Lesson Learned

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Looking at this website from a different perspective has really brought to light a lot of issues I’ve never really considered before, and helped me to challenge those issues by thinking of ways to resolve them. Using the simulator especially was the most interesting portion of this assignment because while we can do the best to put ourselves in the headspace of the personas, actually experiencing things in a similar way they do is the best way to understand their experience with websites.

I’ve learned how certain colors that are meant to emphasize and draw attention to certain elements of a site, can quickly be perceived as ones that are irritating, and actually hide those same elements depending on the color scheme that was chosen.

There are multiple ways around this issue, things like using font size instead of just purely relying on colors, or using bolding, italics or other features on text to make headers or links stand out. Or adding certain symbols such as asterisks or under lining can also be an effective way to differentiate important elements.

There’s also issues I’ve never considered that the WCAG evaluation sheet made me think about, such as motion on the screen, or keyboard traps. That may not sound too bad, but can cause serious accessibility issues for certain users and may prevent them from using the site altogether, whether it’s a risk to their health or if it’s a system barrier that prevents them from navigating.

All in all, this assignment, while very long, was also effective at getting me to step into a perspective I may not have ever thought about otherwise, and I think it’s one that should be considered by everyone who is considering building a site or service and wants to make it accessible to everyone.