# Designing & Creating Accessible Web Pages

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# Agenda

- Creating Accessible Content
- Designing Accessible Site Layouts
- Coding Accessible Webpages
- Tools for Accessible Development



# Your website can't reach 1.4 billion users worldwide.

#### 1.4 Billion Users

- About 20% of the world population have accessibility needs
- Yet accessibility is almost always overlooked by developers/authors
- 62.8 million Americans and 1.4 billion people worldwide require assistive technology.
- Many simply cannot use popular webpages at all as they are not accessible
- You must design for accessibility to really reach ALL of your customers



#### In the USA...

- Among adult computer users in the United States:
  - 1 in 4 has a vision difficulty
  - 1 in 4 has a dexterity difficulty
  - 1 in 5 has a hearing difficulty
- 35% of US entrepreneurs are dyslexic (20% in the UK)



#### Research by Forrester

"Among US computer users in 2003 ranging from 18 to 64, 57% (74.2 million) are likely to directly or indirectly benefit from the use of accessible technology due to difficulties and impairments that may impact computer use."



# Why Accessibility?

- Human ability, traits, and perceptions run across a spectrum.
- That effects how people interact with technology
- Visual
- Auditory
- Motor/Dexterity
- Cognitive



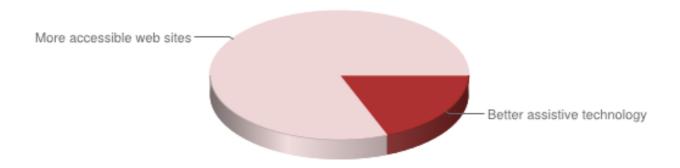
#### What can we do?

Make Better Websites and Apps Make Better Assistive Technology



#### Impacts on Accessibility

Which would have a bigger impact on accessibility?



Which of the following do you think would have a bigger impact on improvements to web accessibility?

Response	# of Respondents	% of Respondents
Better (more accessible) web sites	1166	81.3%
Better assistive technology	268	18.7%

Over time, more respondents have answered "better web sites" to this question - 68.6% of respondents in October 2009, 75.8% in December 2010, and now 81.3% in January 2014. This change perhaps reflects improvements to assistive technology. It certainly indicates that users expect site authors to address accessibility.



#### Visual Differences

- Low Vision
- Blindness
- Color blindness
- Color Contrast Sensitivity



#### **DEMO**

Color Oracle



# **Auditory Differences**

- Low Hearing
- Deafness
- Background noise interference



# Motor/Dexterity Differences

- Traumatic Injuries
- Spinal cord injury
- Loss or damage of limb(s)
- Diseases and Congenital Conditions
- Cerebral palsy
- Muscular dystrophy
- Multiple sclerosis
- ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)
- Arthritis
- Parkinson's disease
- Essential tremor



## Cognitive Differences

- Dyslexia
- ADHD, ADD
- Autism spectrum
- Injuries
- Visual Comprehension
- Learning disabilities
- Seizures



# **Assistive Technology**

You're already using it





Academy Engraved LET: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. ALGERIAN CONDENSED LET: THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED OVER THE LAZY DOG. Arriba Arriba LET: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. Avant Garde Mono ITCTT: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.

PORTAGOITC TT: THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED OVER THE LAZY DOG. Blackmoor LET: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.



: lazy dog. he lazy dog. : lazy dog. LAZY DOG.

SYNCHRO LET: THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED OVER THE LAZY DOG. Souvenir Mono ITCTT: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.

Shatter LET: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. 

TembleITCTT: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. University Roman Bold LET: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.

ziggyITC TT: The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.



# **Assistive Technology**

- Screen Narrators
- Braille Readers
- Mouth stick
- Head wand
- Single-switch access
- Sip and puff switch
- Oversized trackball mouse
- Adaptive keyboard
- Eye tracking glasses
- Voice recognition software











#### Screen Narrators

- NVDA
- Web Anywhere
- Browser Specific Narrators
  - Spoken Web [IE]
  - ChromeVis [Chrome]
  - ChromeVox [Chrome]
  - Apple VoiceOver

MIT Finger Reader
Experimental
Technology



### Creating Accessible Content

- Fonts should be large, clear, and without unnecessary décor
- Organize content into distinct sections with clear headings
- Colors should have high contrast
- Label fields and elements clearly
- Movies and animations should provide captions or transcripts

http://rachelappel.com/designing-and-programming-accessible-websites-and-apps



**Contrast Sensitivity** 

**Contrast Sensitivity** 

Contrast Sensitivity

**Contrast Sensitivity** 

Contrast Sensitivity

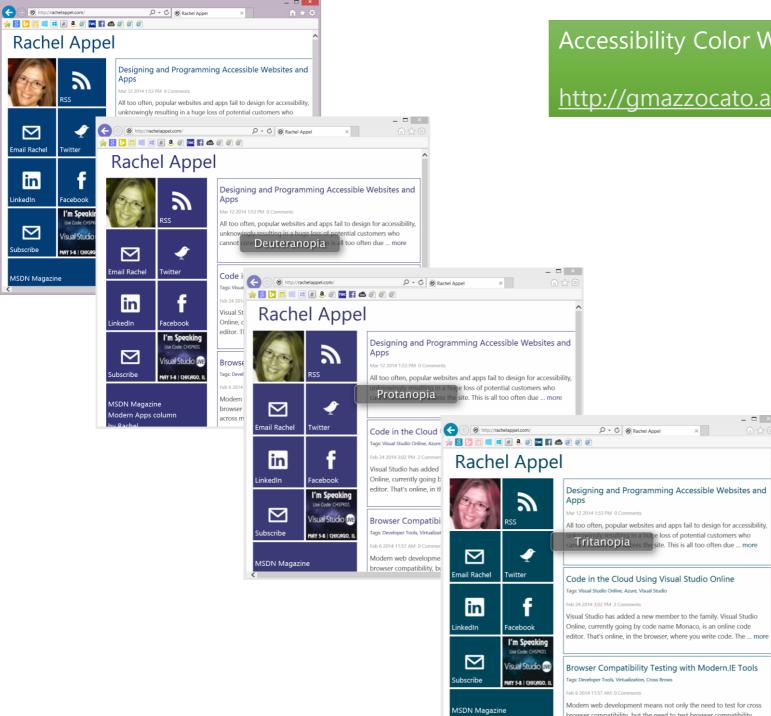
Contrast Sensitivity

**Contrast Sensitivity** 

Contrast Sensitivity

**Contrast Sensitivity** 

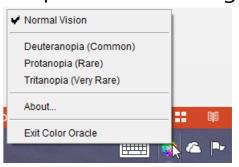
Contrast Sensitivity



#### **Accessibility Color Wheel Tool**

http://gmazzocato.altervista.org/colorwheel/wheel.php

#### Color Oracle http://colororacle.org/



MSDN Designing with Color

http://msdn.microsoft.com/enus/library/aa511283.aspx

## Designing Accessible Web Pages

- Use a consistent and clear navigation scheme
- Use a consistent and clear page layout and structure
- Organize content into distinct sections with clear headings
- JUST SAY NO to advertising popups!
  - They make it **impossible** for screen readers to work correctly
  - Users immediately leave your site. They cannot use it.
  - They're annoying to able bodied users



## Coding Accessible Web Pages

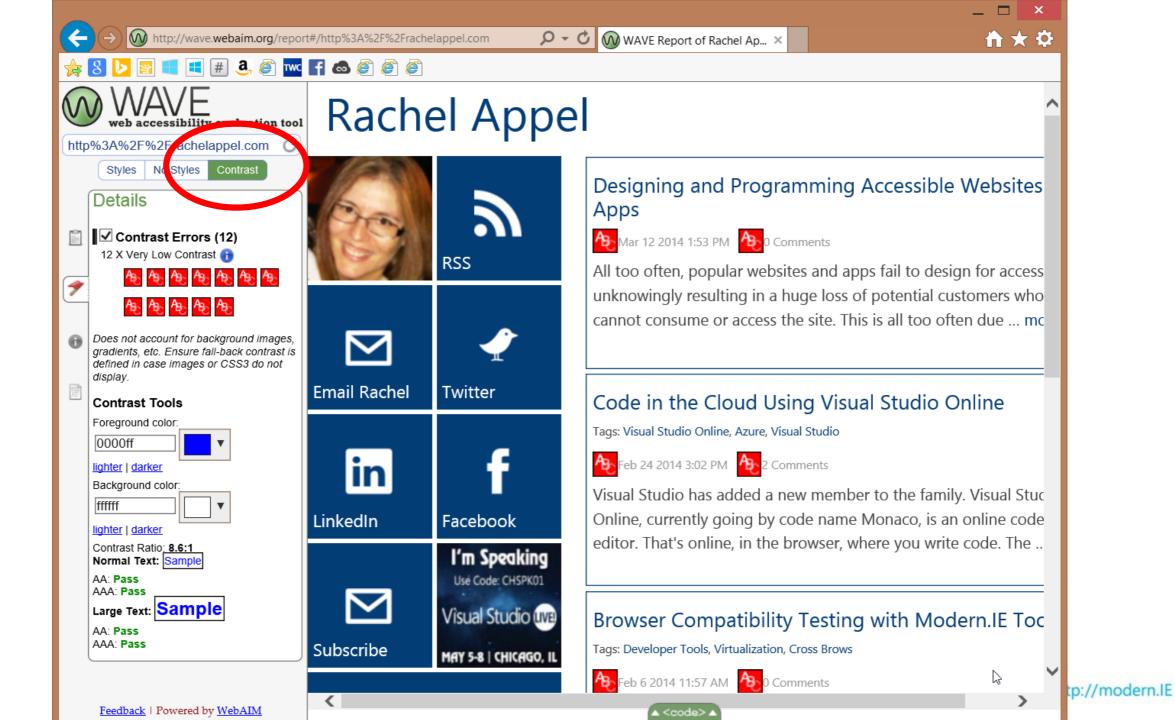
The Section 508 Checklist at WebAIM

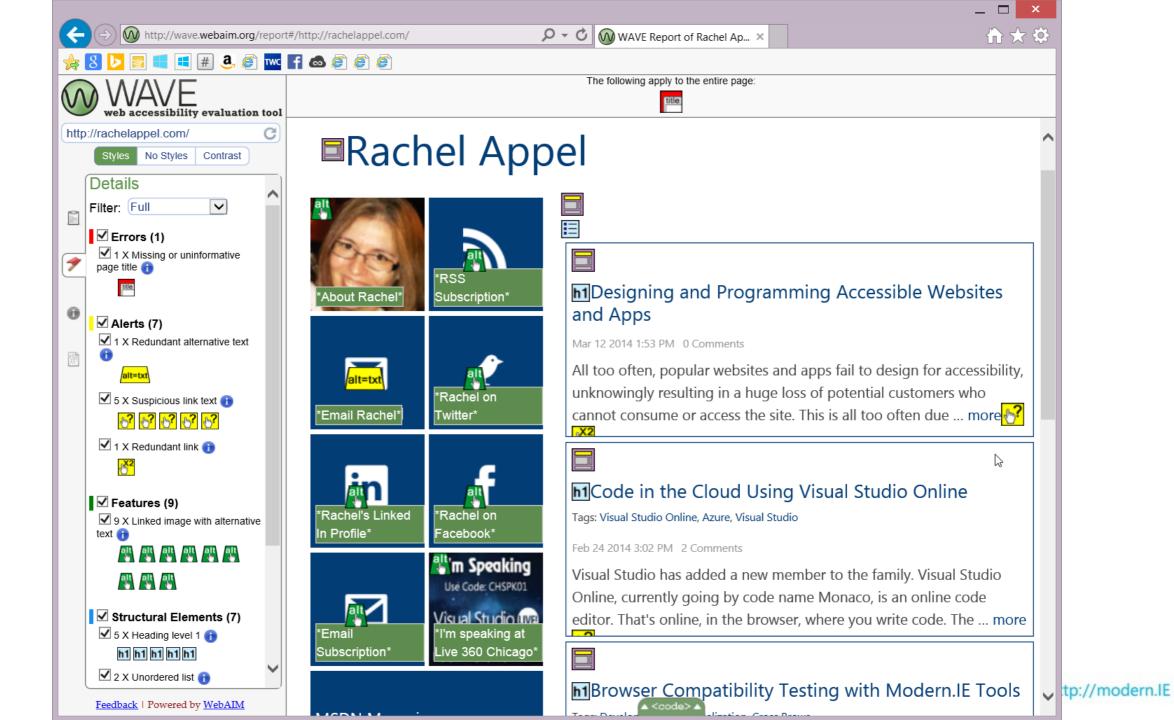
http://webaim.org/standards/508/checklist

WebAIM WAVE Tool

http://wave.webaim.org







#### **DEMO**

WebAIM Wave tool



# Coding Accessible Web Pages

- Design & code with a "Mobile First" mission.
- HTML & ARIA
- Use skip links
- Must be keyboard and alternative input friendly
- Avoid strobing, flickering, or flashing effects and images
- Avoid crazy JavaScript popups



# Skip Links

```
.offscreen {
   position:absolute;
   left:-10000px;
  top:auto;
  width:1px;
   height:1px;
  overflow:hidden;
```

#### **DMEO**

Skip links
 http://webaim.org/techniques/skipnav/



# Coding Accessible Web Pages

• Use semantic tags over aria if one exists

#### WAI-ARIA

- Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications
- W3C protocol
- Addresses missing semantics in dynamic apps



#### **ARIA**

- Roles
   What an element does (its function or purpose)
- States
  - What condition an element is in (e.g., enabled/disabled, on/off)
- Properties
   Characteristics of element (e.g., required)
- All these enable assistive technologies to work better



#### **ARIA** Roles

- application
- banner
- complementary
- contentinfo
- form
- main
- navigation (nav)
- search



#### **ARIA States & Properties**

aria-checked aria-disabled aria-atomic aria-busy (state) aria-controls aria-describedby aria-disabled (state) aria-dropeffect aria-flowto

aria-grabbed (state) aria-haspopup aria-hidden (state) aria-invalid (state) aria-label aria-labelledby aria-live aria-owns aria-relevant



### **DEMO**

ARIA



- Accessible Forms
  - Labels
  - Tab Order
  - No Focus
  - Required
  - Buttons, Links
- ARIA



```
<fieldset>
    <!-- fields -->
    <legend>
        <!-- group checkboxes, radios -->
        </legend>
        <!-- fields -->
        </fieldset>
```



```
<label for="fullName">Full Name</label>
<input id="fullName" type="text" />
<span class="required">[Required]</span>
```



```
<label for="fullName">Full Name</label>
<input id="fullName" aria-required="true" type="text" />
<span class="required">[Required]</span>
```



### DEMO

Accessible Forms



#### WebAIM Developer Tools

- WebAIM WAVE scanner
   [http://wave.webaim.org]
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines [http://webaim.org/standards/wcag/checklist]
- Section 508 Checklist [http://webaim.org/standards/508/checklist]
- Color Contrast Tool
   [http://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker]



#### Resources

- http://apodder.org/blog/NVDA-quick-start.html
- http://usabilitygeek.com/10-free-screen-reader-blind-visuallyimpaired-users/



#### **Accessibility Statistics / References**

- A study in 2009 by Cass Business School found that around 20% of UK entrepreneurs and 35% of US entrepreneurs are dyslexic (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19378286)
- 8% of males in the US suffer from some form of color blindness
- 7% of working age adults have a severe dexterity difficulty
- 4%-5% of people in the US, UK and Canada suffer from difficulty hearing. Incidence increases sharply in over-60s, with more than 20% of over-75s affected.
- Among adult computer users in the United States:
  - 1 in 4 has a vision difficulty
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  - 1 in 5 has a hearing difficulty
  - 35% of US entrepreneurs are dyslexic (20% in the UK)
- http://www.microsoft.com/enable/research/de
- http://webaim.org/articles/userperspective/fault.aspx