What’s new in WCAG 2.1

WebAIM
web accessibility in mind

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Understanding WCAG 2.1

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Knowbility
The 'good parts' version

Abridged by

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WCAG 2.1
The ‘good parts’ version

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Our time

• What is new in WCAG 2.1
• WCAG 2.1 and relevant law
• Techniques to implement the best new parts of WCAG 2.1
What’s new

• 1 new Guideline: 2.5 Input Modalities
• 17 new Success Criteria
• 3 areas of emphasis
  – Mobile
  – Low Vision
  – Cognitive
Guideline 1.3 Adaptable
• 1.3.4 Orientation (AA)
• 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (AA)
• 1.3.6 Identify Purpose (AAA)
Guideline 1.4 Distinguishable
• 1.4.10 Reflow (AA)
• 1.4.11 Non-Text Contrast (AA)
• 1.4.12 Text Spacing (AA)
• 1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (AA)
Guideline 2.1 Keyboard Accessible
• 2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (A)
Guideline 2.2 Enough Time
• 2.2.6 Timeouts (AAA)
Guideline 2.3 Seizures and Physical Reactions
• 2.3.3 Animation from Interactions (AAA)
Guideline 2.5 Input Modalities
• 2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (A)
• 2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (A)
• 2.5.3 Label in Name (A)
• 2.5.4 Motion Actuation (A)
• 2.5.5 Target Size (AAA)
• 2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms (AAA)
Guideline 4.1 Compatible
• 4.1.3 Status Messages (AA)
ADA and the web: A timeline

- 2010: ANPRM
- 2016 SANPRM
- July 2017: Placed on “Inactive” list
- December 2017: Process halted
“Private legal action under the ADA with respect to websites is unfair and violates basic due process principles in the absence of clear statutory authority and...website accessibility standards.”

“Provide guidance and clarity with regard to website accessibility under the ... ADA.”

June 2018 – House letter to Jeff Sessions
“Absent the adoption of specific technical requirements for websites through rulemaking, public accommodations have flexibility in how to comply...Accordingly, noncompliance with a voluntary technical standard for website accessibility does not necessarily indicate noncompliance with the ADA.”
ADA compliance ≠ WCAG 2.0 compliance

DOJ-negotiated agreements require WCAG 2.0 AA
Other Federal & State Law

• Section 508
  – WCAG 2.0

• California 11546.7
  – State agencies and entities
  – WCAG 2.0 “or a subsequent version”
  – July 2019
European Union EN 301 549

- Public Sector
- Web, mobile, electronic documents etc.
- Effective Dates
  - New websites: September 2019
  - All websites: September 2020
  - All mobile apps: June 2021
1. Adjust your page width to 1280 pixels
2. Enlarge 400%
3. No horizontal scrolling (unless necessary)
1.4.11: Non-text Contrast (WCAG 2.1)

- Level AA
  - No Level AAA
- 3:1 contrast of:
  - User Interface Components
    - Including states (focus indicators, hover states, etc.)
  - Graphical Objects
User Interface Component & State
Not “required to understand”
Exception - Logo

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Exception – “Essential” presentation
WCAG 2.1 - Text Spacing (Level AA)

“No loss of content or functionality occurs” when increasing spacing between:

- Paragraphs: 2X font size
- Lines 1.5X font size
- Words: 0.16X font size
- Letters: 0.12X font size
Avoid CSS height

I am some text in a div that has a pixel height
Avoid CSS height

I am some text in a div that has a pixel height 100px.
CSS min-height

I am some text in a div that has a pixel min-height
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (AA)

And the question mark icon you can explanation for the user. ?

Introduce the example. The HTML is a
1.4.13 Requirements

Content that appears on hover and focus must be:

• “Dismissible...without moving pointer hover or keyboard focus”: Esc key dismisses
• “Hoverable”: Doesn’t disappear when moving the pointer to the new content
• “Persistent” Visible until you move mouse away or dismiss it.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A)

For user interface components with labels that include text or images of text, the name contains the text presented.
WCAG 2 “Label” and “Name”

• WCAG requires an accessible “label” (3.2.2) and “name” (1.1.1).

• The **Label** is visually presented.

• The **Name** is presented to assistive technology
  – Also called “accessible name”
  – May be visually hidden
“Name” and “Label” are usually the same

First Name:  

<label for="fname">First Name:</label>
<input type="text" id="fname"...>
2.5.3 Failure

First Name: <input type="text" aria-label="Your Name"/>

<label>First Name: <input type="text" aria-label="Your Name"></label>
Another 2.5.3 Failure

<a href="page2.php"...>
    <img alt="Continue"...>
</a>

Next
Not a 2.5.3 Failure

<a href="page2.php"...>
    <img alt="Next Page"...>
</a>
ARIA *Labels* override default Accessible *Names*

- Alternative text
- Link text
- Button text
- Form labels
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Thank You!

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