The future of accessibility: COGA, WCAG 2.2, and Silver

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Agenda

- Accessibility Timeline
- General WP accessibility advice
- Guidelines being changed
- New Guidelines
Accessibility Timeline
Accessibility Timeline Details

2006
Target Lawsuit, WCAG 1.0

2008
WCAG 2.0

2018
WCAG 2.1, 508 merge with 2.0

2019
EU stop sell web soft deadline

2020
EU Stop sell web firm deadline

2021
CA 2.0 AA EU native apps

2022
AG 3.0 “Project Silver” +EAA

4600 Lawsuits
First Public, now Employees
WP and Accessibility
WP and Accessibility Details

• **WP accessible templates** (33 free / 10 premium) and more available on private sites

• **WP accessible plugins**

• Things commonly used with WP that are mostly accessible
  • Microsoft / Google Forms
  • Survey Monkey
  • MailChimp
  • Qualtrics
  • Survey Gizmo
Don’t make your WP-based site accessible. Make your *experience* accessible

- **Surveys**
- Communications
  - Accessibility email address
- Accessibility statement
- Customer support
- Social Media posts

**DON’T use an accessible WP template and then partner with inaccessible vendors**
COGA
W3C Process

1. Task Force chartered
2. Volunteers solicited (Can join at any time – hint hint)
3. Meetings + Draft + Vote
4. Repeat 3 as many times as necessary
5. First Public Working Draft (FPWD)
6. Obtain comments from public, Loop back to #3
7. Second Public Working Daft (SPWD)
8. Obtain comments from public, Loop back to #3
9. Standard final
10. Gets incorporated into laws, lawsuits, and settlements
COGA- COGnitive Accessibility


• COGA-TF assists these Working Groups to produce techniques, understanding, and guidance documents, as well as updates to existing related W3C material that addresses the cognitive space.

• Current publication
What disabilities does COGA focus on

• Neurodiverse conditions
  • Autism
  • Dyslexia, Dyscalculia
  • ADHD

• Memory Loss
• Dementia
• Intellectual and Developmental Delays (IDD)
• Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
• Cognitive Issues
• Aphasia
What types of guidelines will COGA bring us

• Plain language requirements
• Clear purpose requirements
• The need to be able to operate without good memory
WCAG 2.2
2.4.11 Focus Appearance (Minimum) (AA)

This guideline is related to the other two guidelines pertaining to keyboard focus indicators (KFI) 2.4.7: Focus Visible and 1.4.11: Non-text Contrast

The summation of the KFI related guidelines now are:

1) You must have a KFI (2.4.7, which moves from AA to A)
2) The KFI must have a contrast of 3.0:1 at all times (1.4.11)
3) The focus indication area is greater than or equal to a 1 CSS pixel border of the focused control, or has a thickness of at least 8 CSS pixels along the shortest side of the element (2.4.11)
4) The KFI can never be blocked by user content. (2.4.11)
2.4.13 Fixed Reference Points (A)

• When someone magnifies something (need: vision loss) or uses additional spacing (need: dyslexia) it modifies the page numbering

• If a TOC tells you something is on page 37, you need to be able to get to where that information is, even if it is currently on page 53.
2.5.7 Dragging (AA)

- All drag and drop operations need to be accessible from the keyboard.
- I felt this was a “miss” in previous versions of WCAG.
  - Inaccessible drag-and-drop had to be flagged as a keyboard violation and a pillar violation that something wasn’t “operable” by people using assistive technology.
- Salesforce Lightning open source design system has good accessible drag and drop patterns, read [this article](#) for more details.
3.2.7 Hidden Controls (AA)

- This is another keyboard violation and a pillar violation that something wasn’t “operable” by people using assistive technology guideline codification.
- Controls needed to progress or complete a process are visible at the time they are needed without requiring pointer hover or keyboard focus, or a mechanism is available to make them persistently visible.
- Most common locations for this to show up?
  - Swipe left to delete in a native app
  - Advancing controls for a manual slide carousel
2.5.8 Pointer Target Spacing (AA)

- W3C started to address “inadvertent activation” issues in WCAG 2.1 with minimum touch target sizing
  - However, it was an AAA requirement which means that most people don’t follow it
- This new WCAG 2.2 proposed requirement expands on this requirement while making it AA.
New COGA guidelines

3.2.6 Findable Help (A)
3.3.7 Accessible Authentication (A)
3.3.8 Redundant Entry (A)
3.2.6 Findable Help (A)

• One or more of the following (in the same order every time when more than one is used) has to be available on every page:
  • Human contact details;
  • Human contact mechanism;
  • Self-help option;
  • A fully automated contact mechanism.
3.3.7 Accessible Authentication (A)

• If an authentication process relies on a cognitive function test, at least one other method must also be available that does not rely on a cognitive function test.

• Most memory (i.e. remembering a password) is considered a cognitive function test.

• Known device or biometrics would have to be available in addition to password.
3.3.8 Redundant Entry (A)

How many times has this happened to you?

- You try to login
- The login fails
- You press “forgot password”
- You are forced to type your login in again, even though they had it from when you tried to login

• The new “redundant entry” guideline is intended to reduce the amount of typing required by a user

• Using auto-population where available is also part of this guideline
When is WCAG 2.2 coming

• SPWD is out
• Anticipated to be final next summer
Silver
What is Silver?

• The next evolution in W3C / WCAG Guidelines

• Originally the plan was to drop the “WC” and just call the next major version Accessibility Guidelines
  • AG is the periodic table symbol for Silver
  • Hence, Project Silver

• Since then, a vote was taken and the decision was to leave in the WC, so Silver is WCAG 3.0
What will Silver have in it?

• More of a focus on functional need, less of a focus on “guidelines”
  • For example, 3 different heading guidelines are grouped into “Content Structure”

• Scoring
  • Less focus on absolutes, more focus on substantively conformant

• New areas of coverage
  • VR/XR
  • Maturity Modeling
Resource Summary

2.4.11 Focus Appearance (Minimum) (AA)
2.4.12 Focus Appearance (Enhanced) (AAA)
2.4.13 Fixed Reference Points (A)
2.5.7 Dragging (AA)
2.5.8 Pointer Target Spacing (AA)
3.2.6 Findable Help (A)
3.2.7 Hidden Controls (AA)
3.3.7 Accessible Authentication (A)
3.3.8 Redundant Entry (A)
Existing guideline 2.4.7 Focus Visible moved from AA to A
Thank You

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Questions?