WCAG 2.0: Bringing Web Accessibility into the 21st Century

What is WCAG?

WCAG was developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). WCAG is a set of guidelines for making digital content accessible for all users, including those with disabilities.

History of WCAG

October 1, 1994 - World Wide Web Consortium is founded.

May 5, 1999 - WCAG 1.0 is released.

December 11, 2008 - WCAG 2.0 is released.

June 5, 2018 - WCAG 2.1 is released.

Overview: WCAG 1.0, 2.0, 2.1?

WCAG 1.0: Uses guidelines and each guideline has a checkpoint, which are priority 1, 2, or 3.

WCAG 2.0: Uses four design principles and each principle has a guideline. Each guideline has a success criteria level A, AA, or AAA.

WCAG 2.1: WCAG 2.1 is backwards compatible with WCAG 2.0. The 2.0 success criteria are the same as in 2.1, but 2.1 has additional success criteria.

What is WCAG 2.0?

WCAG 2.0 Principles

WCAG 2.0's four essential principles to meet are perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust.

- Perceivable: Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive. This means that users must be able to perceive all relevant information in your content.
- Operable: User interface components and navigation must be operable. This means that users must be able to operate the interface successfully.

- Understandable: Information and the operation of user interface must be understandable. This means that users must be able to understand the information as well as the operation of the user interface.
- Robust: Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies. Content must be accessible to all users, keeping up with advances in technology, such as mobile technology.

WCAG 2.0 Compliance

Each guideline under WCAG 2.0 has a level of compliance assigned to it - Level A, AA, or AAA.

- Level A: The highest priority and usually easiest to achieve. Example: (2.4.2) Web pages have titles that describe topic or purpose.
- Level AA: More comprehensive and often sited as the standard to meet. Example: (2.4.5) More than one way is available to locate a Web page within a set of Web pages except where the Web Page is the result of, or a step in, a process.
- Level AAA: The strictest, more comprehensive accessible design, and therefore the least common level to meet. Example: (2.4.10) Section headings are used to organize content.

What is WCAG 2.1?

WCAG 2.1 was released June 5, 2018.

WCAG 2.1 is backwards compatible to WCAG 2.0 It follows the same structure, principles, and compliance levels as WCAG 2.0.

WCAG 2.1 includes 17 new standards that benefit individuals with cognitive or learning disabilities, users with low vision, and all mobile users.

Highlights

- Includes mobile accessibility guidelines
- Improved navigation technology to reduce clicking on incorrect links or buttons
- Places limits on interruptions, like pop-ups
- New standards to benefit low vision users like 400% zoom, 3:1 contrast level, and better labeling

WCAG 2.1 Standards

- 1.3.4 Orientation (AA)
- 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (AA)
- 1.3.6 Identify Purpose (AAA)

- 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)
- 2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (A)
- 2.2.6 Timeouts (AAA)
- 2.3.3 Animation from Interactions (AAA)
- 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)
- 4.1.3 Status Messages (AA)

Am I legally required to comply with WCAG 2.1?

Most laws – like Section 508 and other international laws – mention WCAG 2.0 compliance. So for now, that's all you need to keep striving for.

Only if a law explicitly states that web developers have to adapt to the newest WCAG version, then you would need to make your content WCAG 2.1 complaint.

The W3C does suggest that any new websites should be created following WCAG 2.1 guidelines since they are more inclusive and mobile friendly.

WCAG 2.0 LEVEL AA: A HAPPY MEDIUM

W3C is first to recognize that most organizations simply won't be able to achieve Level AAA success, at least not right away.

In note 2 of WCAG 2.0, W3C states:

"It is not recommended that Level AAA conformance be required as a general policy for entire sites because it is not possible to satisfy all Level AAA Success Criteria for some content."

Web designers are recommended to meet at least WCAG Level A and Level AA compliance.

WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliance is written into Section 508 and is also a best practice for government websites in UK, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia.

WCG 2.0 and the Law

Section 508 Refresh

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that all information technology must be accessible to people with disabilities, including employees and the public.

Section 508 requires compliance with WCAG 2.0 Level A and Level AA.

Does Section 508 apply to you?
- Federal departments and agencies
- State governments through "little 508s"
- Organizations with institutional 508 requirements
- Grants that require 508 compliance

"Little 508s" State laws

States whose accessibility laws reference Section 508 and/or WCAG compliance include:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

World Wide Web Accessibility Standards

While many disability laws lag behind in addressing digital access, WCAG 2.0 provides the most comprehensive web accessibility standard available today.

Around the world, many countries have adapted some form of WCAG.

North America:

- Canada:

- o Under the Policy on Communications and Federal Identity, government agencies must adhere to WCAG 2.0.
  - o In Ontario, under the AODA, private and non-profit organizations with 50+ employees must meet certain accessibility requirements. New public websites and web content posted after January 2012 must meet WCAG 2.0 Level A criteria. By January 1, 2021 "all public websites and web content must meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA criteria," with the exception of live captions (1.2.4) and pre-recorded audio descriptions (1.2.5).
- United States:
  - o Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires all federal electronic and information technology to be accessible to people with disabilities, including employees and public individuals. The recent refresh of Section 508 requires websites to adhere to WCAG 2.0 standards.
  - o In addition, several individual states have adapted their own web accessibility laws that incorporate WCAG 2.0.

South America

- Argentina:
  - o The Argentinian Guide to Accessibility for Websites of the National Public Sector uses WCAG 1.0 as the required website accessibility standard.
- Bolivia:
  - o Bolivia does not have mandatory web accessibility laws. Instead, they've published a Standard Guide for Websites where the recommend compliance with several WCAG 2.0 level A and level AA standards.
- Brazil:
  - o Brazil's Accessibility Model for Electronic Government Operations is based off WCAG 2.0, with additional recommendations.
- Chile:
  - o On December 2006, the Chilean government published a guide for website accessibility. The guide uses a combination of WCAG 1.0 and WCAG 2.0 criteria.
- Colombia:
  - o Under The Institution of Colombia's Technical Standards, WCAG 2.0 is referenced. The Colombian government outlines which entities must comply with each level of WCAG 2.0.
- Ecuador:
  - o In Ecuador, any public or private organization that offers public services must meet level AA of WCAG 2.0.
- Peru:
  - o Webpages under the public institution of Peru's National Information System must meet WCAG 1.0.
- Uruguay:

- o Government portals in Uruguay must meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA, and when necessary, meet Level AAA standards.
- Venezuela:
  - o Venezuela's Resolution 026 establishes accessibility requirements for the National Public Administration of Venezuela. While the law mentions WCAG 1.0 and WCAG 2.0 criteria, it does not clearly state that entities need to comply.

Europe

- European Union:
  - o As of January 2010, all EUROPA websites under the public sector must adhere to WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards.
  - o In addition, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, and Switzerland have adopted their own web accessibility laws that incorporate WCAG 2.0.

- United Kingdom:
  - o The UK's Equality Act of 2010 uses WCAG 2.0 as the standard for websites in the public and private sector.

Asia

- China:
  - o In 2008, China enacted the Voluntary Web Accessibility Standard for agencies, ministries, and other governmental entities. These standards apply a WCAG 2.0 derivative.

- Hong Kong:
  - o Hong Kong's mandatory web accessibility policy requires governmental agencies to comply with WCAG 2.0 Level AA criteria. As part of an accessibility campaign, all private sector entities that meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA criteria will receive special recognition.

- India:
  - o India has enacted a mandatory policy that requires government agencies to meet WCAG 2.0 Level A criteria.

- Israel:
  - o Isreal's non-discrimination law requires public and private sector entities to meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards.

- Japan:

- o Japan's JIS X 8341 is based on WCAG 2.0 criteria and is required for all local and central government websites. Commercial websites can voluntarily comply.

- Republic of Korea:
  - o South Korea's non-discriminatory law references a WCAG 2.0 derivative.

Australia

- Australia:
  - o The Australian government has endorsed WCAG 2.0 as the standard websites must meet. The Disability Discrimination Act of 1992, requires all Australian government agencies to make their information accessible to all individuals.

New Zealand

- New Zealand:
  - o Governmental entities in New Zealand must comply with WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards.

WCAG 2.0 & VIDEO ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible video includes captions, transcripts, audio descriptions and an accessible media player that supports these features.

1.2 Time -Based Media

- Level A
  - o 1.2.1 Audio-only & Video-only (Pre-recorded)
  - o 1.2.2 Captions (Pre-recorded)
  - o 1.2.3 Audio description or media alternative (Pre-recorded)
- Level AA
  - o 1.2.4 Captions (Live)
  - o 1.2.5 Audio Description (Pre-recorded)
- Level AAA
  - o 1.2.6 Sign Language (Pre-recorded)
  - o 1.2.7 Extended Audio description (Pre-recorded)
  - o 1.2.8 Media Alternative (Pre-recorded)
  - o 1.2.9 Audio Only (Live)

WCAG 2.0: Standards at a Glance

WCAG 2.0 has 4 principles with 12 guidelines scattered across each principle. Each guideline has a success criteria.

- Text Alternatives: Provide text alternatives for any non-text content so that it can be converted into other forms people need, such as large print, braille, speech, symbols, or simpler language. A text transcript is required for audio content.
    - Examples of non-text elements:
        - Images and graphics need alt text
        - Transcripts for audio content
        - Alternatives for Captcha content
- Video Alternatives: Provide alternatives for video and audio. Closed captions and audio descriptions are required for time-synced video.
    - Examples of video alternatives:
        - Closed captions
        - Transcripts
        - Audio description
- Adaptability: Create content that can be presented in different ways without losing information or structure.
- Clarity: Make it easy for users to see and read content. Provide adequate color contrast and reduce visual clutter that affects legibility.
- Keyboard Accessibility: Make all functionality available from a keyboard.
    - Keyboard accessibility ensures content can also be accessed through:
        - Speech input
        - Mouse
        - Assistive technologies
- Time: Provide users enough time to read and use content.
- Seizure Safety: Do not design content that might trigger a seizure for people with photosensitive epilepsy.
- Navigability: Provide multiple, intuitive ways for users to navigate content.
- Readability: Make text content easily readable and understandable, both visually and cognitively.
- Predictability: Make pages appear and operate in predictable ways.
- Input Assistance: Help users to avoid making mistakes; make corrections easy.
- Compatibility: Maximize compatibility with across devices (desktop, tablet, mobile, Apple vs. PC, etc.). Make sure content is compatible with assistive technologies (screen readers, sip/puff switches, etc.).

Video & WCAG 2.0

1.2.1 Audio-only & Video -Only (Pre-recorded): Provide text alternatives for non-text content
- What to do:
    - Write transcripts for audio-only and video only media
    - Link to transcript should be placed close to media

- o For video without audio, record a descriptive audio track

1.2.2 Captions (Pre-recorded): Provide captions to all video with audio

- What to do:
    - o Add captions to all video with audio
- How do you create captions?
    - o Create them yourself
    - o Hire a professional
    - o Use YouTube

1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Pre-recorded): Provide audio description or media alternative for video

- What to do:
    - o Provide a full text transcript for video
    - o Provide a version of the video with audio description

1.2.4 Captions (live): Captions are provided for all live audio content

- What to do:
    - o For live video, hire professional live captioners
    - o Ensure you provide a link or mechanism for people to access captions

1.2.5 Audio Description (Pre-recorded): Audio description is provided for all prerecorded video content

- What to do:
    - o Create an alternative version of video with descriptions
- Where do you publish audio descriptions?
    - o As a separate video
    - o Through a video player
    - o With 3Play Plugin

1.2.6 Sign Language (Pre-recorded): Sign language is provided for all prerecorded video

- What to do:
    - o Create an alternative version of video with a sign language interpreter
    - o Ideally, video plays alongside original video. If not possible, provide a link to access

1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Pre-recorded): Provide extended audio description for videos.

- What to do:
  - Create an alternative version of video with extended descriptions
- Do you need extended audio description?
  - Extended audio description is used when the natural pauses of a video aren't sufficient to fit the necessary descriptions.

1.2.8 Media Alternative (Pre-recorded): Provide a text alternative to videos.

- What to do:
  - Create a full text transcript for video
  - Include an audio description transcript
- What does a full text transcript include?
  - Includes all information in a video including visual clues, audio description, dialogue attributes, links, etc.

1.2.9 Audio Only (Live): Provide an alternative for live audio-only content.

- What to do:
  - Add captions to live audio
  - Make script available if applicable

Conclusion

So much of our modern life takes place online. It is not fair to make the web inaccessible to some people.

WCAG ensures your content is accessible.

Accessible design is universal design. After all, you never truly know who is consuming your content, or how they are consuming it.

Checklist: WCAG 2.0 Standards

Perceivable Guideline 1

https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#perceivable

- Text Alternatives
  - **Non- text element:** All non-text content has a descriptive text alternative.

- Time based Media
  - **Audio-only & Video-only (Prerecorded):** Alternatives for time-based prerecorded audio and video must be provided. An audio track for video content is acceptable. (Level A)

  - **Captions (Prerecorded):** Captions should be provided for audio content in synchronized media unless media is a media alternative for text and labeled. (Level A)

  - **Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded):** A media alternative or audio description of prerecorded video content must be provided for synchronized media unless media is a media alternative for text and labeled. (Level A)

  - **Captions (Live):** Captions are provided for all live audio content in synchronized media. (Level AA)

  - **Audio Description (Prerecorded):** Audio description is provided for all prerecorded video content in synchronized media. (Level AA)

  - **Sign Language (Prerecorded):** Sign language is provided for all prerecorded video content in synchronized media. (Level AAA)

  - **Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded):** Extended audio description is provided where the pauses in the audio are insufficient to allow audio descriptions to convey sense of the video. (Level AAA)

  - **Media Alternative (Prerecorded):** An alternative for time-based media is provided for all prerecorded synchronized media. (Level AAA)

  - **Audio-only (Live):** An alternative for time-based media is provided for live audio-only content. (Level AAA)

- Adaptable

  - **Info and relationships**: Logical structure of content (Level A)
  - **Meaningful sequence**: Content is presented in a meaningful order. (Level A)
  - **Sensory Characteristics**: Use more than one sense for instructions (Level A)
- Distinguishable
  - **Use of color**: Color alone should not be used to convey information (Level A)
  - **Audio control**: Audio should not play automatically (Level A)
  - **Contrast (minimum)**: Text and backgrounds should have a minimum contrast of 4:5:1 (Level AA)
  - **Resize text**: Text can be resized 200% without loss of content or functionality (Level AA)

- **Images of text**: prioritize using text instead of images to convey information (Level AA)
- **Contrast (Enhanced)**: Text and backgrounds have a contrast minimum of 7:1 (Level AAA)
- **Low or no background audio**: Don't use audio or make audio clear (Level AAA).
- **Visual presentation**: allow users to customize the visual presentation of content (Level AAA).
- **Images of Text (no exception)**: do not use images of text unless if absolutely necessary to understand content (Level AAA).

Operable Guideline 2

https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#operable

User interface components and navigation must be operable

- Keyboard Accessible
  - **Keyboard**: Website is accessible using a keyboard only (Level A)
  - **No Keyboard Trap**: Users don't get stuck when using a keyboard to navigate website. (Level A)
  - **Keyboard (no exception):** website is completely accessible by a keyboard (Level AAA)
- Enough time
  - **Timing Adjustable**: Users can adjust time limits (Level A)
  - **Pause, Stop, Hide**: User controls available for moving content (Level A)
  - **No timing**: There are no time limits (Level AAA)
  - **Interruptions**: There are no interruptions (Level AAA)
  - **Re-authenticating:** User data is saved after authenticated session expires (Level AAA)
- Seizures
  - **Three Flashes or Below Threshold**: No content flashes more than 3 times per second (Level A)
  - **Three Flashes**: No content flashes more than 3 times per second (Level AAA)
- Navigable
  - **Bypass Blocks**: Skip to content link provided (Level A)
  - **Page Titled**: Page titles describe the purpose (Level A)
  - **Focus Order**: Web page is organized and navigate in a logical structure (Level A)
  - **Link Purpose**: Link's purpose is clear in the content (Level A)
  - **Multiple Ways**: Several ways to find a web page are provided (Level AA)
  - **Headings and labels**: Headings and labels describe topic or purpose (Level AA)
  - **Focus visible**: keyboard focus is clear and visible (Level AA)
  - **Location**: Information tells users where they are in a web page is available. (Level AAA)

- **Link purpose (link only)**: Link text alone describes purpose of link (Level AAA)
- **Section Headings**: Section headings break up and organize content (Level AAA)

Understandable Guideline 3

Users must be able to understand the information as well as the operation of the user interface.

- Readable
  - **Language of Page**: Page has a language assigned (Level A)
  - **Language of Parts**: Tells the user if the language of the page has changed (Level AA)
  - **Unusual Words**: Unusual words are defined (Level AAA)
  - **Abbreviations**: Abbreviations are defined (Level AAA)
  - **Reading level**: Text can be read by users with nine years of schooling
  - **Pronunciation**: Mechanism to identify pronunciation of words that are difficult (Level AAA)
- Predictable
  - **On Focus**: if one component has focus, it doesn't change the content (Level A)
  - **On input**: Context isn't changed by a. change to user interface component (Level A)
  - **Consistent navigation**: Menus are used to help navigation (Level AA)
  - **Consistent Identification**: Icons and buttons have consistent functionality (Level AA)
  - **Change on request**: Context changes are only initiated by the user (Level AAA)
- Input assistance
  - **Error Identification**: Input errors are clearly identified to the user (Level A)
  - **Labels or instructions**: content that requires user input is clearly labeled or has instructions (Level A)
  - **Error Suggestion**: For input errors, suggestions to correct error are communicated (Level AA)
  - **Error prevention**: Mechanisms to reduce input errors for legal commitments or financial transactions are presents (Level AA)
  - **Help**: Detailed help and instructions are provided (Level AAA)
  - **Error prevention**: Incorporate mechanism to reduce the risks of all . input errors. (Level AAA)

Robust Guideline 4

Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies. Content must be accessible to all users, keeping up with advances in technology, such as mobile technology.

- Compatible
  - **Parsing**: No major bad or broken HTML coding (Level A)

- o **Name, Role, Value**: All elements of a website are built for accessibility (Level A)

Checklist: WCAG 2.1 Standards

1.3.4 Orientation (AA)
Websites and applications should support both landscape and portrait display orientations; they should not restrict to a single display orientation unless if a specific orientation is essential - like a bank check or virtual reality content.

This is mainly applicable to mobile users.

The intent of the criterion is to give the user flexibility on how they want to view content. This criterion benefits people with dexterity impairments who have a device mounted in a fixed orientation. It also benefits users with low-vision because it allows them to rotate the device to increase text size.

Users can meet this criterion by changing the CSS to allow both landscape and portrait orientation.

1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (AA)
A program, such as an assistive technology, must be able to determine what the user is expected to enter in a field, or what the meaning of the information entered is.

The intent of this is to "help people better recognize and understand the intention of form inputs." It also allows for the users' browser to autofill necessary information.

This feature benefits people with cognitive disabilities like language and memory-related disabilities that can affect function and decision making.

One way to meet this success criteria is to include an autocomplete attribute where suitable.

1.3.6 Identify Purpose (AAA)
A program must be able to identify the purpose of interface components, icons, and sections.

HTML code should provide "context, propose, and meaning of symbols, regions, buttons, links, and fields." For example, if a button links back to home, the code should specify this function for the user.

This criterion allows assistive technologies like screen readers to understand what a component function does.

1.4.10 Reflow (AA)

Basically, this states that your website must be responsive. Users shouldn't have to scroll horizontally to view your content.

Your website should be able to fit a 320-pixel wide screen.

Users should also be able to zoom in up to 400% on desktop browsers.

Overall, this guideline is great for the user experience. Specifically, it helps users with visual disabilities zoom into content.

1.4.11 Non-Text Contrast (AA)
Active interface components (like buttons) and non-text content (like infographics) must have a contrast ratio of 3:1.

This guideline allows users with low vision to see content more clearly.

1.4.12 Text Spacing (AA)
Users must be able to increase the distance between paragraphs, rows, words, and characters without losing content or functionality.

This guideline helps to avoid overlapping text or buttons being moves to places where the user can't interact with them.

The purpose of this guideline is to help users with low vision customize their reading experience, while still being able to interact with the content.

1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (AA)I
If a user triggers content that appears in a modal window, tooltip, or a similar component, the user must be able to:
- dismiss the content without using the mouse or keyboard focus
- Move their mouse over the content without making it disappear
- Dismiss the content when the user wants to

2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (A)
If a website supports keyboard shortcuts that use a letter, punctuation, number or symbol characters, then at least one of the following must be true:
- The shortcut can be turned off
- The shortcut can be changed to use one or more non-printable keyboard characters (like Crtl, Alt)
- The shortcut for a component is only active when that component has focus.

This guideline benefits users who have dexterity challenges and are prone to accidentally pressing wrong keys.

2.2.6 Timeouts (AAA)
Users are informed if a period of inactivity could lead to data loss unless the data is preserved for more than 20 hours.

This guideline is designed to benefit users with different cognitive disabilities who may take more time to complete a task.

2.3.3 Animation from Interactions (AAA)
Users are allowed to turn off animations unless the animation is essential to the functionality or information being conveyed.

An example of this would be a video on a homepage.

This guideline is designed to benefit people with vestibular disorders who can get dizzy, nauseous, or distracted from non-essential movement.

2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (A)
Complex actions such as pinching for zooming or swiping should also be able to be performed through simpler actions like taps or long presses.

This guideline helps improve the accessibility for users with limited motor skills.

2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (A)
At least one of the following must be true for an action such as a click, tap or long press:

- A down-event is not used to complete a function
- If a function is triggered by an up-event, a user can cancel or undo the action afterward
- Up-events cancel when triggered on down-events
- completing the function on the down-event is essential

Up-events are triggered when the mouse button is released or a finger is lifted within the target boundary.

2.5.3 Label in Name (A)
The visible text of a label in a user interface component must match the accessible name, or programmatic label.

This is important for speech input.

2.5.4 Motion Actuation (A)
Actions that can be completed by a motion, such as shaking your phone, must also be able to be completed by a user interface component.

Accidental motion must be turned off unless the motion is essential for functionality, or is supported through an accessible interface.

2.5.5 Target Size (AAA)
A clickable element must be at least 44 by 44 CSS pixels except when:

- the functionality can be achieved through an equivalent link or control that is at least 44 by 44 CSS pixels
- the target is described in a sentence of block of text
- the size of the target is determined by the device
- the look of the target is essential to the information being conveyed

2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms (AAA)
Users should be able to switch between, add, or remove different input mechanisms like a mouse, keyboard, stylus, touch input, or voice input.

For example, even though most mobile phones are used with touch, a user should be allowed to connect a mouse or keyboard.

Users should also be able to switch between all input mechanisms if they find certain tasks are easier to accomplish using a certain method.

4.1.3 Status Messages (AA)

If new content is added to a page, the users of assistive technologies must be alerted without interrupting their work.

For example, if a user presses the Add to Shopping Cart button, the screen reader must announce "item added" or "five items in shopping cart," without interrupting what the user is doing. Another example is if a user enters their postal code incorrectly. The screen reader must announce "invalid entry."

The purpose of this guideline is to assist blind and low vision users who rely on screen readers. Sighted users can tell, for example, how many items are in a shopping cart, or if an item was added by looking at the screen. Often, this doesn't interrupt their shopping. Adding a status message allows low vision users to be aware of the information in a more equivalent manner.

About 3Play Media

3Play Media provides closed captioning, transcription, and audio description to more than 2,500 customers in higher education, enterprise, entertainment, and government. 3Play Media

simplifies the process of making videos accessible through flexible APIs, integrations with video players and platforms, simple plugins, and a user-friendly online account system. 3Play Media is based in Boston, MA and has been operating since 2007.

Contact

Website - https://www.3playmedia.com

Email – info@3playmedia.com

Phone – (617) 764-5189

Address:
3Play Media
34 Farnsworth St, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02210