

DESIGNER & DEVELOPER COLLABORATION TOOLS

Designers and Developers. The beating heart of any web project. So often at odds with each other yet working together to produce experiences on the web that impact us all day by day.

There are no magic bullets when it comes to getting designers and developers to work well together. You need to foster a culture of collaboration and education within your team and unfortunately, there are no quick fixes for that.

What you can do is stream line the process and make those parts of your culture easy and even fun. Tools can help here.

Here are a few we use and rate highly for collaborating.

1. Slack

<http://slack.com>

Slack is an outstanding Instant Messaging Platform for teams. It make communicating a breeze, no more email, no more calls. You find your files search your archives. It's amazing.

What Really sets slack apart is the number of integrations it has with other pieces of software and services.

2. Asana

<http://asana.com>

Asana is a fantastic task and project management tool that lets you assign tasks and their subtasks to people with due dates, files, calendars and conversations all tied into one nice UI. Another great feature is its integration library with other tools, particularly InstaGantt with producing project timelines and dependency trees.



3. Trello

<http://trello.com>

Trello is, like Asana, primarily a project management tool. Instead of having a long list of tasks that need to be performed in a project Trello has a series of Boards with tasks on each board. The Board's represent a stage in the accomplishment of that tasks. usually Waiting, Doing, QA and Done. The project is finished when everything is done.

It's a great system for keeping track of what piece of functionality is where in the development process.

4. InVision

<http://invisionapp.com>

InVision is a design collaboration and prototyping tool. By uploading your designs and creating a prototype in the InVision system you can see the holes in the user journey and where things need to be thought out more.

This is almost as good as a living specification document and gives developers a chance to ask questions directly on the design.

5. Google Docs

<http://docs.google.com>

Fantastic collaboration suite when working with multiple people from multiple companies. We use it to produce a spec document and a record of the project as it goes. Anyone who asks a question during the project has a responsibility to update the project specification to share that knowledge across the team.

6. DoneDone

<http://getdonedone.com>

Bugs Happen. Usually there are email streams back and forward between multiple people trying to sort them, things get messy, important issues get missed. But, there is a better way.

We use DoneDone as a bug tracker. Designers and project managers input the bugs and issues into the system, they are assigned to a developer and actioned. Bugs have individual histories, statuses, priorities and due dates. It takes something potentially very confusing and makes it easy.

7. Zeplin

<http://zeplin.io>

Great tool for hand-off between designers and developers. Helps designers document and simplify their work while producing assets for developers to use in the project. Works great with Sketch (our preferred design tool) and is in beta with Photoshop.

These are a few of the tools we use at Powered By Coffee to pull off successful WordPress Development Projects where collaboration between the design and the developer of the project is key.

We hope you find them useful.

How are you getting on with your development team? Do they keep to time and budget? Do you know what they're working on today?

We hope this help you make progress on your development projects and that your life becomes easier. if you have any questions about what our process then send me an email at **stewart@poweredbycoffee.co.uk**. Wether you have a question about how to rescurce a project that has gone down the drain, how to collaborate better with your dev team, have a rant about what your developers are doing wrong, or if you'd like to work on a project with us - I respond to them all.



Stewart Ritchie
Director & Lead Developer
stewart@poweredbycoffee.co.uk