



Monique Matelski - M1SG <monique.matelski@gsa.gov>

USWDS Difference in Difference Project

Mark Vogelgesang - O <mark.vogelgesang@gsa.gov>
To: Monique Matelski - M1SG <monique.matelski@gsa.gov>
Cc: Michael DiDomenico - M1SG <michael.didomenico@gsa.gov>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 1:45 PM

Hi Monique,

Apologies, I had overlooked your prior email. Answers below:

1. What are the selection criteria for a USWDS scan? Is a scan run on all live government websites or a subset of websites?
 1. Digitaldashboard.gov has a list of domain names that are assigned to the .gov top level domain (TLD). For instance, gsa.gov, treasury.gov, etc. It has not historically included sub-domains such as oes.gsa.gov, buy.gsa.gov, etc.
 2. This was done for both convenience and perceived impact.
 1. Perceived Impact - Most agencies, bureaus, committees, and boards make use of a simple domain name as their flagship website while using second, third, and fourth level subdomains for specific services or offices. The idea was to scan main entry points first.
 2. Convenience - In order to acquire domain name space on the .gov TLD, you must acquire it through DHS CISA who is the registrar (they are the GoDaddy of .gov). These domain names are registered and easy to track. Second, third, and fourth level domains (e.g., portal.fas.gsa.gov) do not have the same registration requirements and are harder to track as a result. Gathering a comprehensive list of these domains has proved challenging.
2. Do the same websites get scanned each time? Why would a website not be scanned?
 1. Yes and... If a new domain name is identified, it would be included in the scan. If a website residing at a given domain name was taken down or migrated, the scan would skip over that domain.
3. What does a "null" value mean for any of the three accessibility indicators (html, image, color)?
 1. Likely means that the site could not be scanned. I'd have to confirm with the DigitalDashboard.gov team.
4. Has there been a change in the criteria/definition for what an accessibility issue (html, image, color) entails? For example, are there more things considered html accessibility issues in 2022 than there were in 2018? Have accessibility standards changed and has this affected the way a scan might count "issues"?
 1. Yes, the accessibility standards do change over time but are done slowly and methodically. The Web Accessibility Initiative releases updates to the Web Content Accessibility Guides (WCAG) and federal web accessibility policy is pegged to the WCAG AA standard. I'll have to check with the digitaldashboard.gov team about which minor version of the WCAG AA standard is being used. Scan details show that it is version 2 but I am unclear if it is 2.0, 2.1, etc. Some additional details on WCAG versions can be found at <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/#versions>

Mark Vogelgesang
he/him/his (why is this important?)
Technical Lead, Enterprise Digital Experience (EDX) Team
Office of Customer Experience (OCE)
202-714-9343
mark.vogelgesang@gsa.gov
CustomerExperience@gsa.gov

[Quoted text hidden]