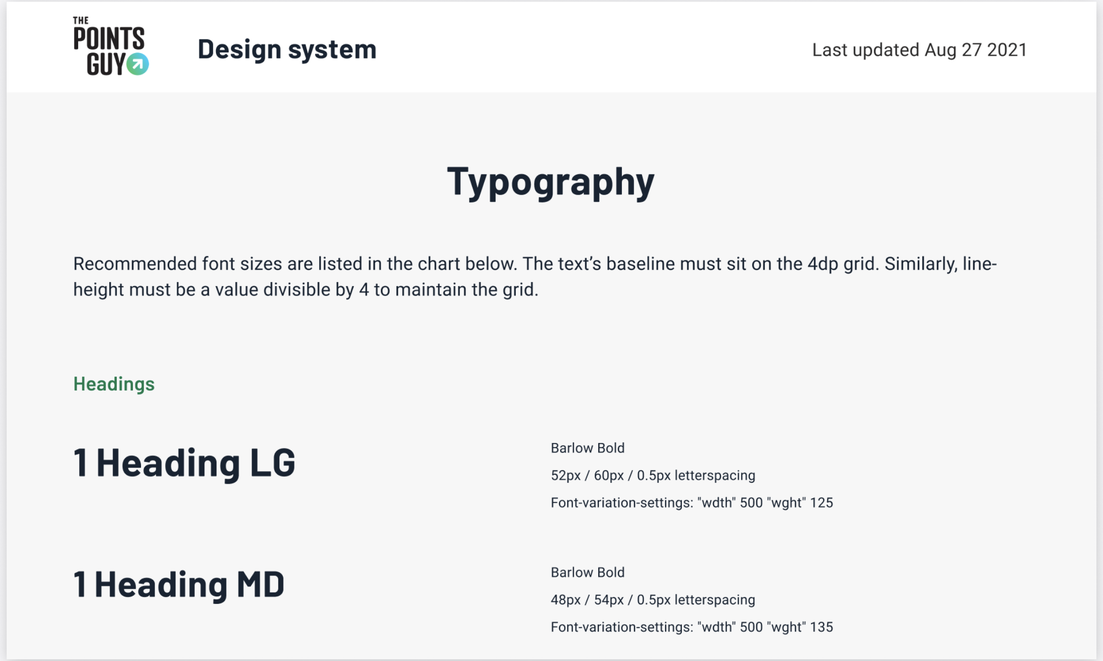
Text & Color - What

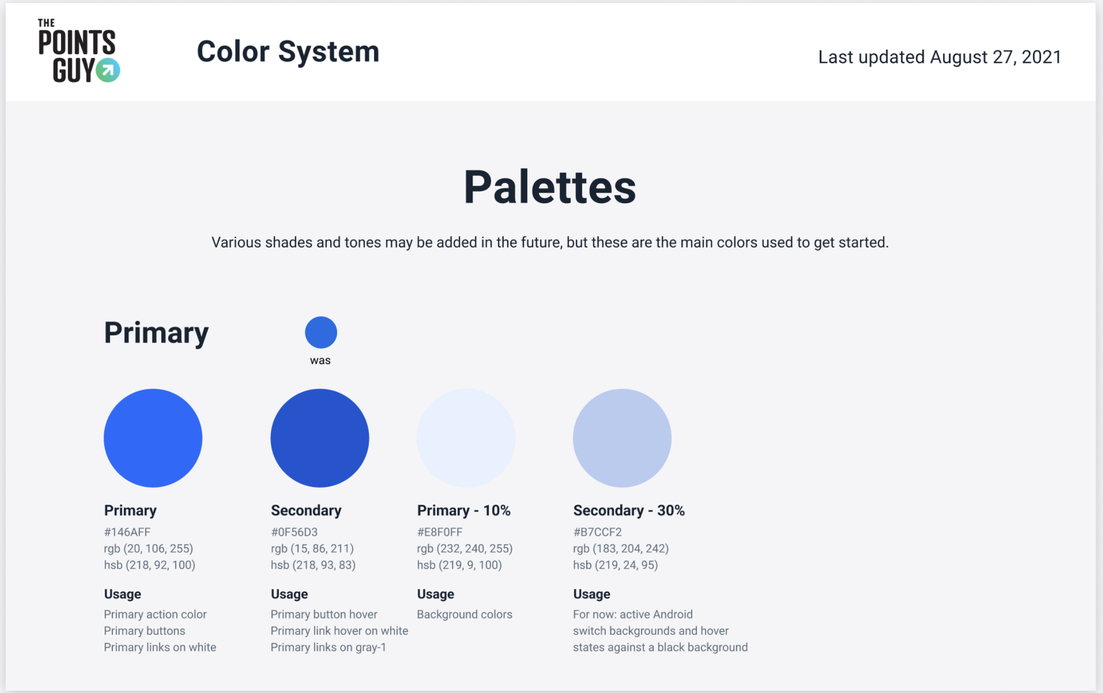
The creative team has defined colors and (site) text styles for the TPG brand (see links for the associated design file with the full list for each).

In all new work, we should be referencing these styles, and in QA/ discussion, we should similarly refer to these styles rather than individual attributions (ex: “Body/ MD” rather than “Roboto, regular, font-size 14px, line-height: 20px...”).

If you see something unattached, alert your designer.

Discussion point: Figma does not allow for variations in text style, so each distinct formatting (weight, size, decoration, line-height, etc.) requires a unique style. As such, in a file, you may see an unlocked text style. If that is the case, it is likely a match to a style, but we may have had to add an underline (etc.) which caused us to detach the style. Let’s chat about how we want to handle this.





Text & Color – How

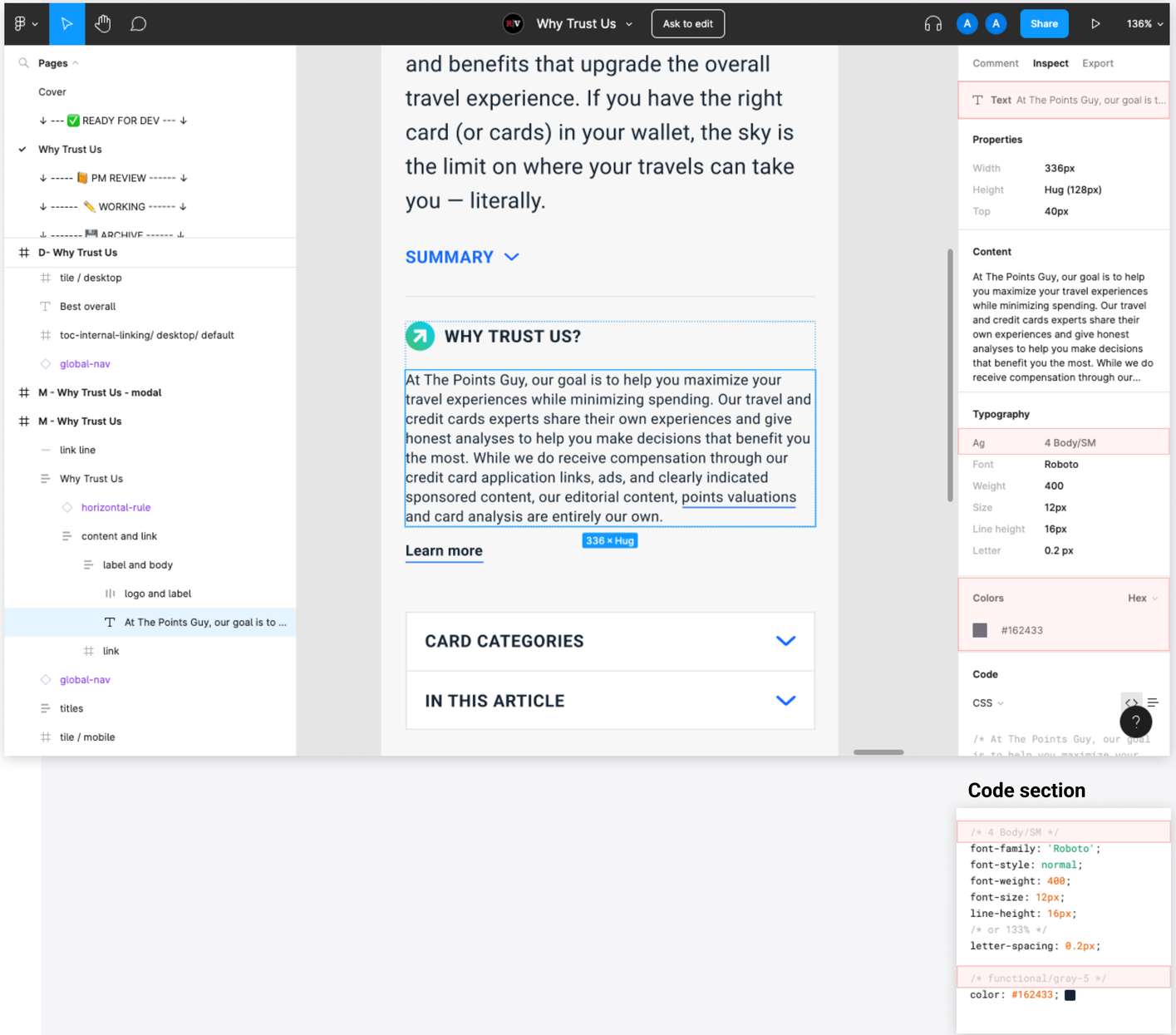
When inspecting a file, there are a few ways to determine the text and color style in use. All methods will be through the **Inspect** panel on the right side of the page.

Example: mobile “Why Trust Us” module’s main body content

To replicate, you need to directly select the desired element. You can do this on a Mac through the Layers panel (on the left) or by using “Cmd + click” to drill down into the component (some components will be easier to get to the desired element than others depending on the build).

Text styles: The text style can be found under the “Typography” section in the Inspect panel or written as a comment above the text styles in the code.

Color styles: The color style can only be found down in the “Code” section in the Inspect panel. You can see the color value (HSB, RGB, Hex, however it was defined) under “Colors” but the written color style is added as a comment above the color in the code.



Ignore this. It’s the layer name.

Text style name

Color hex
Note: Figma does not show the color style name here. You must scroll into the Code section and look at the comments.

Code section

```
/* 4 Body/SM */
font-family: 'Roboto';
font-style: normal;
font-weight: 400;
font-size: 12px;
line-height: 16px;
/* or 133% */
letter-spacing: 0.2px;
```

Text style name

```
/* functional/gray-5 */
color: #162433;
```

Color style name

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Spacing & Layout - What

LAYOUT

The creative team has **three screen sizes and three layout grids** that are the core of our designs. We design at the following screen sizes:

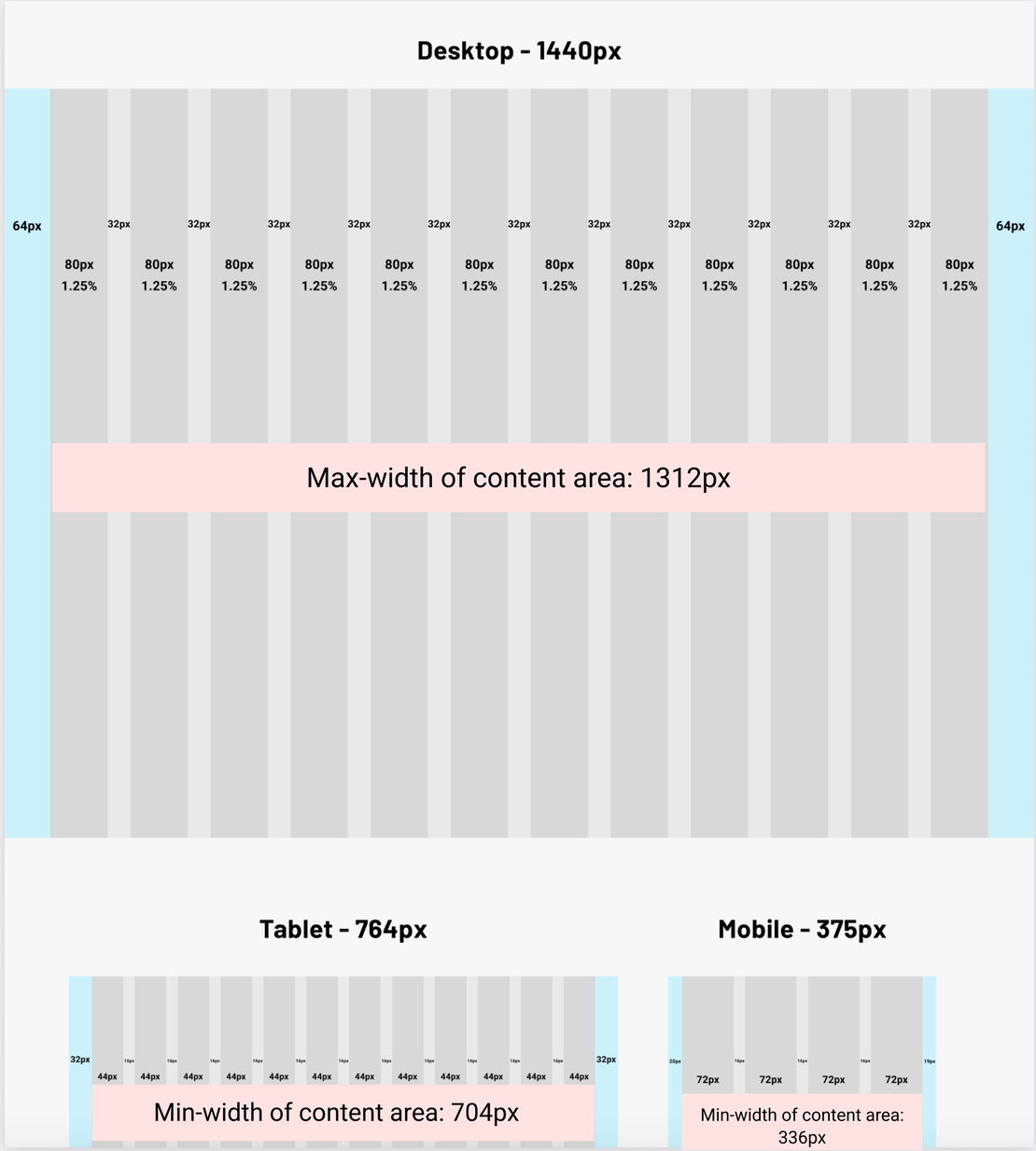
- Desktop: 1440px with a 12 column layout grid (considered the top of the range in terms of designs not widening any further once reaching this screen size) and external spacing of 64px minimum
- Tablet: 768px with a 12 column layout grid (considered the bottom of the range) and external spacing of 32px
- Mobile: 375px with a 4 column layout grid and external spacing of 20px (L) and 19px (R) (considered the bottom of the range)

Note: The main purpose of the layout grid is placement/ sizing of top level components (example the white container behind the Card Compare Results is 12 columns on desktop/ tablet). Much internal spacing inside of an element will be implied spacing (based on the rules below). Reach out to your designer, if you are unsure.

SPACING

The creative team has defined **spacing** in multiples/ divisions of 8px. Most typically we use whole number multipliers, but there are a few cases of half values (ex: 20px (8*2.5) and 24px (8*3) are both used). You should never use an odd value. On the lower end, 4px, 2px, and 0px are also used.

Note: Sometimes Figma can shift slightly or be a little unclear, but you should always round to the value that makes most sense (21 = 20, 23 = 24, 31 = 32, etc.). If you're every uncertain: reach out to the designer for the project.



Spacing - How

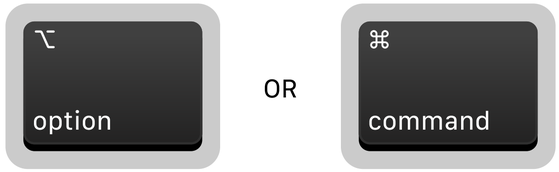
When inspecting a file, the main way to determine spacing between related elements is to select one element and hover your cursor over the other.

Alternative: select one element and hold “Option” while hover to break through grouping (sometimes depending on the level of nesting going on, you need to target more specifically). Or hold “Command” to see the top grouping/ direct select a top level-layer.

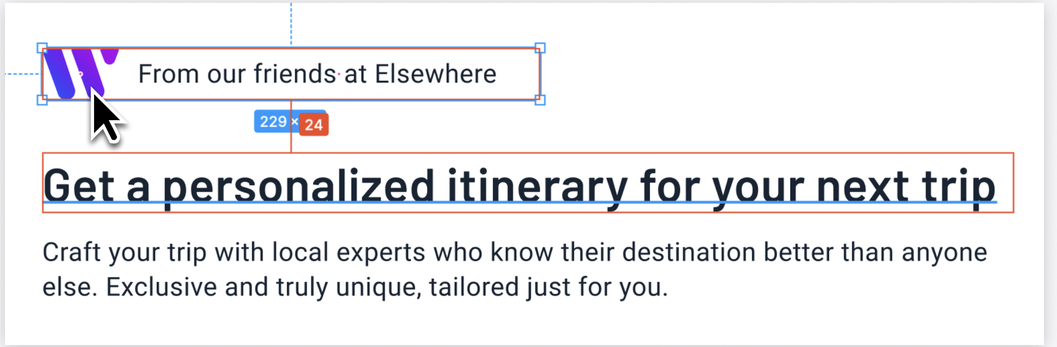
Again, always round or reach out to your designer if you need clarification from an unexpected value.

Additionally, in a row of related elements (ex: TPG logo & “Why Trust Us” in example to the right), you’ll want to be sure you are targeting the larger of the two items for proper spacing as it can differ.

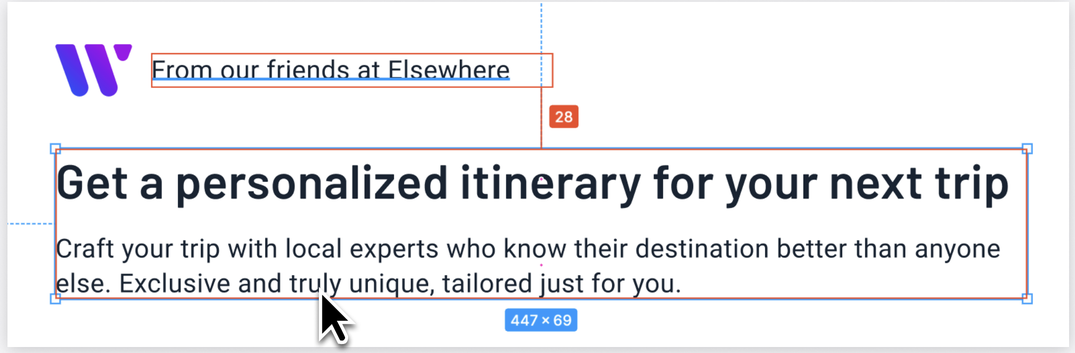
If you see the elements grouped in the layers panel, you can always assume that this rule applies. If they are not grouped and it has a treatment similar to this, chances are this is in error, so, reach out to your designer for a fix.



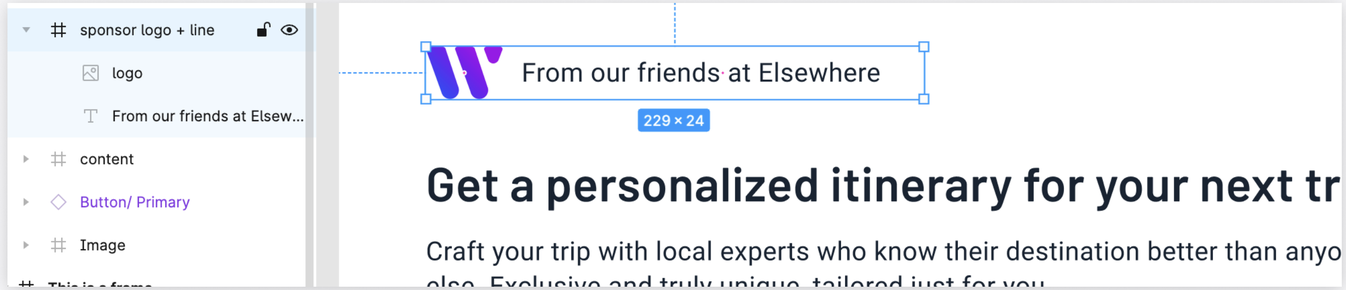
Correct spacing targeting logo



Incorrect spacing targeting text



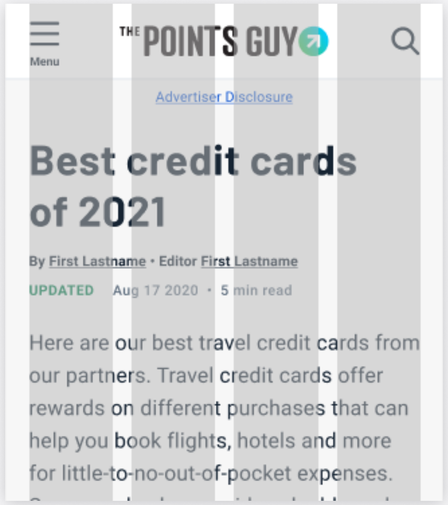
Grouped element (via a frame)

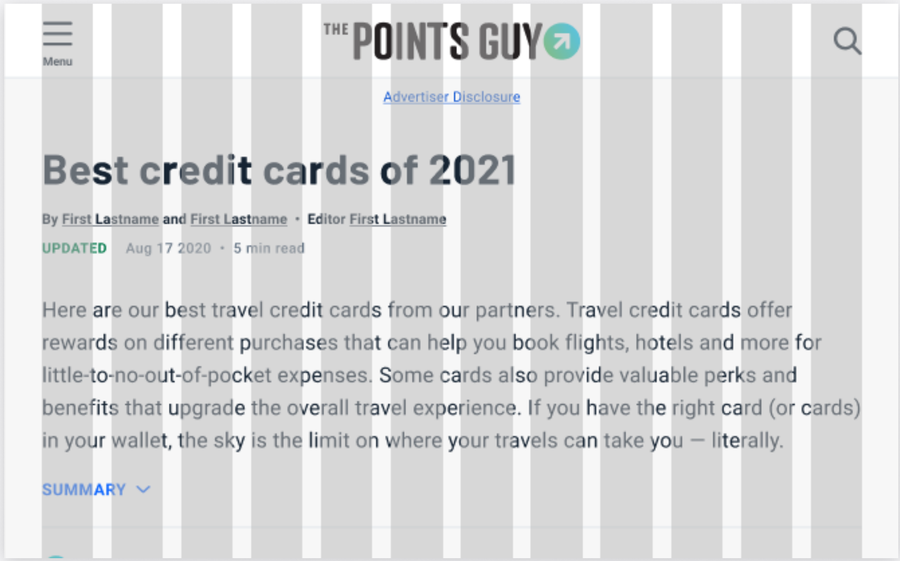


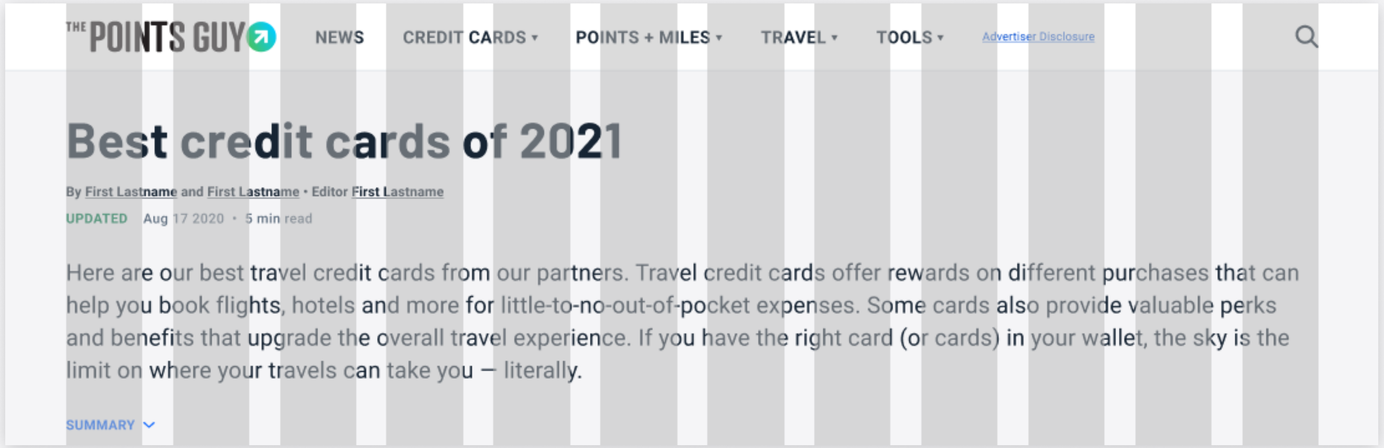
Layout - How

To turn on the layout grid so that it can be seen over top of the designs. hold “Shift + G”. This is a toggle and you can turn it off and on this way. If it does not show for a particular design, but it is showing for others, reach out to the project’s designer: they can fix this for you.

Unfortunately, there is no way to measure off of the layout grids. That’s a limitation of Figma. If you need to see the distance from a layout grid column to something and it’s not defined some other way (via dev notes or a comment), reach out to your designer for clarification.







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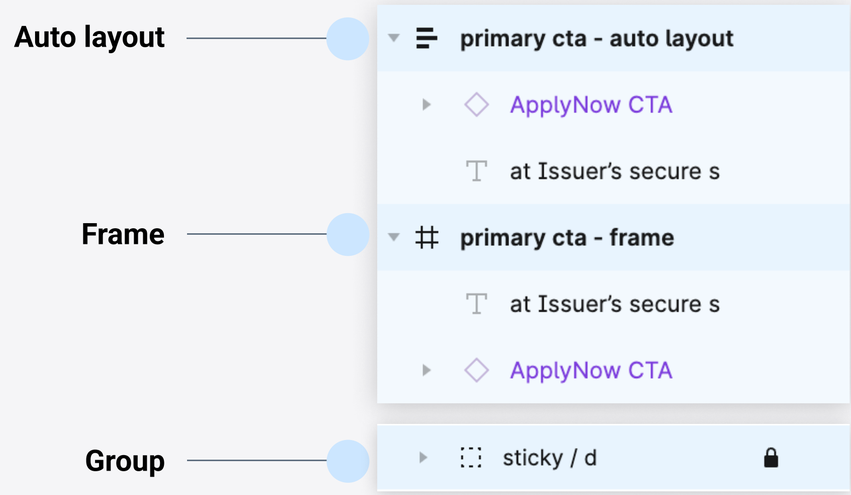
Auto Layout - What

Auto layout is a property that can be added to frames and components that allow designers to create designs that grow to fill or shrink to fit and reflow as their content changes. It gives us better control over the dimensions and distribution of the objects inside a frame.

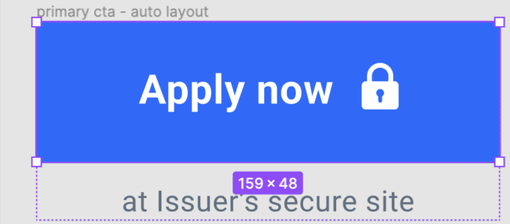
Can set vertical or horizontal auto layout. Can set it for fixed width/height, hug contents, or fill container.

You can recognize when auto layout is in use in three ways:

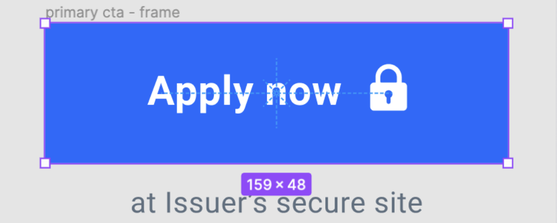
1. Check the Layers panel for the auto layout icon
2. Direct select an element — if it only shows handles around that specific element, it's a frame or a group. If it selects that element but also shows a dotted line around other elements, it's using auto layout and is a nested element.
3. Will be commented in the Code section of the Inspect panel



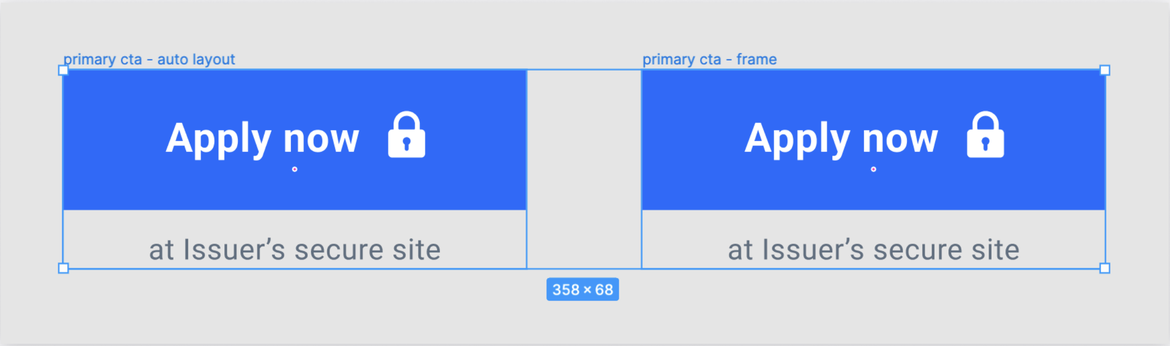
Auto layout - direct select



Frame - direct select



Both - top level select



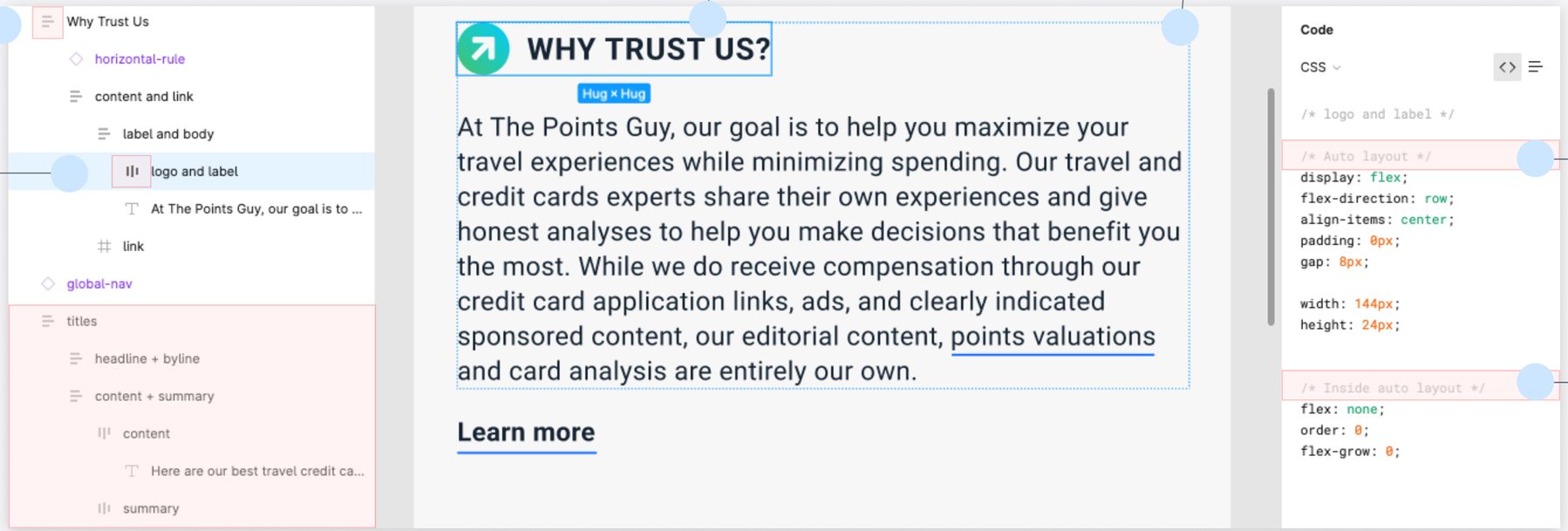
Selected element - solid handles

It's nested auto layout frame - dotted lines

Vertical auto layout

Horizontal auto layout

Nested auto layout



Code call out

Code call out

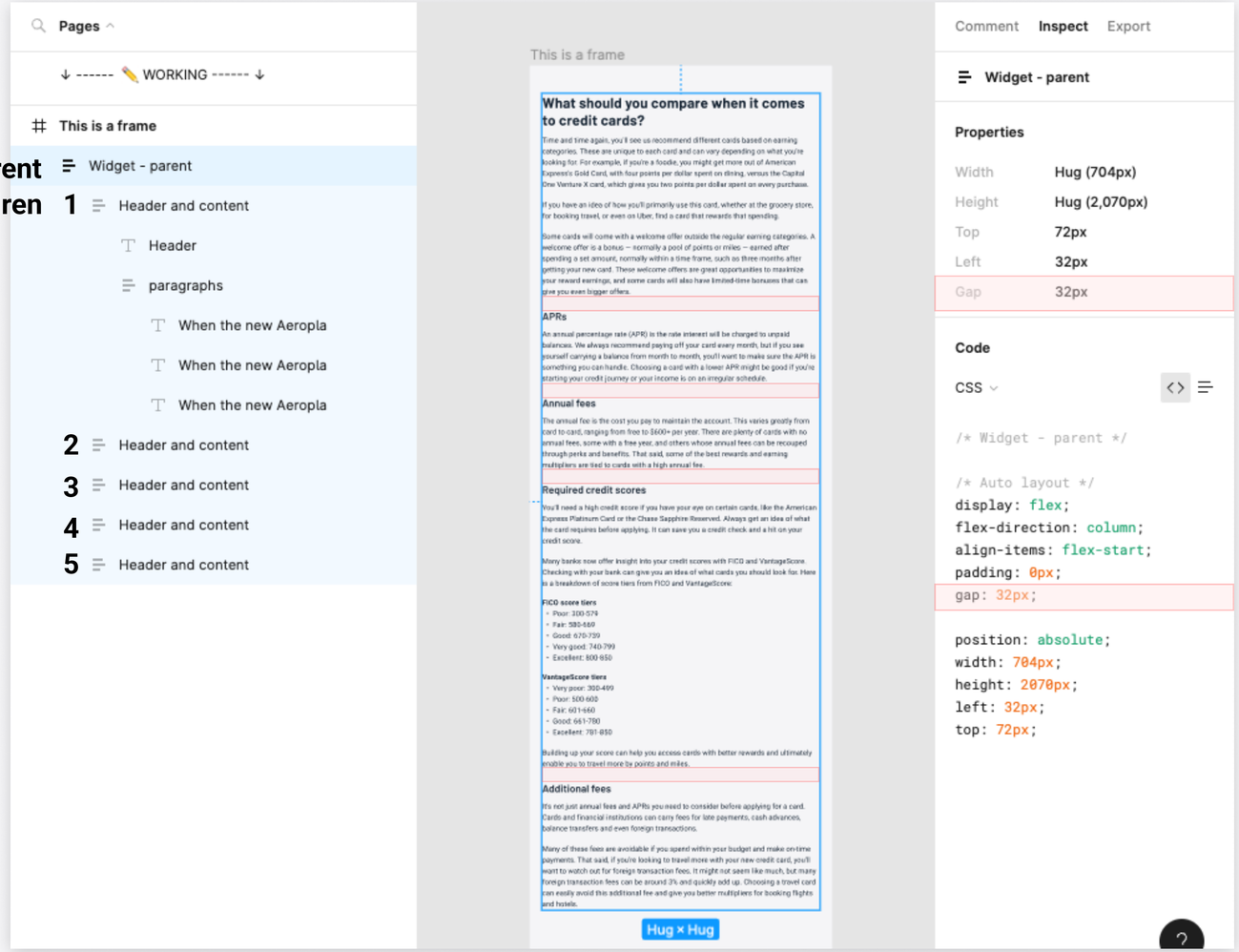
Auto Layout - How

To check for spacing when a nested element is using auto layout, you can still check for spacing the same way you do when auto layout isn't in use, however sometimes it can be harder to find the whole values.

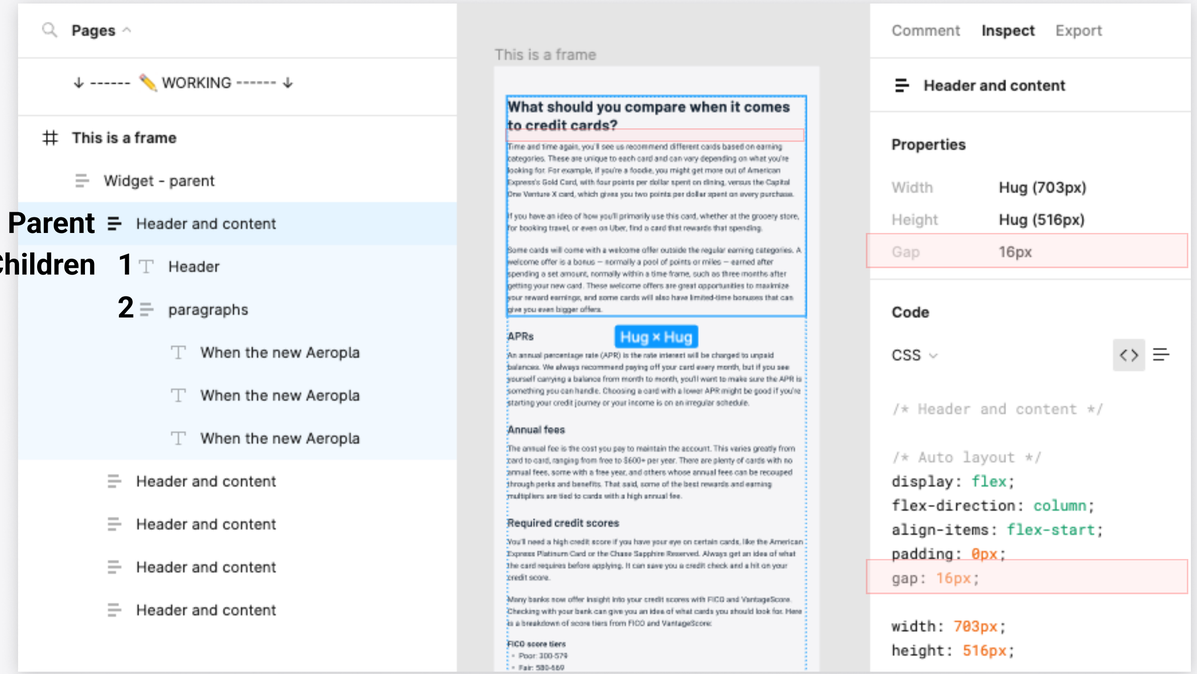
TWO METHODS

1. **Use the "Gap" property in the Inspect panel under the "Properties" section or the "Code" section.** Please note that this method will require you to select **individual nested auto layout components** (not the individual component) to get all spacing values, but will always give the correct, whole values.
   a. This value will change depending on what parent element you've selected.
2. **Regular space measuring method (select and element and hover for measurements).** Please note that this method works well if the auto layout is used for simple things (all vertical auto layout text, for example) but may not work if the design is mixing horizontal and vertical auto layout elements. You may start to have problems getting whole numbers/ properly targeting elements.

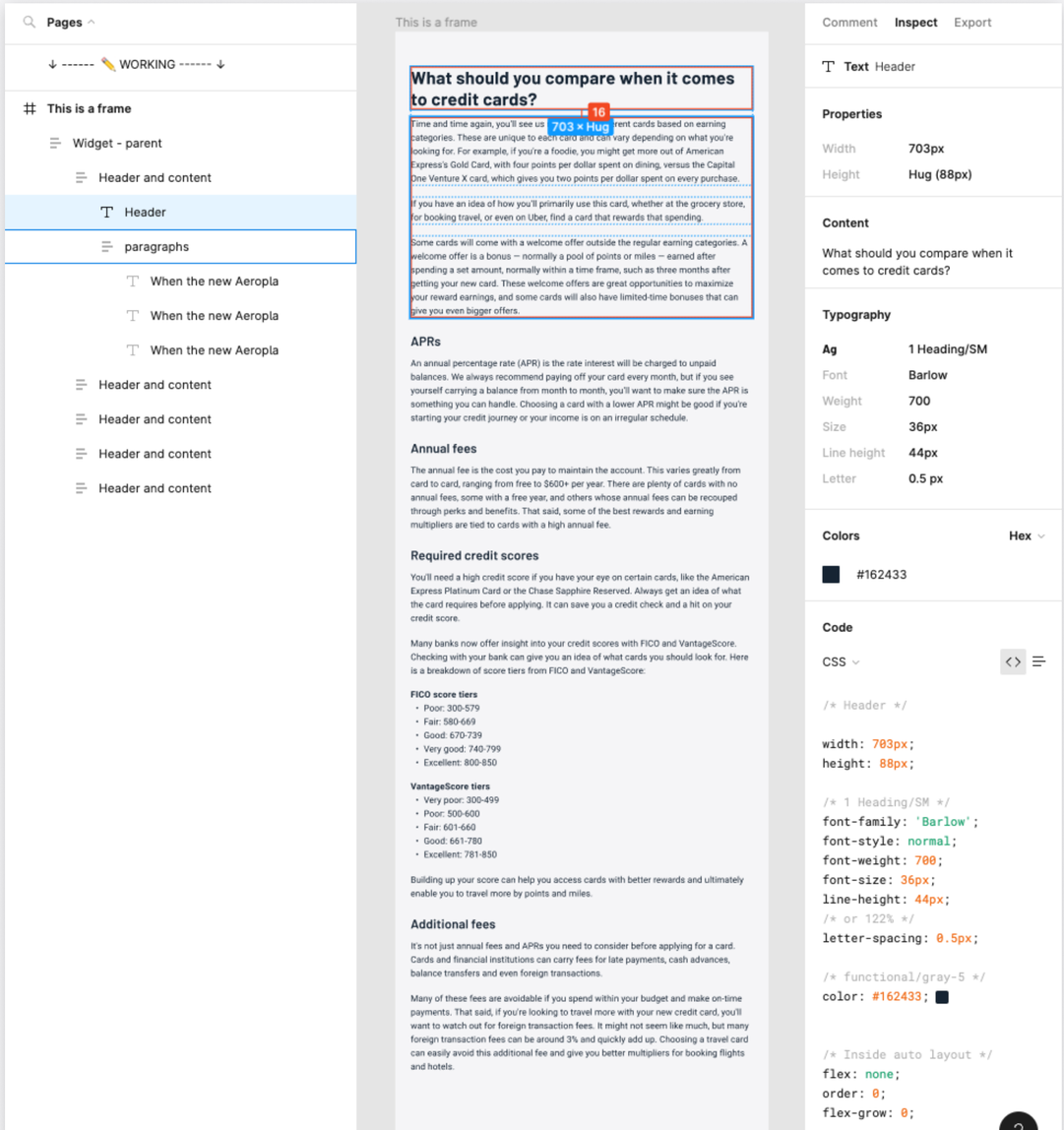
Example 1 : In this example, I have the top level parent selected. It has 5 first children. The gap is referring to the spacing between only the first children. The red in the design represents the 32px of spacing called out by the gap value.



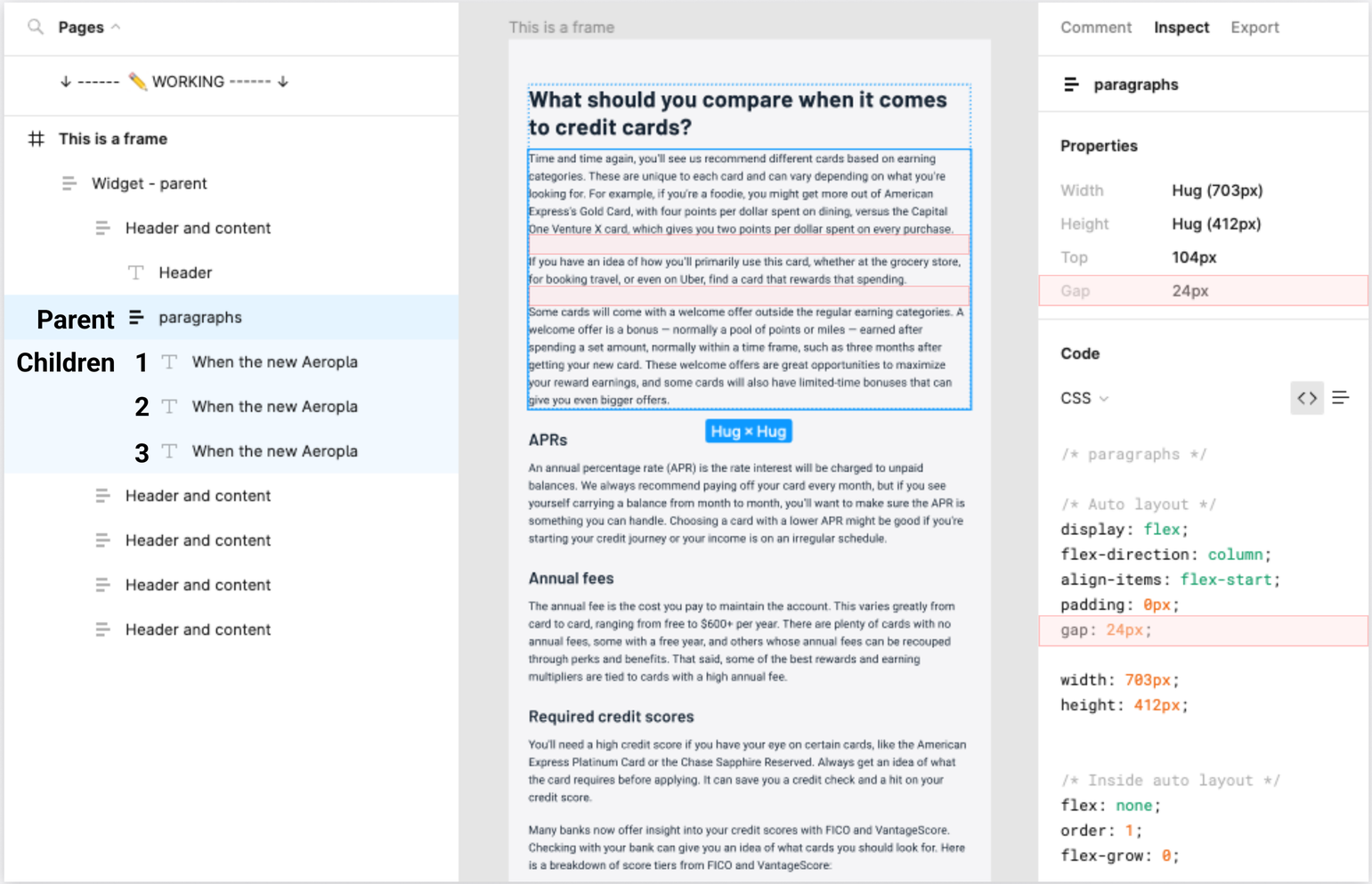
Example 2a: In this example, I have selected a nested parent. It has 2 first children. The gap is referring to the spacing between only the first children. The red in the design represents the 16px of spacing called out by the gap value.



Example 2b: In this example, you can still direct select the header and hover over the paragraph below. You can still see the 16px spacing. However, note that it's not called out in the Inspect panel since you haven't selected an auto layout element. This is also a simple example since all layouts are vertical.

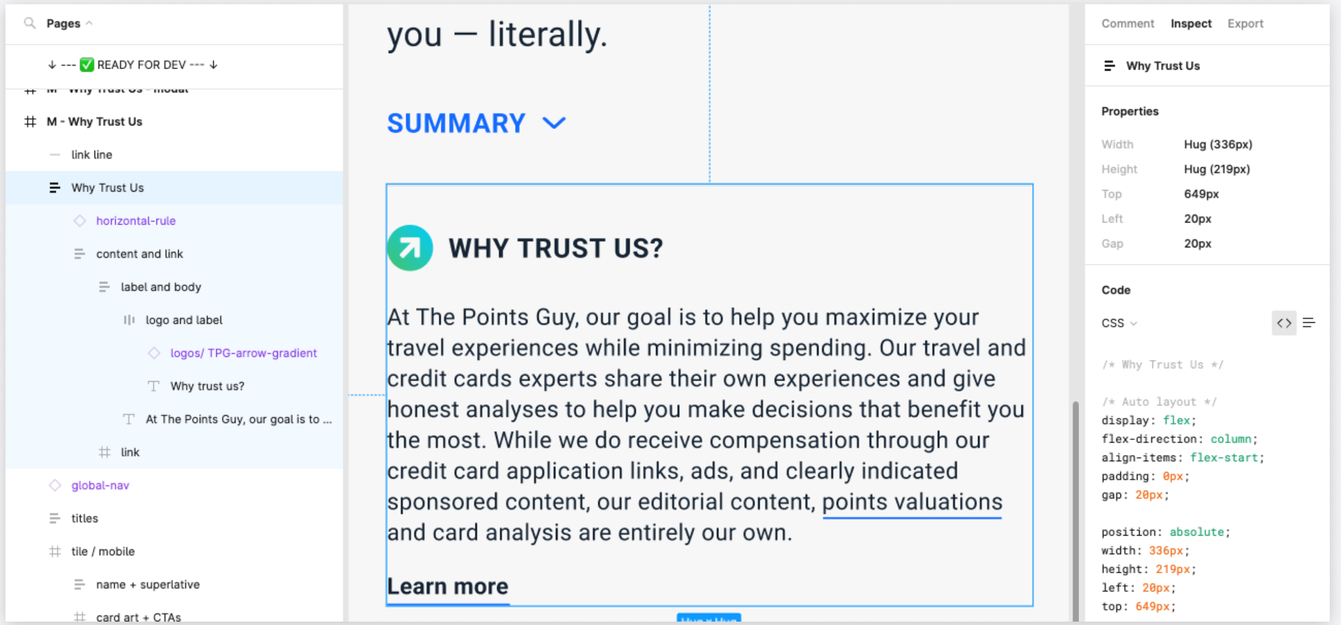


Example 3: In this example, I have selected a nested parent. It has 3 first children. The gap is referring to the spacing between only the first children. The red in the design represents the 24px of spacing called out by the gap value.

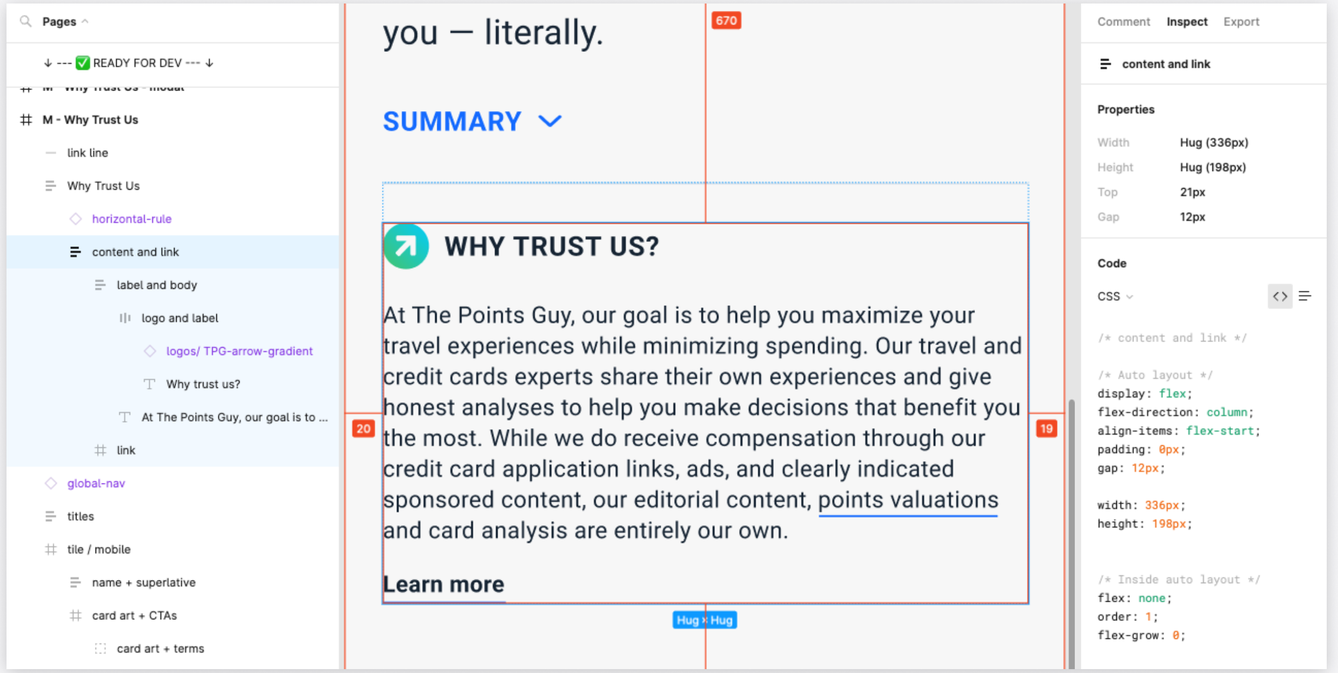


HARDER EXAMPLE

Where is the 20px applied?



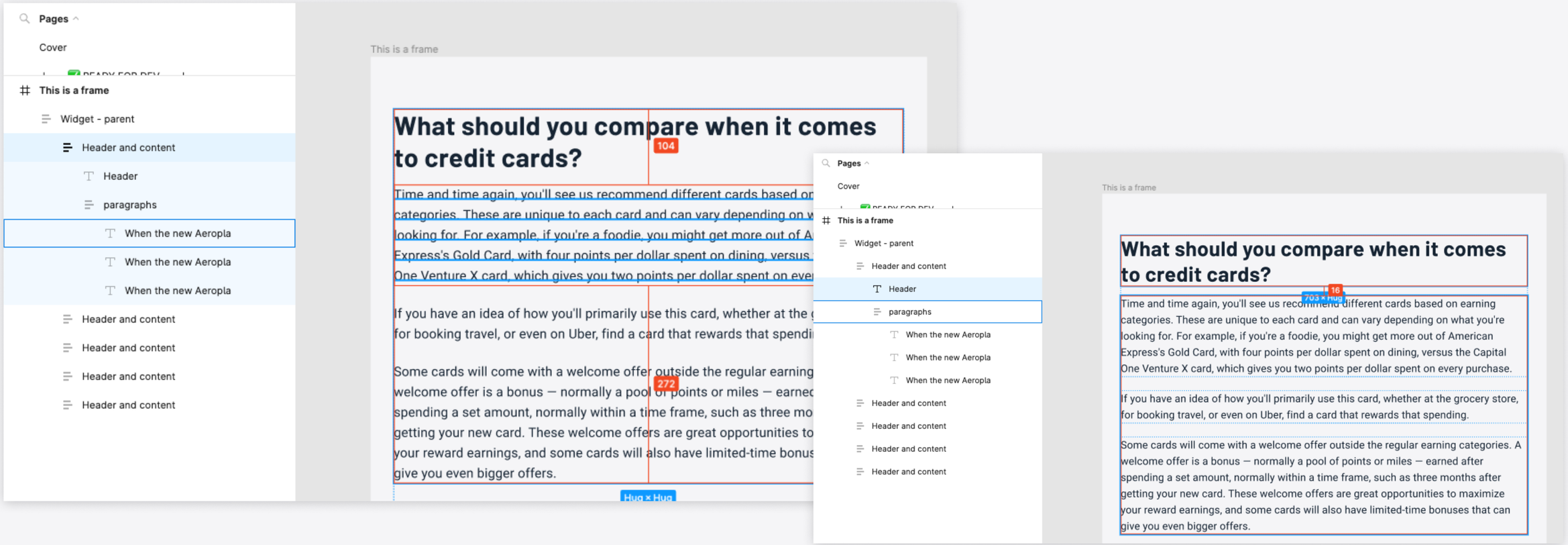
Where is the 12px applied?



WARNING

Note: You have to be careful what you select/ how you are trying to measure elements. Follow the examples I've given. If you try to use a method outside what has been defined, you will struggle to find the correct values.

In this example, you selected the "Header and container" parent from the layer panel and then tried to measure using the hover method. Because you are not inside of the nested elements/ on a child element, you won't be able to see the distance from the first paragraph to the header. Where as if you select the "Header" directly through layers or on the design, you can use the measure method. **This is the same for frames and groups, as well. If you're unable to find a measurement, you are selecting things incorrectly.**



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Exports - How

You are able to set literally anything you need as an export and can determine what file type you need.

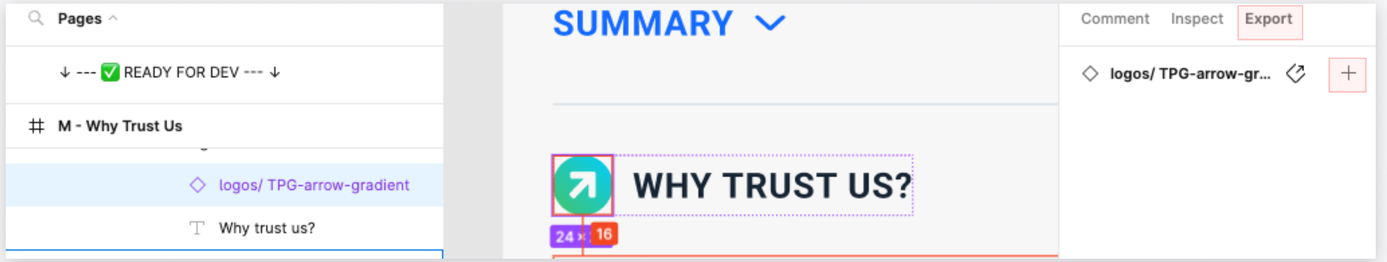
Navigate to the “Export” tab of the Inspect panel.

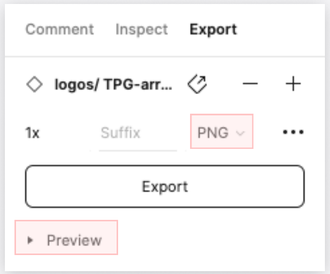
Select all of what you need. Press the + sign.

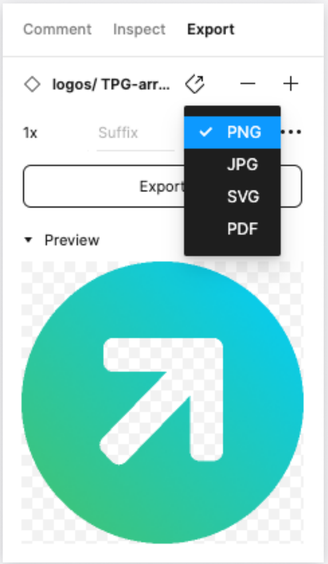
You can change the file type via the dropdown.

You can turn on a preview to see what is being exported.

Note: If you need something that isn’t properly grouped, contact your designer so they can get it properly grouped so you can export it properly.







QUESTIONS?

THE POINTS GUY