

Easy checks - a first review of Web accessibility

Insuring your Web pages are accessible is a key requirement for developing Web sites. With **these 2 simple steps** - or easy checks- you can get an idea whether or not accessibility is addressed in the most basic way. W3C considers this a requirement for properly designed Web sites and Web tools that can be used by people with disabilities.

1. PAGE TITLE

Good page titles are particularly important for orientation — to help people know where they are and move between pages open in their browser. The first thing screen readers say when the user goes to a different Web page is the page title. In the Web page markup, they are the <title> within the <head>.

Check #1: There is a title that adequately and briefly describes the content of a page, and that it distinguishes the page from other Web pages.

Example:

```
<head>
...
<title>Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) - home page</title>
...
</head>
```

2. IMAGE TEXT ALTERNATIVES ("ALT TEXT")

Text alternatives ("alt text") are a primary way of making visual information accessible, because they can be rendered through any sensory modality (for example, visual, auditory or tactile) to match the needs of the user. Providing text alternatives allows the

information to be rendered in a variety of ways by a variety of user agents. For example, a person who cannot see a picture can have the text alternative read aloud using synthesized speech.

Check #2: Every image has alt with appropriate alternative text.

Example: See the W3C logo below. It contains a link that points to the W3C Web site. The text alternative is going to be a brief description of the link target.



```
<a href="http://w3.org">  
  
</a>
```

MORE EASY CHECKS

These checks above cover just a few accessibility issues and are designed to be quick and easy. There are 7 more checks that would need to be performed, categorized as follows:

- *Text:*
 - Headings
 - Contrast ratio ("color contrast")
 - Resize text
- *Interaction:*
 - Keyboard access and visual focus
 - Forms, labels, and errors
- *General:*
 - Multimedia (video, audio) alternatives

- [Basic structure check](#)

There are other accessibility issues not covered in these easy checks, for example: links, data table markup, reliance on color, content that causes seizures, and much more. If you are curious, see the [WAI Easy Checks page](#) where you will find a lot of valuable information.