

A Crash Course in Web Accessibility for Developers

Introduction

Ensuring websites are accessible to all users is crucial. This article will provide developers a primer on web accessibility concepts.

Why Web Accessibility Matters

- Enables equal access for users with disabilities.
- Improves experience for all users.
- Meets legal and regulatory standards.

Common Accessibility Mistakes

- Lack of textual alternatives for images.
- Poor color contrast ratios.
- Missing ARIA labels for interactive elements.
- Not designing for keyboard navigation.
- Failing to structure headings properly.

Making Sites Perceivable

- Use correct HTML elements for semantic structure.
- Supply alternatives for multimedia like captions.
- Ensure information conveyed is understandable.

Making Sites Operable

- All functionality should be keyboard accessible.
- Support assistive technologies like screen readers.
- Design controls to avoid seizures for users with photosensitive epilepsy.

Meeting Standards

- WCAG has guidelines for accessibility principles.
- ADA and Section 508 in the US require compliant sites.
- Perform automated and manual testing to catch issues.

Conclusion

Building accessible sites improves usability and meets legal obligations. Prioritize accessibility from the start.