



# Top 10 Takeaways

## Introduction to WCAG 2.0

### 1 WCAG 2.0 Overview

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) were created through the Web Accessibility Initiative at the W3C. The W3C stands for World Wide Web Consortium, an international organization which works with stakeholders including industry and the web community to create web guidelines. The WCAG guidelines aim to make web content more accessible to a wider range of people with disabilities. By following WCAG 2.0 guidelines, organizations can make their web content accessible to a wide range of people with disabilities. Being accessible is a competitive advantage in today's market, and it can reduce your compliance risk.

### 2 How the Guidelines are Organized

WCAG 2.0 has 12 guidelines, which are organized under 4 principles: perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust.

### 3 Conformance Requirements

To be in conformance with WCAG 2.0, there are five requirements that must be met:

1. One of the following levels of conformance is met in full: single A, double, or triple A.
2. Conformance is for full web pages only, and cannot be achieved if part of a web page is excluded.
3. When a web page has a series of steps that need to be completed in order to accomplish something every page in the process is compliant.
4. Only accessibility-supported ways of using technologies are relied upon to satisfy the compliance requirements.
5. If technologies are not accessibility supported, they must not interfere with technologies that are accessibility supported.

## 4 Success Criteria

Level A is the minimum level of accessibility conformance. Level AA is the recommended level of accessibility and many international standards require Level AA conformance. AAA criteria represent the highest level of accessibility.

## 5 Perceivable

The principle of Perceivable means that information must be presented to users in ways that they can observe. One success criteria in this guideline at the AA level states text needs a contrast ratio of at least 4.5 to 1. You can use a 3 to 1 contrast ratio if the text is larger than 18 points in size, or 14 points if it's bold. You can test the color contrast of the text on your website using a free tool called Colour Contrast Analyser.

## 6 Operable

Operable means that we must be able to navigate and interact with the website. One success criteria in this guideline at the AA level states a site needs headings and labels that describe the topic or purpose of the content.

## 7 Understandable

Understandable means that we must be able to make sense of the site and how to use it. One success criteria in this guideline at the AA level states error messages must suggest a correction.

## 8 Robust

Robust means that the content should remain accessible over time. As web technology evolves, we should still have no problem accessing the content. The "Robust" category has only one guideline: "Maximize compatibility with current and future user agents, including assistive technologies."

## 9 Mobile Content

WCAG success criteria can be applied to mobile content such as mobile web sites. The WCAG working group's mobile accessibility task force has created an informative document explaining how WCAG and other guidelines can be applied to mobile content.

## 10 WCAG 2.0 Documentation

W3C provides WCAG 2.0 non-normative reference materials for free online. The [WCAG 2.0 quick reference tool](#) lets you sort the guidelines depending on what you're working on. The "[Techniques for WCAG 2.0](#)" document provides helpful tips on how to meet the guidelines. The techniques documents are known sufficient and failure techniques that are associated with a given success criteria.