

Accessibility Sandpile

- What does your website being accessible mean?

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro/>

- What are the current laws in your location?
 - WCAG 2.0
 - Section 508 (federal agencies and organizations)
 - WCAG 2.0 is divided into four main principles:
 - Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust
 - A, AA, AAA levels
 - US ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - The European Commission's Web Accessibility Policy
 - Web Standards for the Government of Canada

- What's the moral obligation/social responsibility?

Surveys show that up to 1 in 5 people (20%) have a disability that affects the way they use the internet. These disabilities encompass physical and cognitive barriers including color blindness, full blindness, hearing loss, dyslexia, paralysis, and more. Without an accessible website, 20% of internet users will encounter difficulties trying to navigate a site.

SiteImprove.com Accessibility Handbook

- Given the 20% number....do you really want to ignore/alienate that large a group of users. Achieving compliance could actually provide you with a very loyal customer base

- Class Action Lawsuits.
How having a bricks and mortar shop may expose your customer to one.

- What are the main things to check (at least to get started)
 - ARIA
Accessible Rich Internet Applications (ARIA) is a set of attributes that define ways to make Web content and Web applications more accessible to people with disabilities.
(<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Accessibility/ARIA>)
 - Color Contrast
 - High Contrast
 - Screen Readers
 - Tabbing/Focus/Navigation
 - Zoom (regular and text only)
 - Headers & Hierarchy / Semantic Structure
 - Image Alt Tags of course
 - Avoid Images containing text (not readable) or at a minimum make sure the alt text matches what's

contained in the image text. Zoomed images can pixelate text, dyslexic users won't be able to select text and have it read

- If image is linked, use alt tag to describe the destination of the link
 - Avoid Read More and Click Here. Link text should be descriptive of the destination (this is contrary to most designs I have worked with)
 - Avoid using the page url as the link text....again, I have seen this a lot
 - Skip Navigation Link
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- Tools (that I have looked at)
 - aXe (chrome plugin)
 - SiteImprove (chrome plugin and subscription service)
 - Wave
 - High Contrast Chrome Plugin
 - Vox Chrome
 - Chromes Dev Tools Color Picker
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- What have I learned so far
 - Navigation may be the biggest challenge

- Even mobile nav needs to be looked at. If page is zoomed then the mobile nav triggers sooner so it needs to be keyboard navigable
- Working with screen readers is challenging
- The spec wants more than a colour change for links, ie: adding an icon or symbol....or perhaps an underline
- turning off that little blue halo is bad (but I have been testing using code to sense the first tab press and then styling the outline: appropriately
- fixing ARIA issues is fairly straight forward and does not really impact the design/layout
- Form fields (radio and checkboxes) seem to be an issue with text only zoom
- Form Labels are an area of focus....it's likely not a good idea to turn them off
- Fieldset and Legend should be used
- Tables need proper markup to be compliant. ie: table headers and footers
- A lot of interpretation. Even WCAG Guidelines give examples of compliant and not compliant without being completely specific
- STAYING compliant is something you need to consider since those ambulance chasing lawyers are following you right now

- If you ARE hit with a lawsuit, showing how you are working towards compliance may be enough to keep your feet out of the fire
- Video and Audio could be a significant issue as it looks like you need to have them captioned or have transcripts available
- Users need adequate time. So if an element does something timebased (like a notification) the user needs to be able to change/adjust that time. This might affect popups that you show for XX seconds and then remove or slideup.
- Blinking text is bad (may cause seizures) Content should not blink more that 3 times/second
- Moving or Scrolling content. User should be able to pause, stop, adjust speed and hide this content
- documents, including pdf's also need to be compliant
- I need to research Mobile Screen Readers
....apparently usage increased from 12% to 82% between 2009-2014