

NovaCorp · Designer Home Assignment

5-Day Sprint Plan

Ship the assignment in one focused work week — 4 screens, design system snippet, walkthrough.

SPRINT GOAL

By Friday EOD: submit 4 hi-fi screens (Compliance Overview, Data Quality Report, Invoice Detail, Root Cause Analysis), a design-system snippet, and a 1-page walkthrough that frames every decision around “benchmarking starts with data cleaning.”

Deliverable checklist

Deliverable	Format	Owner
Screen 1 · Compliance Overview	Figma / PDF	You
Screen 2 · Data Quality Report	Figma / PDF	You
Screen 3 · Invoice Detail / Exception View	Figma / PDF	You
Screen 4 · Root Cause Analysis	Figma / PDF	You
Design System snippet (tokens + components)	Figma / PDF	Already drafted
Walkthrough (≤ 5-min video or 1-page doc)	MP4 / DOCX	You

Sprint shape

One week, five days, eight focused hours per day. Mornings are convergent (decisions, design); afternoons are divergent (research, exploration, polish).

Day	Theme	Headline outcome
Mon	Research & IA	User stories + sitemap locked + lo-fi sketches for all 4 screens
Tue	Wireframes	Mid-fi wireframes for all 4 screens; chart types decided
Wed	Hi-fi sprint A	Screen 1 (Compliance Overview) + Screen 2 (Data Quality) shipped
Thu	Hi-fi sprint B	Screen 3 (Invoice Detail) + Screen 4 (Root Cause) shipped + states added
Fri	Walkthrough & submit	Walkthrough recorded, files exported, final QA,

Day	Theme	Headline outcome
		submit

Day 1 · Monday — Research & Information Architecture

MON Research & IA		DAILY INTENT <i>Understand the user, the domain, and the visual reference before drawing anything pixel-precise.</i>
Morning · 4h		Afternoon · 4h
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the brief twice; mark every MUST and SHOULD. • Study ZoomInfo for 45 min — capture 8–10 reference screenshots into a moodboard. • Scan 2 competitors (AppZen, Vic.ai or Coupa) for 30 min — note what's standard vs differentiated. • Write 3 user stories per persona (Procurement, Finance, Ops Analyst). • List the top 5 jobs-to-be-done across all 3 personas. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft a 1-page sitemap covering Phase 1 / 2 / 3 + the 4 required screens. • Sketch lo-fi wireframes (paper or Figma blocks) for all 4 screens — 20 min/screen. • Decide chart types: waterfall (S1), score gauge (S2), line-item table (S3), Pareto (S4). • Pick global filter set: Vendor / Date / Geography / Contract / Service Level. • Write down 3 differentiators you'll lean into (AI transparency, before/after, drill-down).
Deliverables by EOD		Watch-outs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Moodboard saved (8–10 ZoomInfo refs). <input type="checkbox"/> User stories doc · 3 personas × 3 = 9 stories. <input type="checkbox"/> Sitemap PDF or screenshot. <input type="checkbox"/> Lo-fi sketches for all 4 screens. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't start hi-fi yet — temptation to skip wireframes is the #1 risk. • Don't research forever. Time-box ZoomInfo to 45 min. • Make sure every screen connects to the next via clear drill-down.

Day 2 · Tuesday — Wireframes

TUE Wireframes		DAILY INTENT <i>Lock layout, hierarchy, and chart choices in mid-fi grayscale before committing to color and components.</i>
Morning · 4h		Afternoon · 4h
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert lo-fi sketches into mid-fi wireframes in Figma using grey blocks only. • Screen 1: KPI row → waterfall + ranking → vendor table + filters. • Screen 2: before/after gauges → issue 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen 3: invoice header band → tabs (Audit/Lines/Exceptions/Contract) → exception cards + AI panel. • Screen 4: category cards grid → Pareto → AI insights → 4-quarter trend.

<p>breakdown → ingestion log + agentic pipeline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add interaction notes (sticky comments) where hover/drill-down behavior matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-review against the brief: do all MUSTs appear on the page? • Sketch one realistic edge case per screen (currency mismatch, partial-data warning). • End-of-day: walk through the 4 screens out loud as if presenting.
Deliverables by EOD	Watch-outs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-fi wireframes for all 4 screens. <input type="checkbox"/> Brief checklist annotated 100% complete. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 edge case sketched per screen. <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal walkthrough captured (voice memo, 3–5 min). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resist applying color or styling — wireframes stay grayscale. • If a screen feels empty, the IA is wrong. Fix it before tomorrow. • Avoid duplicating elements across screens — each screen earns its place.

Day 3 · Wednesday — Hi-fi Sprint A (Screens 1 + 2)

WED Hi-fi A	<p><small>DAILY INTENT</small> <i>Apply the design system. Build the dashboard tone-setter. Quality bar: pixel-precise, ZoomInfo-grade.</i></p>	
Morning · 4h	Afternoon · 4h	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Figma styles from your design-system tokens (color, type, spacing, radius). • Build the dark sidebar component once — reuse on every screen. • Screen 1 hi-fi: KPI row, filter bar, waterfall, vendor ranking, vendor table, AI insight panel. • Show one filter applied state (chip + selected row). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen 2 hi-fi: before/after gauges (67 → 94), issue breakdown, agentic pipeline (with amber pause), ingestion log. • Component pass: extract reusable badge, chip, table-row, KPI card, AI panel. • Show the AI three-state pattern at least once (Flag / Suggest / Auto-resolve). • Self-critique: open both screens at 50% zoom — does hierarchy still read? 	
Deliverables by EOD	Watch-outs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Screen 1 hi-fi at 1280px wide. <input type="checkbox"/> Screen 2 hi-fi at 1280px wide. <input type="checkbox"/> Reusable components extracted in Figma library. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 hover state captured on each screen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't over-decorate — clarity over decoration. • If a chart is hard to read at 50%, simplify it. • Keep purple for AI only. Status colors only on badges/dots. 	

Day 4 · Thursday — Hi-fi Sprint B (Screens 3 + 4) + States

THU Hi-fi B	DAILY INTENT <i>Finish the workflow loop. Add the states that show product-thinking maturity.</i>	
Morning · 4h	Afternoon · 4h	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen 3 hi-fi: invoice header band, line-item Invoiced-vs-Expected table, exception cards, AI batch-recovery panel. • Add audit trail at bottom + Prev/Next invoice navigation. • Highlight one specific edge case (currency mismatch with FX evidence). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen 4 hi-fi: category cards grid (8 categories), Pareto chart, AI pattern insights (3 types), trend line card. • Add Frequency vs Financial Impact toggle on the Pareto. • States pass: empty (Screen 1 no data), loading skeleton (Screen 2), error/partial (Screen 4). • End-of-day cross-screen QA: navigation, color usage, type, spacing rhythm. 	
Deliverables by EOD	Watch-outs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Screen 3 hi-fi at 1280px wide. <input type="checkbox"/> Screen 4 hi-fi at 1280px wide. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 states drawn (empty, loading, error). <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-screen consistency review checklist signed off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't add new components today — only use what's in the system. • If you're tight on time, drop polish but don't drop states — they're a differentiator. • Keep the recommended action specific and dollar-anchored on every exception. 	

Day 5 · Friday — Walkthrough & Submission

FRI Submit	DAILY INTENT <i>Show your thinking. The artifact is good; the walkthrough is what wins the interview.</i>	
Morning · 4h	Afternoon · 4h	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine the walkthrough doc — frame every decision around the guiding principle. • Tighten the design-system snippet (1 page: tokens + 6 hero components). • Export all 4 screens as PNG (2x) and PDF. • Build the 1-page submission doc that links Figma + walkthrough + system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record a 4-minute video walkthrough (Loom): goal → IA → screen-by-screen → AI thinking → close. • Final QA against the evaluation rubric (see Final QA below). • Re-read the brief one last time — confirm every MUST is met. • Submit. Send the email. Take a breath. 	
Deliverables by EOD	Watch-outs	

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-page walkthrough doc finalized. <input type="checkbox"/> Design-system snippet exported. <input type="checkbox"/> All 4 screens exported (PNG 2x + PDF). <input type="checkbox"/> Loom recording (≤ 5 min). <input type="checkbox"/> Submission email sent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't redesign on Friday — only polish. • If your video runs over 5 minutes, cut. Brevity = confidence. • Test all links in the submission email before sending.
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Daily standup with yourself

8:55 AM each day, 3 minutes. Answer in writing.

1. What did I ship yesterday?
2. What's the one thing that has to ship today?
3. What could derail me — and what's my plan if it does?

Risks & mitigations

Risk	Signal	Mitigation
Scope creep — adding components or screens not in the brief.	<i>You're at midnight Wed and Screen 1 isn't done.</i>	Apply the rule: no new screen, no new component after Tuesday EOD.
Polish paralysis on a single screen.	<i>You spent 3 hours on one KPI card.</i>	Time-box every component to 30 min. Move on; come back on Friday.
Tooling fatigue / Figma slowdown.	<i>Layers list is 600+ deep, file is laggy.</i>	Move design system to its own Figma file. Use components, not detached frames.
Walkthrough left to the last hour.	<i>It's 4 PM Friday and you haven't recorded.</i>	Block 11 AM–12 PM Friday for the recording. Non-negotiable.
Brief drift — designing what's interesting, not what's asked.	<i>Brief checklist has unchecked MUSTs at end of Wed.</i>	Daily standup question 1 is always: have you covered all MUSTs?

Final QA — mapped to evaluation criteria

Run through this on Friday before you submit. Each row should pass.

Evaluation criterion	Pass condition
Clarity & Information Architecture	Every screen has a clear primary action; drill-down reaches detail in 1 click.

Evaluation criterion	Pass condition
Data Visualization Choices	Each chart answers a specific user question (waterfall, Pareto, gauges, ranked bar).
Visual Quality & Consistency	Tokens applied uniformly; spacing rhythm holds across all 4 screens.
Design Rationale	Walkthrough explains the WHY of every major decision, anchored to the guiding principle.
Domain Understanding	Procurement & finance vocabulary used correctly; one realistic edge case shown.
Bonus · Interaction Design	At least 3 states drawn (empty, loading, error); hover states demonstrated.

Submission email — template

Subject: NovaCorp home assignment — Yossi P.

Hi [Hiring contact],

Attached and linked below is my submission for the NovaCorp Data Analytics & Invoice Audit Platform home assignment. I designed the four required screens around a single guiding idea drawn from your brief: *“benchmarking starts with data cleaning.”* Every screen, component, and chart choice traces back to that principle.

Links:

- Figma file (4 screens + design system snippet): [LINK]
- Walkthrough doc / Loom video (≤ 5 min): [LINK]
- PDF export of all screens: attached

Happy to walk through any decision in the next round. Thanks for the opportunity.

— Yossi

5-Day Sprint Plan · Yossi P.