

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1



W3C Recommendation 12 December 2024

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This version:

<https://www.w3.org/TR/2024/REC-WCAG21-20241212/>

Latest published version:

<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>

Latest editor's draft:

<https://w3c.github.io/wcag/guidelines/>

History:

<https://www.w3.org/standards/history/WCAG21/>

[Commit history](#)

Implementation report:

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/implementation-report/>

Previous Recommendation:

<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>

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public-agwg-comments@w3.org with subject line [WCAG21] ... *message topic* ... ([archives](#))

Errata:

[Errata exists](#).

See also [translations](#).

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Abstract

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 covers a wide range of recommendations for making Web content more accessible. Following these guidelines will make content more accessible to a wider range of people with disabilities, including accommodations for blindness and low vision, deafness and hearing loss, limited movement, speech disabilities, photosensitivity, and combinations of these, and some accommodation for learning disabilities and cognitive limitations; but will not address every user need for people with these disabilities. These guidelines address accessibility of web content on desktops, laptops, tablets, and mobile devices. Following these guidelines will also often make Web content more usable to users in general.

WCAG 2.1 success criteria are written as testable statements that are not technology-specific. Guidance about satisfying the success criteria in specific technologies, as well as general information about interpreting the success criteria, is provided in separate documents. See [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) Overview](#) for an introduction and links to WCAG technical and educational material.

WCAG 2.1 extends [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 \[WCAG20\]](#), which was published as a W3C Recommendation December 2008. Content that conforms to WCAG 2.1 also conforms to WCAG 2.0. The WG intends that for policies requiring conformance to WCAG 2.0, WCAG 2.1 can provide an alternate means of conformance. The publication of WCAG 2.1 does not deprecate or supersede WCAG 2.0. While WCAG 2.0 remains a W3C Recommendation, the W3C advises the use of WCAG 2.1 to maximize future applicability of accessibility efforts. The W3C also encourages use of the most current version of WCAG when developing or updating Web accessibility policies.

Status of This Document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. A list of current W3C publications and the latest revision of this technical report can be found in the [W3C technical reports index](#) at <https://www.w3.org/TR/>.

This is a [Recommendation](#) of WCAG 2.1 by the [Accessibility Guidelines Working Group](#). This incorporates [errata](#) and are described in the [change log](#). At some point additional changes might be incorporated into an [Edited or Amended Recommendation](#).

To comment, [file an issue in the W3C WCAG GitHub repository](#). Although the proposed Success Criteria in this document reference issues tracking discussion, the Working Group requests that public comments be filed as new issues, one issue per discrete comment. It is free to create a GitHub account

to file issues. If filing issues in GitHub is not feasible, send email to public-agwg-comments@w3.org ([comment archive](#)).

This document was published by the [Accessibility Guidelines Working Group](#) as a Recommendation using the [Recommendation track](#).

.W3C recommends the wide deployment of this specification as a standard for the Web.

A .W3C Recommendation is a specification that, after extensive consensus-building, is endorsed by .W3C and its Members, and has commitments from Working Group members to [royalty-free licensing](#) for implementations.

This document was produced by a group operating under the [W3C Patent Policy](#). .W3C maintains a [public list of any patent disclosures](#) made in connection with the deliverables of the group; that page also includes instructions for disclosing a patent. An individual who has actual knowledge of a patent which the individual believes contains [Essential Claim\(s\)](#) must disclose the information in accordance with [section 6 of the W3C Patent Policy](#).

This document is governed by the [03 November 2023 W3C Process Document](#).

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B.1 Participants of the AG WG active in the development of this document:

B.2 Other previously active WCAG WG participants and other contributors to WCAG 2.0, WCAG 2.1, or supporting resources

B.3 Enabling funders

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§ Introduction

This section is non-normative.

§ Background on WCAG 2

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 defines how to make Web content more accessible to people with disabilities. Accessibility involves a wide range of disabilities, including visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, language, learning, and neurological disabilities. Although these guidelines cover a wide range of issues, they are not able to address the needs of people with all types, degrees, and combinations of disability. These guidelines also make Web content more usable by older individuals with changing abilities due to aging and often improve usability for users in general.

WCAG 2.1 is developed through the [W3C process](#) in cooperation with individuals and organizations around the world, with a goal of providing a shared standard for Web content accessibility that meets the needs of individuals, organizations, and governments internationally. WCAG 2.1 builds on WCAG 2.0 [[WCAG20](#)], which in turn built on WCAG 1.0 [[WAI-WEBCONTENT](#)] and is designed to apply broadly to different Web technologies now and in the future, and to be testable with a combination of automated testing and human evaluation. For an introduction to WCAG, see the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) Overview](#).

Significant challenges were encountered in defining additional criteria to address cognitive, language, and learning disabilities, including a short timeline for development as well as challenges in reaching

consensus on testability, implementability, and international considerations of proposals. Work will carry on in this area in future versions of WCAG. We encourage authors to refer to our supplemental guidance on [improving inclusion for people with disabilities, including learning and cognitive disabilities, people with low-vision, and more](#).

Web accessibility depends not only on accessible content but also on accessible Web browsers and other user agents. Authoring tools also have an important role in Web accessibility. For an overview of how these components of Web development and interaction work together, see:

- [Essential Components of Web Accessibility](#)
- [User Agent Accessibility Guidelines \(UAAG\) Overview](#)
- [Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines \(ATAG\) Overview](#)

Where this document refers to “WCAG 2” it is intended to mean any and all versions of WCAG that start with 2.

§ WCAG 2 Layers of Guidance

The individuals and organizations that use WCAG vary widely and include Web designers and developers, policy makers, purchasing agents, teachers, and students. In order to meet the varying needs of this audience, several layers of guidance are provided including overall *principles*, general *guidelines*, testable *success criteria* and a rich collection of *sufficient techniques*, *advisory techniques*, and *documented common failures* with examples, resource links and code.

- **Principles** - At the top are four principles that provide the foundation for Web accessibility: *perceivable*, *operable*, *understandable*, and *robust*. See also [Understanding the Four Principles of Accessibility](#).
- **Guidelines** - Under the principles are guidelines. The 13 guidelines provide the basic goals that authors should work toward in order to make content more accessible to users with different disabilities. The guidelines are not testable, but provide the framework and overall objectives to help authors understand the success criteria and better implement the techniques.
- **Success Criteria** - For each guideline, testable success criteria are provided to allow WCAG 2.1 to be used where requirements and conformance testing are necessary such as in design specification, purchasing, regulation, and contractual agreements. In order to meet the needs of different groups and different situations, three levels of conformance are defined: A (lowest), AA, and AAA (highest). Additional information on WCAG levels can be found in [Understanding Levels of Conformance](#).

- **Sufficient and Advisory Techniques** - For each of the *guidelines* and *success criteria* in the WCAG 2.1 document itself, the working group has also documented a wide variety of *techniques*. The techniques are informative and fall into two categories: those that are *sufficient* for meeting the success criteria and those that are *advisory*. The advisory techniques go beyond what is required by the individual success criteria and allow authors to better address the guidelines. Some advisory techniques address accessibility barriers that are not covered by the testable success criteria. Where common failures are known, these are also documented. See also [Sufficient and Advisory Techniques in Understanding WCAG 2.1](#).

All of these layers of guidance (principles, guidelines, success criteria, and sufficient and advisory techniques) work together to provide guidance on how to make content more accessible. Authors are encouraged to view and apply all layers that they are able to, including the advisory techniques, in order to best address the needs of the widest possible range of users.

Note that even content that conforms at the highest level (AAA) will not be accessible to individuals with all types, degrees, or combinations of disability, particularly in the cognitive language and learning areas. Authors are encouraged to consider the full range of techniques, including the advisory techniques, as well as to seek relevant advice about current best practice to ensure that Web content is accessible, as far as possible, to this community. [Metadata](#) may assist users in finding content most suitable for their needs.

§ WCAG 2.1 Supporting Documents

The WCAG 2.1 document is designed to meet the needs of those who need a stable, referenceable technical standard. Other documents, called supporting documents, are based on the WCAG 2.1 document and address other important purposes, including the ability to be updated to describe how WCAG would be applied with new technologies. Supporting documents include:

1. [How to Meet WCAG 2.1](#) - A customizable quick reference to WCAG 2.1 that includes all of the guidelines, success criteria, and techniques for authors to use as they are developing and evaluating Web content. This includes content from WCAG 2.0 and WCAG 2.1 and can be filtered in many ways to help authors focus on relevant content.
2. [Understanding WCAG 2.1](#) - A guide to understanding and implementing WCAG 2.1. There is a short "Understanding" document for each guideline and success criterion in WCAG 2.1 as well as key topics.
3. [Techniques for WCAG 2.1](#) - A collection of techniques and common failures, each in a separate document that includes a description, examples, code and tests.

4. [The WCAG Documents](#) - A diagram and description of how the technical documents are related and linked.

See [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) Overview](#) for a description of the WCAG 2.1 supporting material, including education resources related to WCAG 2. Additional resources covering topics such as the business case for Web accessibility, planning implementation to improve the accessibility of Web sites, and accessibility policies are listed in [WAI Resources](#).

§ Requirements for WCAG 2.1

WCAG 2.1 meets a set of [requirements for WCAG 2.1](#) which, in turn, inherit requirements from WCAG 2.0. Requirements structure the overall framework of guidelines and ensure backwards compatibility. The Working Group also used a less formal set of acceptance criteria for success criteria, to help ensure success criteria are similar in style and quality to those in WCAG 2.0. These requirements constrained what could be included in WCAG 2.1. This constraint was important to preserve its nature as a dot-release of WCAG 2.

§ Comparison with WCAG 2.0

WCAG 2.1 was initiated with the goal to improve accessibility guidance for three major groups: users with cognitive or learning disabilities, users with low vision, and users with disabilities on mobile devices. Many ways to meet these needs were proposed and evaluated, and a set of these were refined by the Working Group. Structural requirements inherited from WCAG 2.0, clarity and impact of proposals, and timeline led to the final set of success criteria included in this version. The Working Group considers that WCAG 2.1 incrementally advances web content accessibility guidance for all these areas, but underscores that not all user needs are met by these guidelines.

WCAG 2.1 builds on and is backwards compatible with WCAG 2.0, meaning web pages that conform to WCAG 2.1 also conform to WCAG 2.0. Authors that are required by policy to conform with WCAG 2.0 will be able to update content to WCAG 2.1 without losing conformance with WCAG 2.0. Authors following both sets of guidelines should be aware of the following differences:

§ New Features in WCAG 2.1

WCAG 2.1 extends WCAG 2.0 by adding new success criteria, definitions to support them, guidelines to organize the additions, and a couple additions to the conformance section. This additive approach helps to make it clear that sites which conform to WCAG 2.1 also conform to WCAG 2.0, thereby meeting conformance obligations that are specific to WCAG 2.0. The Accessibility Guidelines Working Group recommends that sites adopt WCAG 2.1 as their new conformance target, even if formal obligations mention WCAG 2.0, to provide improved accessibility and to anticipate future policy changes.

The following Success Criteria are new in WCAG 2.1:

- 1.3.4 [Orientation](#) (AA)
- 1.3.5 [Identify Input Purpose](#) (AA)
- 1.3.6 [Identify Purpose](#) (AAA)
- 1.4.10 [Reflow](#) (AA)
- 1.4.11 [Non-Text Contrast](#) (AA)
- 1.4.12 [Text Spacing](#) (AA)
- 1.4.13 [Content on Hover or Focus](#) (AA)
- 2.1.4 [Character Key Shortcuts](#) (A)
- 2.2.6 [Timeouts](#) (AAA)
- 2.3.3 [Animation from Interactions](#) (AAA)
- 2.5.1 [Pointer Gestures](#) (A)
- 2.5.2 [Pointer Cancellation](#) (A)
- 2.5.3 [Label in Name](#) (A)
- 2.5.4 [Motion Actuation](#) (A)
- 2.5.5 [Target Size](#) (AAA)
- 2.5.6 [Concurrent Input Mechanisms](#) (AAA)
- 4.1.3 [Status Messages](#) (AA)

The new success criteria may reference new terms that have also been added to the glossary and form part of the normative requirements of the success criteria.

In the Conformance section, a third note about page variants has been added to [Full Pages](#), and an option for machine-readable metadata added to [Optional Components of a Conformance Claim](#).

§ Numbering in WCAG 2.1

In order to avoid confusion for implementers for whom backwards compatibility to WCAG 2.0 is important, new success criteria in WCAG 2.1 have been appended to the end of the set of success criteria within their guideline. This avoids the need to change the section number of success criteria from WCAG 2.0, which would be caused by inserting new success criteria between existing success criteria in the guideline, but it means success criteria in each guideline are no longer grouped by conformance level. The order of success criteria within each guideline does not imply information about conformance level; only the conformance level indicator (A / AA / AAA) on the success criterion itself indicates this. The [WCAG 2.1 Quick Reference](#) provides ways to view success criteria grouped by conformance level, along with many other filter and sort options.

§ Conformance to WCAG 2.1

WCAG 2.1 uses the same conformance model as WCAG 2.0 with a couple additions, which is described in the [Conformance](#) section. It is intended that sites that conform to WCAG 2.1 also conform to WCAG 2.0, which means they meet the requirements of any policies that reference WCAG 2.0, while also better meeting the needs of users on the current Web.

§ Later Versions of Accessibility Guidelines

In parallel with WCAG 2.1, the Accessibility Guidelines Working Group is developing another major version of accessibility guidelines. The result of this work is expected to be a more substantial restructuring of web accessibility guidance than would be realistic for dot-releases of WCAG 2. The work follows a research-focused, user-centered design methodology to produce the most effective and flexible outcome, including the roles of content authoring, user agent support, and authoring tool support. This is a multi-year effort, so WCAG 2.1 is needed as an interim measure to provide updated web accessibility guidance to reflect changes on the web since the publication of WCAG 2.0. The Working Group might also develop additional interim versions, continuing with WCAG 2.2, on a similar short timeline to provide additional support while the major version is completed.

§ 1. Perceivable

Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive.

§ Guideline 1.1 Text Alternatives

Provide text alternatives for any non-text content so that it can be changed into other forms people need, such as large print, braille, speech, symbols or simpler language.

Understanding Text Alternatives How to Meet Text Alternatives

§ Success Criterion 1.1.1 Non-text Content

(Level A)

Understanding Non-text Content How to Meet Non-text Content

All [non-text content](#) that is presented to the user has a [text alternative](#) that serves the equivalent purpose, except for the situations listed below.

Controls, Input

If non-text content is a control or accepts user input, then it has a [name](#) that describes its purpose. (Refer to [Success Criterion 4.1.2](#) for additional requirements for controls and content that accepts user input.)

Time-Based Media

If non-text content is time-based media, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. (Refer to [Guideline 1.2](#) for additional requirements for media.)

Test

If non-text content is a test or exercise that would be invalid if presented in [text](#), then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content.

Sensory

If non-text content is primarily intended to create a [specific sensory experience](#), then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content.

CAPTCHA

If the purpose of non-text content is to confirm that content is being accessed by a person rather than a computer, then text alternatives that identify and describe the purpose of the non-text

content are provided, and alternative forms of CAPTCHA using output modes for different types of sensory perception are provided to accommodate different disabilities.

Decoration, Formatting, Invisible

If non-text content is [pure decoration](#), is used only for visual formatting, or is not presented to users, then it is implemented in a way that it can be ignored by [assistive technology](#).

§ **Guideline 1.2 Time-based Media**

Provide alternatives for time-based media.

Understanding Time-based Media How to Meet Time-based Media

§ **Success Criterion 1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)**

(Level A)

For [prerecorded audio-only](#) and prerecorded [video-only](#) media, the following are true, except when the audio or video is a [media alternative for text](#) and is clearly labeled as such:

Understanding Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) How to Meet Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)

Prerecorded Audio-only

An [alternative for time-based media](#) is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded audio-only content.

Prerecorded Video-only

Either an alternative for time-based media or an audio track is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded video-only content.

§ **Success Criterion 1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)**

(Level A)

[Captions](#) are provided for all [prerecorded audio](#) content in [synchronized media](#), except when the media is a [media alternative for text](#) and is clearly labeled as such.

Understanding Captions (Prerecorded) How to Meet Captions (Prerecorded)

§ Success Criterion 1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)

(Level A)

An [alternative for time-based media](#) or [audio description](#) of the [prerecorded video](#) content is provided for [synchronized media](#), except when the media is a [media alternative for text](#) and is clearly labeled as such.

[Understanding Audio Description or Media Alternative \(Prerecorded\)](#)
[How to Meet Audio Description or Media Alternative \(Prerecorded\)](#)

§ Success Criterion 1.2.4 Captions (Live)

(Level AA)

[Captions](#) are provided for all [live audio](#) content in [synchronized media](#).

[Understanding Captions \(Live\)](#)
[How to Meet Captions \(Live\)](#)

§ Success Criterion 1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)

(Level AA)

[Audio description](#) is provided for all [prerecorded video](#) content in [synchronized media](#).

[Understanding Audio Description \(Prerecorded\)](#)
[How to Meet Audio Description \(Prerecorded\)](#)

§ Success Criterion 1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded)

(Level AAA)

[Sign language interpretation](#) is provided for all [prerecorded audio](#) content in [synchronized media](#).

[Understanding Sign Language \(Prerecorded\)](#)
[How to Meet Sign Language \(Prerecorded\)](#)

§ Success Criterion 1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded)

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Extended Audio Description \(Prerecorded\)](#)
[How to Meet Extended Audio Description \(Prerecorded\)](#)

Where pauses in foreground audio are insufficient to allow [audio descriptions](#) to convey the sense of the video, [extended audio description](#) is provided for all [prerecorded video](#) content in [synchronized media](#).

§ Success Criterion 1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded)

(Level AAA)

An [alternative for time-based media](#) is provided for all [prerecorded synchronized media](#) and for all prerecorded [video-only](#) media.

Understanding Media Alternative (Prerecorded) How to Meet Media Alternative (Prerecorded)

§ Success Criterion 1.2.9 Audio-only (Live)

(Level AAA)

An [alternative for time-based media](#) that presents equivalent information for [live audio-only](#) content is provided.

Understanding Audio-only (Live) How to Meet Audio-only (Live)

§ Guideline 1.3 Adaptable

Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure.

Understanding Adaptable How to Meet Adaptable

§ Success Criterion 1.3.1 Info and Relationships

(Level A)

Information, [structure](#), and [relationships](#) conveyed through [presentation](#) can be [programmatically determined](#) or are available in text.

Understanding Info and Relationships How to Meet Info and Relationships

§ Success Criterion 1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence

(Level A)

Understanding Meaningful Sequence How to Meet Meaningful Sequence

When the sequence in which content is presented affects its meaning, a [correct reading sequence](#) can be [programmatically determined](#).

§ Success Criterion 1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics

(Level A)

Understanding Sensory Characteristics How to Meet Sensory Characteristics

Instructions provided for understanding and operating content do not rely solely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, color, size, visual location, orientation, or sound.

NOTE

For requirements related to color, refer to [Guideline 1.4](#).

§ Success Criterion 1.3.4 Orientation

(Level AA)

Understanding Orientation How to Meet Orientation

Content does not restrict its view and operation to a single display orientation, such as portrait or landscape, unless a specific display orientation is [essential](#).

NOTE

Examples where a particular display orientation may be essential are a bank check, a piano application, slides for a projector or television, or virtual reality content where content is not necessarily restricted to landscape or portrait display orientation.

§ Success Criterion 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose

(Level AA)

Understanding Identify Input Purpose How to Meet Identify Input Purpose

The purpose of each input field collecting information about the user can be [programmatically determined](#) when:

- The input field serves a purpose identified in the [Input Purposes for user interface components section](#); and

- The content is implemented using technologies with support for identifying the expected meaning for form input data.

§ Success Criterion 1.3.6 Identify Purpose

(Level AAA)

Understanding Identify Purpose How to Meet Identify Purpose

In content implemented using markup languages, the purpose of [user interface components](#), icons, and [regions](#) can be [programmatically determined](#).

§ Guideline 1.4 Distinguishable

Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background.

Understanding Distinguishable How to Meet Distinguishable

§ Success Criterion 1.4.1 Use of Color

(Level A)

Understanding Use of Color How to Meet Use of Color

Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.

NOTE

This success criterion addresses color perception specifically. Other forms of perception are covered in [Guideline 1.3](#) including programmatic access to color and other visual presentation coding.

§ Success Criterion 1.4.2 Audio Control

(Level A)

Understanding Audio Control How to Meet Audio Control

If any audio on a Web page plays automatically for more than 3 seconds, either a [mechanism](#) is available to pause or stop the audio, or a mechanism is available to control audio volume independently from the overall system volume level.

NOTE

Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether or not it is used to meet other success criteria) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

§ Success Criterion 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)

(Level AA)

Understanding Contrast (Minimum) How to Meet Contrast (Minimum)

The visual presentation of [text](#) and [images of text](#) has a [contrast ratio](#) of at least 4.5:1, except for the following:

Large Text

[Large-scale](#) text and images of large-scale text have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1;

Incidental

Text or images of text that are part of an inactive [user interface component](#), that are [pure decoration](#), that are not visible to anyone, or that are part of a picture that contains significant other visual content, have no contrast requirement.

Logotypes

Text that is part of a logo or brand name has no contrast requirement.

§ Success Criterion 1.4.4 Resize Text

(Level AA)

Understanding Resize Text How to Meet Resize Text

Except for [captions](#) and [images of text](#), [text](#) can be resized without [assistive technology](#) up to 200 percent without loss of content or functionality.

§ Success Criterion 1.4.5 Images of Text

(Level AA)

Understanding Images of Text How to Meet Images of Text

If the technologies being used can achieve the visual presentation, [text](#) is used to convey information rather than [images of text](#) except for the following:

Customizable

The image of text can be [visually customized](#) to the user's requirements;

Essential

A particular presentation of text is [essential](#) to the information being conveyed.

NOTE

Logotypes (text that is part of a logo or brand name) are considered essential.

§ Success Criterion 1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced)

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Contrast \(Enhanced\)](#)
[How to Meet Contrast \(Enhanced\)](#)

The visual presentation of [text](#) and [images of text](#) has a [contrast ratio](#) of at least 7:1, except for the following:

Large Text

[Large-scale](#) text and images of large-scale text have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1;

Incidental

Text or images of text that are part of an inactive [user interface component](#), that are [pure decoration](#), that are not visible to anyone, or that are part of a picture that contains significant other visual content, have no contrast requirement.

Logotypes

Text that is part of a logo or brand name has no contrast requirement.

§ Success Criterion 1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Low or No Background Audio](#)
[How to Meet Low or No Background Audio](#)

For [prerecorded audio-only](#) content that (1) contains primarily speech in the foreground, (2) is not an audio [CAPTCHA](#) or audio logo, and (3) is not vocalization intended to be primarily musical expression such as singing or rapping, at least one of the following is true:

No Background

The audio does not contain background sounds.

Turn Off

The background sounds can be turned off.

20 dB

The background sounds are at least 20 decibels lower than the foreground speech content, with the exception of occasional sounds that last for only one or two seconds.

NOTE

Per the definition of "decibel," background sound that meets this requirement will be approximately four times quieter than the foreground speech content.

Success Criterion 1.4.8 Visual Presentation

(Level AAA)

Understanding Visual Presentation How to Meet Visual Presentation

For the visual presentation of [blocks of text](#), a [mechanism](#) is available to achieve the following:

- Foreground and background colors can be selected by the user.
- Width is no more than 80 characters or glyphs (40 if CJK).
- Text is not justified (aligned to both the left and the right margins).
- Line spacing (leading) is at least space-and-a-half within paragraphs, and paragraph spacing is at least 1.5 times larger than the line spacing.
- Text can be resized without assistive technology up to 200 percent in a way that does not require the user to scroll horizontally to read a line of text [on a full-screen window](#).

Success Criterion 1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception)

(Level AAA)

[Images of text](#) are only used for [pure decoration](#) or where a particular presentation of [text](#) is [essential](#) to the information being conveyed.

Understanding Images of Text (No Exception) How to Meet Images of Text (No Exception)

NOTE

Logotypes (text that is part of a logo or brand name) are considered essential.

§ Success Criterion 1.4.10 Reflow

(Level AA)

Understanding Reflow How to Meet Reflow

Content can be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions for:

- Vertical scrolling content at a width equivalent to 320 [CSS pixels](#);
- Horizontal scrolling content at a height equivalent to 256 [CSS pixels](#).

Except for parts of the content which require two-dimensional layout for usage or meaning.

NOTE

320 CSS pixels is equivalent to a starting viewport width of 1280 CSS pixels wide at 400% zoom. For web content which is designed to scroll horizontally (e.g., with vertical text), 256 CSS pixels is equivalent to a starting viewport height of 1024 CSS pixels at 400% zoom.

NOTE

Examples of content which requires two-dimensional layout are images required for understanding (such as maps and diagrams), video, games, presentations, data tables (not individual cells), and interfaces where it is necessary to keep toolbars in view while manipulating content. It is acceptable to provide two-dimensional scrolling for such parts of the content.

§ Success Criterion 1.4.11 Non-text Contrast

(Level AA)

Understanding Non-text Contrast How to Meet Non-text Contrast

The visual [presentation](#) of the following have a [contrast ratio](#) of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s):

User Interface Components

Visual information required to identify [user interface components](#) and [states](#), except for inactive components or where the appearance of the component is determined by the user agent and not modified by the author;

Graphical Objects

Parts of graphics required to understand the content, except when a particular presentation of graphics is [essential](#) to the information being conveyed.

Success Criterion 1.4.12 Text Spacing

(Level AA)

[Understanding Text Spacing](#)

[How to Meet Text Spacing](#)

In content implemented using markup languages that support the following [text style properties](#), no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property:

- Line height (line spacing) to at least 1.5 times the font size;
- Spacing following paragraphs to at least 2 times the font size;
- Letter spacing (tracking) to at least 0.12 times the font size;
- Word spacing to at least 0.16 times the font size.

Exception: Human languages and scripts that do not make use of one or more of these text style properties in written text can conform using only the properties that exist for that combination of language and script.

Success Criterion 1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus

(Level AA)

[Understanding Content on Hover or Focus](#)

[Focus](#)

[How to Meet Content on Hover or Focus](#)

Where receiving and then removing pointer hover or keyboard focus triggers additional content to become visible and then hidden, the following are true:

Dismissible

A [mechanism](#) is available to dismiss the additional content without moving pointer hover or keyboard focus, unless the additional content communicates an [input error](#) or does not obscure or replace other content;

Hoverable

If pointer hover can trigger the additional content, then the pointer can be moved over the additional content without the additional content disappearing;

Persistent

The additional content remains visible until the hover or focus trigger is removed, the user dismisses it, or its information is no longer valid.

Exception: The visual presentation of the additional content is controlled by the user agent and is not modified by the author.

NOTE

Examples of additional content controlled by the user agent include browser tooltips created through use of the HTML [title attribute](#).

NOTE

Custom tooltips, sub-menus, and other nonmodal popups that display on hover and focus are examples of additional content covered by this criterion.

§ 2. Operable

User interface components and navigation must be operable.

§ Guideline 2.1 Keyboard Accessible

Make all functionality available from a keyboard.

Understanding Keyboard Accessible How to Meet Keyboard Accessible

§ Success Criterion 2.1.1 Keyboard

(Level A)

Understanding Keyboard How to Meet Keyboard

All [functionality](#) of the content is operable through a [keyboard interface](#) without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes, except where the underlying function requires input that depends on the path of the user's movement and not just the endpoints.

NOTE

This exception relates to the underlying function, not the input technique. For example, if using handwriting to enter text, the input technique (handwriting) requires path-dependent input but the underlying function (text input) does not.

NOTE

This does not forbid and should not discourage providing mouse input or other input methods in addition to keyboard operation.

§ Success Criterion 2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap

(Level A)

[Understanding No Keyboard Trap](#)
[How to Meet No Keyboard Trap](#)

If keyboard focus can be moved to a component of the page using a [keyboard interface](#), then focus can be moved away from that component using only a keyboard interface, and, if it requires more than unmodified arrow or tab keys or other standard exit methods, the user is advised of the method for moving focus away.

NOTE

Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception)

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Keyboard \(No Exception\)](#)
[How to Meet Keyboard \(No Exception\)](#)

All [functionality](#) of the content is operable through a [keyboard interface](#) without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes.

§ Success Criterion 2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts

(Level A)

[Understanding Character Key Shortcuts](#)
[How to Meet Character Key Shortcuts](#)

If a [keyboard shortcut](#) is implemented in content using only letter (including upper- and lower-case letters), punctuation, number, or symbol characters, then at least one of the following is true:

Turn off

A [mechanism](#) is available to turn the shortcut off;

Remap

A mechanism is available to remap the shortcut to include one or more non-printable keyboard keys (e.g., Ctrl, Alt);

Active only on focus

The keyboard shortcut for a [user interface component](#) is only active when that component has focus.

§ Guideline 2.2 Enough Time

Provide users enough time to read and use content.

Understanding Enough Time How to Meet Enough Time

§ Success Criterion 2.2.1 Timing Adjustable

(Level A)

Understanding Timing Adjustable How to Meet Timing Adjustable

For each time limit that is set by the content, at least one of the following is true:

Turn off

The user is allowed to turn off the time limit before encountering it; or

Adjust

The user is allowed to adjust the time limit before encountering it over a wide range that is at least ten times the length of the default setting; or

Extend

The user is warned before time expires and given at least 20 seconds to extend the time limit with a simple action (for example, "press the space bar"), and the user is allowed to extend the time limit at least ten times; or

Real-time Exception

The time limit is a required part of a real-time event (for example, an auction), and no alternative to the time limit is possible; or

Essential Exception

The time limit is [essential](#) and extending it would invalidate the activity; or

20 Hour Exception

The time limit is longer than 20 hours.

NOTE

This success criterion helps ensure that users can complete tasks without unexpected changes in content or context that are a result of a time limit. This success criterion should be considered in conjunction with [Success Criterion 3.2.1](#), which puts limits on changes of content or context as a result of user action.

§ Success Criterion 2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide

(Level A)

Understanding Pause, Stop, Hide How to Meet Pause, Stop, Hide

For moving, [blinking](#), scrolling, or auto-updating information, all of the following are true:

Moving, blinking, scrolling

For any moving, blinking or scrolling information that (1) starts automatically, (2) lasts more than five seconds, and (3) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to [pause](#), stop, or hide it unless the movement, blinking, or scrolling is part of an activity where it is [essential](#); and

Auto-updating

For any auto-updating information that (1) starts automatically and (2) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to pause, stop, or hide it or to control the frequency of the update unless the auto-updating is part of an activity where it is essential.

NOTE

For requirements related to flickering or flashing content, refer to [Guideline 2.3](#).

NOTE

Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

NOTE

Content that is updated periodically by software or that is streamed to the user agent is not required to preserve or present information that is generated or received between the initiation of the pause and resuming presentation, as this may not be technically possible, and in many situations could be misleading to do so.

NOTE

An animation that occurs as part of a preload phase or similar situation can be considered essential if interaction cannot occur during that phase for all users and if not indicating progress could confuse users or cause them to think that content was frozen or broken.

§ Success Criterion 2.2.3 No Timing

(Level AAA)

[Understanding No Timing](#)
[How to Meet No Timing](#)

Timing is not an [essential](#) part of the event or activity presented by the content, except for non-interactive [synchronized media](#) and [real-time events](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.2.4 Interruptions

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Interruptions](#)
[How to Meet Interruptions](#)

Interruptions can be postponed or suppressed by the user, except interruptions involving an [emergency](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.2.5 Re-authenticating

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Re-authenticating](#)
[How to Meet Re-authenticating](#)

When an authenticated session expires, the user can continue the activity without loss of data after re-authenticating.

§ Success Criterion 2.2.6 Timeouts

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Timeouts](#)
[How to Meet Timeouts](#)

Users are warned of the duration of any [user inactivity](#) that could cause data loss, unless the data is preserved for more than 20 hours when the user does not take any actions.

NOTE

Privacy regulations may require explicit user consent before user identification has been authenticated and before user data is preserved. In cases where the user is a minor, explicit consent may not be solicited in most jurisdictions, countries or regions. Consultation with privacy professionals and legal counsel is advised when considering data preservation as an approach to satisfy this success criterion.

§ Guideline 2.3 Seizures and Physical Reactions

Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures or physical reactions.

[Understanding Seizures and Physical Reactions](#)
[How to Meet Seizures and Physical Reactions](#)

§ Success Criterion 2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold

(Level A)

[Web pages](#) do not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one second period, or the [flash](#) is below the [general flash and red flash thresholds](#).

[Understanding Three Flashes or Below Threshold](#)
[How to Meet Three Flashes or Below Threshold](#)

NOTE

Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.3.2 Three Flashes

(Level AAA)

Understanding Three Flashes How to Meet Three Flashes

[Web pages](#) do not contain anything that [flashes](#) more than three times in any one second period.

§ Success Criterion 2.3.3 Animation from Interactions

(Level AAA)

Understanding Animation from Interactions How to Meet Animation from Interactions

[Motion animation](#) triggered by interaction can be disabled, unless the animation is [essential](#) to the functionality or the information being conveyed.

§ Guideline 2.4 Navigable

Provide ways to help users navigate, find content, and determine where they are.

Understanding Navigable How to Meet Navigable

§ Success Criterion 2.4.1 Bypass Blocks

(Level A)

Understanding Bypass Blocks How to Meet Bypass Blocks

A [mechanism](#) is available to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple [Web pages](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.4.2 Page Titled

(Level A)

Understanding Page Titled How to Meet Page Titled

[Web pages](#) have titles that describe topic or purpose.

§ Success Criterion 2.4.3 Focus Order

(Level A)

[Understanding Focus Order](#)
[How to Meet Focus Order](#)

If a [Web page](#) can be [navigated sequentially](#) and the navigation sequences affect meaning or operation, focusable components receive focus in an order that preserves meaning and operability.

§ Success Criterion 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)

(Level A)

[Understanding Link Purpose \(In Context\)](#)
[How to Meet Link Purpose \(In Context\)](#)

The [purpose of each link](#) can be determined from the link text alone or from the link text together with its [programmatically determined link context](#), except where the purpose of the link would be [ambiguous to users in general](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.4.5 Multiple Ways

(Level AA)

[Understanding Multiple Ways](#)
[How to Meet Multiple Ways](#)

More than one way is available to locate a [Web page](#) within a [set of Web pages](#) except where the Web Page is the result of, or a step in, a [process](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.4.6 Headings and Labels

(Level AA)

[Understanding Headings and Labels](#)
[How to Meet Headings and Labels](#)

Headings and [labels](#) describe topic or purpose.

§ Success Criterion 2.4.7 Focus Visible

(Level AA)

[Understanding Focus Visible](#)
[How to Meet Focus Visible](#)

Any keyboard operable user interface has a mode of operation where the keyboard focus indicator is visible.

§ Success Criterion 2.4.8 Location

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Location](#)
[How to Meet Location](#)

Information about the user's location within a [set of Web pages](#) is available.

§ Success Criterion 2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only)

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Link Purpose \(Link Only\)](#)
[How to Meet Link Purpose \(Link Only\)](#)

A [mechanism](#) is available to allow the purpose of each link to be identified from link text alone, except where the purpose of the link would be [ambiguous to users in general](#).

§ Success Criterion 2.4.10 Section Headings

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Section Headings](#)
[How to Meet Section Headings](#)

[Section](#) headings are used to organize the content.

NOTE

"Heading" is used in its general sense and includes titles and other ways to add a heading to different types of content.

NOTE

This success criterion covers sections within writing, not [user interface components](#). User interface components are covered under [Success Criterion 4.1.2](#).

§ Guideline 2.5 Input Modalities

[New]

[Understanding Input Modalities](#)
[How to Meet Input Modalities](#)

Make it easier for users to operate functionality through various inputs beyond keyboard.

§ Success Criterion 2.5.1 Pointer Gestures

(Level A)

[Understanding Pointer Gestures](#)
[How to Meet Pointer Gestures](#)

All [functionality](#) that uses multipoint or path-based gestures for operation can be operated with a [single pointer](#) without a path-based gesture, unless a multipoint or path-based gesture is [essential](#).

NOTE

This requirement applies to web content that interprets pointer actions (i.e. this does not apply to actions that are required to operate the user agent or assistive technology).

§ Success Criterion 2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation

(Level A)

[Understanding Pointer Cancellation](#)
[How to Meet Pointer Cancellation](#)

For [functionality](#) that can be operated using a [single pointer](#), at least one of the following is true:

No Down-Event

The [down-event](#) of the pointer is not used to execute any part of the function;

Abort or Undo

Completion of the function is on the [up-event](#), and a [mechanism](#) is available to abort the function before completion or to undo the function after completion;

Up Reversal

The up-event reverses any outcome of the preceding down-event;

Essential

Completing the function on the down-event is [essential](#).

NOTE

Functions that emulate a keyboard or numeric keypad key press are considered essential.

NOTE

This requirement applies to web content that interprets pointer actions (i.e. this does not apply to actions that are required to operate the user agent or assistive technology).

§ Success Criterion 2.5.3 Label in Name

(Level A)

[Understanding Label in Name](#)
[How to Meet Label in Name](#)

For [user interface components](#) with [labels](#) that include [text](#) or [images of text](#), the [name](#) contains the text that is presented visually.

NOTE

A best practice is to have the text of the label at the start of the name.

§ Success Criterion 2.5.4 Motion Actuation

(Level A)

[Understanding Motion Actuation](#)
[How to Meet Motion Actuation](#)

[Functionality](#) that can be operated by device motion or user motion can also be operated by [user interface components](#) and responding to the motion can be disabled to prevent accidental actuation, except when:

Supported Interface

The motion is used to operate functionality through an [accessibility supported](#) interface;

Essential

The motion is [essential](#) for the function and doing so would invalidate the activity.

§ Success Criterion 2.5.5 Target Size

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Target Size](#)
[How to Meet Target Size](#)

The size of the [target](#) for [pointer inputs](#) is at least 44 by 44 [CSS pixels](#) except when:

Equivalent

The target is available through an equivalent link or control on the same page that is at least 44 by 44 CSS pixels;

Inline

The target is in a sentence or block of text;

User Agent Control

The size of the target is determined by the user agent and is not modified by the author;

Essential

A particular presentation of the target is [essential](#) to the information being conveyed.

§ Success Criterion 2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms

(Level AAA)

Web content does not restrict use of input modalities available on a platform except where the restriction is [essential](#), required to ensure the security of the content, or required to respect user settings.

Understanding Concurrent Input Mechanisms How to Meet Concurrent Input Mechanisms

§ 3. Understandable

Information and the operation of the user interface must be understandable.

§ Guideline 3.1 Readable

Make text content readable and understandable.

Understanding Readable How to Meet Readable

§ Success Criterion 3.1.1 Language of Page

(Level A)

The default [human language](#) of each [Web page](#) can be [programmatically determined](#).

Understanding Language of Page How to Meet Language of Page

§ Success Criterion 3.1.2 Language of Parts

(Level AA)

[Understanding Language of Parts](#)
[How to Meet Language of Parts](#)

The [human language](#) of each passage or phrase in the content can be [programmatically determined](#) except for proper names, technical terms, words of indeterminate language, and words or phrases that have become part of the vernacular of the immediately surrounding text.

§ Success Criterion 3.1.3 Unusual Words

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Unusual Words](#)
[How to Meet Unusual Words](#)

A [mechanism](#) is available for identifying specific definitions of words or phrases [used in an unusual or restricted way](#), including [idioms](#) and [jargon](#).

§ Success Criterion 3.1.4 Abbreviations

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Abbreviations](#)
[How to Meet Abbreviations](#)

A [mechanism](#) for identifying the expanded form or meaning of [abbreviations](#) is available.

§ Success Criterion 3.1.5 Reading Level

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Reading Level](#)
[How to Meet Reading Level](#)

When text requires reading ability more advanced than the [lower secondary education level](#) after removal of proper names and titles, [supplemental content](#), or a version that does not require reading ability more advanced than the lower secondary education level, is available.

§ Success Criterion 3.1.6 Pronunciation

(Level AAA)

[Understanding Pronunciation](#)
[How to Meet Pronunciation](#)

A [mechanism](#) is available for identifying specific pronunciation of words where meaning of the words, in context, is ambiguous without knowing the pronunciation.

§ Guideline 3.2 Predictable

Make Web pages appear and operate in predictable ways.

Understanding Predictable How to Meet Predictable

§ Success Criterion 3.2.1 On Focus

(Level A)

Understanding On Focus How to Meet On Focus

When any [user interface component](#) receives focus, it does not initiate a [change of context](#).

§ Success Criterion 3.2.2 On Input

(Level A)

Understanding On Input How to Meet On Input

Changing the setting of any [user interface component](#) does not automatically cause a [change of context](#) unless the user has been advised of the behavior before using the component.

§ Success Criterion 3.2.3 Consistent Navigation

(Level AA)

Understanding Consistent Navigation How to Meet Consistent Navigation

Navigational mechanisms that are repeated on multiple [Web pages](#) within a [set of Web pages](#) occur in the [same relative order](#) each time they are repeated, unless a change is initiated by the user.

§ Success Criterion 3.2.4 Consistent Identification

(Level AA)

Understanding Consistent Identification How to Meet Consistent Identification

Components that have the [same functionality](#) within a [set of Web pages](#) are identified consistently.

§ Success Criterion 3.2.5 Change on Request

(Level AAA)

Understanding Change on Request How to Meet Change on Request

[Changes of context](#) are initiated only by user request or a [mechanism](#) is available to turn off such changes.

§ Guideline 3.3 Input Assistance

Help users avoid and correct mistakes.

Understanding Input Assistance How to Meet Input Assistance

§ Success Criterion 3.3.1 Error Identification

(Level A)

Understanding Error Identification How to Meet Error Identification

If an [input error](#) is automatically detected, the item that is in error is identified and the error is described to the user in text.

§ Success Criterion 3.3.2 Labels or Instructions

(Level A)

Understanding Labels or Instructions How to Meet Labels or Instructions

[Labels](#) or instructions are provided when content requires user input.

§ Success Criterion 3.3.3 Error Suggestion

(Level AA)

Understanding Error Suggestion How to Meet Error Suggestion

If an [input error](#) is automatically detected and suggestions for correction are known, then the suggestions are provided to the user, unless it would jeopardize the security or purpose of the content.

§ Success Criterion 3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)

(Level AA)

Understanding Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) How to Meet Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)

For [Web pages](#) that cause [legal commitments](#) or financial transactions for the user to occur, that modify or delete [user-controllable](#) data in data storage systems, or that submit user test responses, at least one of the following is true:

Reversible

Submissions are reversible.

Checked

Data entered by the user is checked for input errors and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them.

Confirmed

A mechanism is available for reviewing, confirming, and correcting information before finalizing the submission.

§ Success Criterion 3.3.5 Help

(Level AAA)

Understanding Help How to Meet Help

[Context-sensitive help](#) is available.

§ Success Criterion 3.3.6 Error Prevention (All)

(Level AAA)

Understanding Error Prevention (All) How to Meet Error Prevention (All)

For [Web pages](#) that require the user to submit information, at least one of the following is true:

Reversible

Submissions are reversible.

Checked

Data entered by the user is checked for input errors and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them.

Confirmed

A mechanism is available for reviewing, confirming, and correcting information before finalizing the submission.

§ 4. Robust

Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies.

§ Guideline 4.1 Compatible

Maximize compatibility with current and future user agents, including assistive technologies.

Understanding Compatible How to Meet Compatible

§ Success Criterion 4.1.1 Parsing

(Level A)

Understanding Parsing How to Meet Parsing

In content implemented using markup languages, elements have complete start and end tags, elements are nested according to their specifications, elements do not contain duplicate attributes, and any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features.

NOTE

This success criterion should be considered as always satisfied for any content using HTML or XML.

NOTE

Since this criterion was written, the HTML Living Standard has adopted specific requirements governing how user agents must handle incomplete tags, incorrect element nesting, duplicate attributes, and non-unique IDs. [\[HTML\]](#)

Although the HTML standard treats some of these cases as non-conforming for authors, it is considered to "allow these features" for the purposes of this success criterion because the specification requires that user agents support handling these cases consistently. In practice, this criterion no longer provides any benefit to people with disabilities in itself.

Issues such as missing roles due to inappropriately nested elements or incorrect states or names due to a duplicate ID are covered by different success criteria and should be reported under those criteria rather than as issues with 4.1.1.

§ Success Criterion 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value

(Level A)

Understanding Name, Role, Value How to Meet Name, Role, Value

For all [user interface components](#) (including but not limited to: form elements, links and components generated by scripts), the [name](#) and [role](#) can be [programmatically determined](#); states, properties, and values that can be set by the user can be [programmatically set](#); and notification of changes to these items is available to [user agents](#), including [assistive technologies](#).

NOTE

This success criterion is primarily for Web authors who develop or script their own user interface components. For example, standard HTML controls already meet this success criterion when used according to specification.

§ Success Criterion 4.1.3 Status Messages

(Level AA)

Understanding Status Messages How to Meet Status Messages

In content implemented using markup languages, [status messages](#) can be [programmatically determined](#) through [role](#) or properties such that they can be presented to the user by [assistive technologies](#) without receiving focus.

§ 5. Conformance

This section lists requirements for [conformance](#) to WCAG 2.1. It also gives information about how to make conformance claims, which are optional. Finally, it describes what it means to be [accessibility supported](#), since only accessibility-supported ways of using technologies can be [relied upon](#) for conformance. [Understanding Conformance](#) includes further explanation of the accessibility-supported concept.

§ 5.1 Interpreting Normative Requirements

The main content of WCAG 2.1 is [normative](#) and defines requirements that impact conformance claims. Introductory material, appendices, sections marked as "non-normative", diagrams, examples, and notes are [informative](#) (non-normative). Non-normative material provides advisory information to help interpret the guidelines but does not create requirements that impact a conformance claim.

The key words *MAY*, *MUST*, *MUST NOT*, *NOT RECOMMENDED*, *RECOMMENDED*, *SHOULD*, and *SHOULD NOT* are to be interpreted as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#).

§ 5.2 Conformance Requirements

In order for a Web page to conform to WCAG 2.1, all of the following conformance requirements must be satisfied:

§ 5.2.1 Conformance Level

One of the following levels of conformance is met in full.

- For Level A conformance (the minimum level of conformance), the [Web page satisfies](#) all the Level A Success Criteria, or a [conforming alternate version](#) is provided.
- For Level AA conformance, the Web page satisfies all the Level A and Level AA Success Criteria, or a Level AA conforming alternate version is provided.

- For Level AAA conformance, the Web page satisfies all the Level A, Level AA and Level AAA Success Criteria, or a Level AAA conforming alternate version is provided.

NOTE

Although conformance can only be achieved at the stated levels, authors are encouraged to report (in their claim) any progress toward meeting success criteria from all levels beyond the achieved level of conformance.

NOTE

It is not recommended that Level AAA conformance be required as a general policy for entire sites because it is not possible to satisfy all Level AAA Success Criteria for some content.

§ 5.2.2 Full pages

Conformance (and conformance level) is for full Web page(s) only, and cannot be achieved if part of a Web page is excluded.

NOTE

For the purpose of determining conformance, alternatives to part of a page's content are considered part of the page when the alternatives can be obtained directly from the page, e.g., a long description or an alternative presentation of a video.

NOTE

Authors of Web pages that cannot conform due to content outside of the author's control may consider a Statement of Partial Conformance.

NOTE

A full page includes each variation of the page that is automatically presented by the page for various screen sizes (e.g. variations in a responsive Web page). Each of these variations needs to conform (or needs to have a conforming alternate version) in order for the entire page to conform.

§ 5.2.3 Complete processes

When a [Web page](#) is one of a series of Web pages presenting a [process](#) (i.e., a sequence of steps that need to be completed in order to accomplish an activity), all Web pages in the process conform at the specified level or better. (Conformance is not possible at a particular level if any page in the process does not conform at that level or better.)

An online store has a series of pages that are used to select and purchase products. All pages in the series from start to finish (checkout) conform in order for any page that is part of the process to conform.

§ 5.2.4 Only Accessibility-Supported Ways of Using Technologies

Only [accessibility-supported](#) ways of using [technologies](#) are [relied upon](#) to satisfy the success criteria. Any information or functionality that is provided in a way that is not accessibility supported is also available in a way that is accessibility supported. (See [Understanding accessibility support](#).)

§ 5.2.5 Non-Interference

If [technologies](#) are used in a way that is not [accessibility supported](#), or if they are used in a non-conforming way, then they do not block the ability of users to access the rest of the page. In addition, the [Web page](#) as a whole continues to meet the conformance requirements under each of the following conditions:

1. when any technology that is not [relied upon](#) is turned on in a user agent,
2. when any technology that is not relied upon is turned off in a user agent, and
3. when any technology that is not relied upon is not supported by a user agent

In addition, the following success criteria apply to all content on the page, including content that is not otherwise relied upon to meet conformance, because failure to meet them could interfere with any use of the page:

- **1.4.2 - Audio Control,**
- **2.1.2 - No Keyboard Trap,**

- **2.3.1 - Three Flashes or Below Threshold**, and
- **2.2.2 - Pause, Stop, Hide**.

NOTE

If a page cannot conform (for example, a conformance test page or an example page), it cannot be included in the scope of conformance or in a conformance claim.

For more information, including examples, see [Understanding Conformance Requirements](#).

§ 5.3 Conformance Claims (Optional)

Conformance is defined only for [Web pages](#). However, a conformance claim may be made to cover one page, a series of pages, or multiple related Web pages.

§ 5.3.1 Required Components of a Conformance Claim

Conformance claims are **not required**. Authors can conform to WCAG 2.1 without making a claim. However, if a conformance claim is made, then the conformance claim **must** include the following information:

1. **Date** of the claim
2. **Guidelines title, version and URI** "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 at <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>"
3. **Conformance level** satisfied: (Level A, AA or AAA)
4. **A concise description of the Web pages**, such as a list of URIs for which the claim is made, including whether subdomains are included in the claim.

NOTE

The Web pages may be described by list or by an expression that describes all of the URIs included in the claim.

NOTE

Web-based products that do not have a URI prior to installation on the customer's Web site may have a statement that the product would conform when installed.

5. A list of the [Web content technologies relied upon](#).

NOTE

If a conformance logo is used, it would constitute a claim and must be accompanied by the required components of a conformance claim listed above.

§ 5.3.2 Optional Components of a Conformance Claim

In addition to the required components of a conformance claim above, consider providing additional information to assist users. Recommended additional information includes:

- A list of success criteria beyond the level of conformance claimed that have been met. This information should be provided in a form that users can use, preferably machine-readable metadata.
- A list of the specific technologies that are " *used but not [relied upon](#)*."
- A list of user agents, including assistive technologies that were used to test the content.
- A list of specific accessibility characteristics of the content, provided in machine-readable metadata.
- Information about any additional steps taken that go beyond the success criteria to enhance accessibility.
- A machine-readable metadata version of the list of specific technologies that are [relied upon](#).
- A machine-readable metadata version of the conformance claim.

NOTE

Refer to [Understanding Conformance Claims](#) for more information and example conformance claims.

NOTE

Refer to [Understanding Metadata](#) for more information about the use of metadata in conformance claims.

§ 5.4 Statement of Partial Conformance - Third Party Content

Sometimes, Web pages are created that will later have additional content added to them. For example, an email program, a blog, an article that allows users to add comments, or applications supporting user-contributed content. Another example would be a page, such as a portal or news site, composed of content aggregated from multiple contributors, or sites that automatically insert content from other sources over time, such as when advertisements are inserted dynamically.

In these cases, it is not possible to know at the time of original posting what the uncontrolled content of the pages will be. It is important to note that the uncontrolled content can affect the accessibility of the controlled content as well. Two options are available:

1. A determination of conformance can be made based on best knowledge. If a page of this type is monitored and repaired (non-conforming content is removed or brought into conformance) within two business days, then a determination or claim of conformance can be made since, except for errors in externally contributed content which are corrected or removed when encountered, the page conforms. No conformance claim can be made if it is not possible to monitor or correct non-conforming content;

OR

2. A "statement of partial conformance" may be made that the page does not conform, but could conform if certain parts were removed. The form of that statement would be, "This page does not conform, but would conform to WCAG 2.1 at level X if the following parts from uncontrolled sources were removed." In addition, the following would also be true of uncontrolled content that is described in the statement of partial conformance:

1. It is not content that is under the author's control.
2. It is described in a way that users can identify (e.g., they cannot be described as "all parts that we do not control" unless they are clearly marked as such.)

§ 5.5 Statement of Partial Conformance - Language

A "statement of partial conformance due to language" may be made when the page does not conform, but would conform if [accessibility support](#) existed for (all of) the language(s) used on the page. The form of that statement would be, "This page does not conform, but would conform to WCAG 2.1 at level X if accessibility support existed for the following language(s):"

§ 6. Glossary

abbreviation

shortened form of a word, phrase, or name where the abbreviation has not become part of the language

NOTE

This includes initialisms and acronyms where:

1. **initialisms** are shortened forms of a name or phrase made from the initial letters of words or syllables contained in that name or phrase

NOTE

Not defined in all languages.

EXAMPLE 1

SNCF is a French initialism that contains the initial letters of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer, the French national railroad.

EXAMPLE 2

ESP is an initialism for extrasensory perception.

2. **acronyms** are abbreviated forms made from the initial letters or parts of other words (in a name or phrase) which may be pronounced as a word

EXAMPLE 3

NOAA is an acronym made from the initial letters of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the United States.

NOTE

Some companies have adopted what used to be an initialism as their company name. In these cases, the new name of the company is the letters (for example, Ecma) and the word is no longer considered an abbreviation.

accessibility supported

supported by users' [assistive technologies](#) as well as the accessibility features in browsers and other [user agents](#)

To qualify as an accessibility-supported use of a Web content technology (or feature of a technology), both 1 and 2 must be satisfied for a Web content technology (or feature):

1. **The way that the [Web content technology](#) is used must be supported by users' assistive technology (AT).** This means that the way that the technology is used has been tested for interoperability with users' assistive technology in the [human language\(s\)](#) of the content,

AND

2. **The Web content technology must have accessibility-supported user agents that are available to users.** This means that at least one of the following four statements is true:

1. The technology is supported natively in widely-distributed user agents that are also accessibility supported (such as HTML and CSS);

OR

2. The technology is supported in a widely-distributed plug-in that is also accessibility supported;

OR

3. The content is available in a closed environment, such as a university or corporate network, where the user agent required by the technology and used by the organization

is also accessibility supported;

OR

4. The user agent(s) that support the technology are accessibility supported and are available for download or purchase in a way that:

- does not cost a person with a disability any more than a person without a disability **and**
- is as easy to find and obtain for a person with a disability as it is for a person without disabilities.

NOTE

The Accessibility Guidelines Working Group and the W3C do not specify which or how much support by assistive technologies there must be for a particular use of a Web technology in order for it to be classified as accessibility supported. (See [Level of Assistive Technology Support Needed for "Accessibility Support"](#).)

NOTE

Web technologies can be used in ways that are not accessibility supported as long as they are not [relied upon](#) and the page as a whole meets the conformance requirements, including [Conformance Requirement 4](#) and [Conformance Requirement 5](#).

NOTE

When a [Web Technology](#) is used in a way that is "accessibility supported," it does not imply that the entire technology or all uses of the technology are supported. Most technologies, including HTML, lack support for at least one feature or use. Pages conform to WCAG only if the uses of the technology that are accessibility supported can be relied upon to meet WCAG requirements.

NOTE

When citing Web content technologies that have multiple versions, the version(s) supported should be specified.

NOTE

One way for authors to locate uses of a technology that are accessibility supported would be to consult compilations of uses that are documented to be accessibility supported. (See [Understanding Accessibility-Supported Web Technology Uses](#).) Authors, companies, technology vendors, or others may document accessibility-supported ways of using Web content technologies. However, all ways of using technologies in the documentation would need to meet the definition of accessibility-supported Web content technologies above.

alternative for time-based media

document including correctly sequenced text descriptions of time-based visual and auditory information and providing a means for achieving the outcomes of any time-based interaction

NOTE

A screenplay used to create the synchronized media content would meet this definition only if it was corrected to accurately represent the final synchronized media after editing.

ambiguous to users in general

the purpose cannot be determined from the link and all information of the Web page presented to the user simultaneously with the link (i.e., readers without disabilities would not know what a link would do until they activated it)

EXAMPLE 4

The word guava in the following sentence "One of the notable exports is guava" is a link. The link could lead to a definition of guava, a chart listing the quantity of guava exported or a photograph of people harvesting guava. Until the link is activated, all readers are unsure and the person with a disability is not at any disadvantage.

ASCII art

picture created by a spatial arrangement of characters or glyphs (typically from the 95 printable characters defined by ASCII)

assistive technology (as used in this document)

hardware and/or software that acts as a [user agent](#), or along with a mainstream user agent, to provide functionality to meet the requirements of users with disabilities that go beyond those offered by mainstream user agents

NOTE

functionality provided by assistive technology includes alternative presentations (e.g., as synthesized speech or magnified content), alternative input methods (e.g., voice), additional navigation or orientation mechanisms, and content transformations (e.g., to make tables more accessible).

NOTE

Assistive technologies often communicate data and messages with mainstream user agents by using and monitoring APIs.

NOTE

The distinction between mainstream user agents and assistive technologies is not absolute. Many mainstream user agents provide some features to assist individuals with disabilities. The basic difference is that mainstream user agents target broad and diverse audiences that usually include people with and without disabilities. Assistive technologies target narrowly defined populations of users with specific disabilities. The assistance provided by an assistive technology is more specific and appropriate to the needs of its target users. The mainstream user agent may provide important functionality to assistive technologies like retrieving Web content from program objects or parsing markup into identifiable bundles.

EXAMPLE 5

Assistive technologies that are important in the context of this document include the following:

- screen magnifiers, and other visual reading assistants, which are used by people with visual, perceptual and physical print disabilities to change text font, size, spacing, color, synchronization with speech, etc. in order to improve the visual readability of rendered text and images;
- screen readers, which are used by people who are blind to read textual information through synthesized speech or braille;
- text-to-speech software, which is used by some people with cognitive, language, and learning disabilities to convert text into synthetic speech;

- speech recognition software, which may be used by people who have some physical disabilities;
- alternative keyboards, which are used by people with certain physical disabilities to simulate the keyboard (including alternate keyboards that use head pointers, single switches, sip/puff and other special input devices.);
- alternative pointing devices, which are used by people with certain physical disabilities to simulate mouse pointing and button activations.

audio

the technology of sound reproduction

NOTE

Audio can be created synthetically (including speech synthesis), recorded from real world sounds, or both.

audio description

narration added to the soundtrack to describe important visual details that cannot be understood from the main soundtrack alone

NOTE

Audio description of [video](#) provides information about actions, characters, scene changes, on-screen text, and other visual content.

NOTE

In standard audio description, narration is added during existing pauses in dialogue. (See also [extended audio description](#).)

NOTE

Where all of the [video](#) information is already provided in existing [audio](#), no additional audio description is necessary.

NOTE

Also called "video description" and "descriptive narration."

audio-only

a time-based presentation that contains only [audio](#) (no [video](#) and no interaction)

blinking

switch back and forth between two visual states in a way that is meant to draw attention

NOTE

See also [flash](#). It is possible for something to be large enough and blink brightly enough at the right frequency to be also classified as a flash.

blocks of text

more than one sentence of text

CAPTCHA

initialism for "Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart"

NOTE

CAPTCHA tests often involve asking the user to type in text that is displayed in an obscured image or audio file.

NOTE

A Turing test is any system of tests designed to differentiate a human from a computer. It is named after famed computer scientist Alan Turing. The term was coined by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University.

captions

synchronized visual and/or [text alternative](#) for both speech and non-speech audio information needed to understand the media content

NOTE

Captions are similar to dialogue-only subtitles except captions convey not only the content of spoken dialogue, but also equivalents for non-dialogue audio information needed to understand the program content, including sound effects, music, laughter, speaker identification and location.

NOTE

Closed Captions are equivalents that can be turned on and off with some players.

NOTE

Open Captions are any captions that cannot be turned off. For example, if the captions are visual equivalent [images of text](#) embedded in [video](#).

NOTE

Captions should not obscure or obstruct relevant information in the video.

NOTE

In some countries, captions are called subtitles.

NOTE

[Audio descriptions](#) can be, but do not need to be, captioned since they are descriptions of information that is already presented visually.

changes of context

major changes that, if made without user awareness, can disorient users who are not able to view the entire page simultaneously

Changes in context include changes of:

1. [user agent](#);
2. [viewport](#);
3. focus;
4. [content](#) that changes the meaning of the [Web page](#)

NOTE

A change of content is not always a change of context. Changes in content, such as an expanding outline, dynamic menu, or a tab control do not necessarily change the context, unless they also change one of the above (e.g., focus).

EXAMPLE 6

Opening a new window, moving focus to a different component, going to a new page (including anything that would look to a user as if they had moved to a new page) or significantly re-arranging the content of a page are examples of changes of context.

conformance

satisfying all the requirements of a given standard, guideline or specification

conforming alternate version

version that

1. conforms at the designated level, and
2. provides all of the same information and [functionality](#) in the same [human language](#), and
3. is as up to date as the non-conforming content, and
4. for which at least one of the following is true:
 1. the conforming version can be reached from the non-conforming page via an [accessibility-supported mechanism](#), or
 2. the non-conforming version can only be reached from the conforming version, or
 3. the non-conforming version can only be reached from a conforming page that also provides a mechanism to reach the conforming version

NOTE

In this definition, "can only be reached" means that there is some mechanism, such as a conditional redirect, that prevents a user from "reaching" (loading) the non-conforming page unless the user had just come from the conforming version.

NOTE

The alternate version does not need to be matched page for page with the original (e.g., the conforming alternate version may consist of multiple pages).

NOTE

If multiple language versions are available, then conforming alternate versions are required for each language offered.

NOTE

Alternate versions may be provided to accommodate different technology environments or user groups. Each version should be as conformant as possible. One version would need to be fully conformant in order to meet [conformance requirement 1](#).

NOTE

The conforming alternative version does not need to reside within the scope of conformance, or even on the same Web site, as long as it is as freely available as the non-conforming version.

NOTE

Alternate versions should not be confused with [supplementary content](#), which support the original page and enhance comprehension.

NOTE

Setting user preferences within the content to produce a conforming version is an acceptable mechanism for reaching another version as long as the method used to set the preferences is accessibility supported.

See [Understanding Conforming Alternate Versions](#)

content (Web content)

information and sensory experience to be communicated to the user by means of a [user agent](#), including code or markup that defines the content's [structure](#), [presentation](#), and interactions

context-sensitive help

help text that provides information related to the function currently being performed

NOTE

Clear labels can act as context-sensitive help.

contrast ratio

$(L1 + 0.05) / (L2 + 0.05)$, where

- L1 is the [relative luminance](#) of the lighter of the colors, and
- L2 is the [relative luminance](#) of the darker of the colors.

NOTE

Contrast ratios can range from 1 to 21 (commonly written 1:1 to 21:1).

NOTE

Because authors do not have control over user settings as to how text is rendered (for example font smoothing or anti-aliasing), the contrast ratio for text can be evaluated with anti-aliasing turned off.

NOTE

For the purpose of Success Criteria 1.4.3 and 1.4.6, contrast is measured with respect to the specified background over which the text is rendered in normal usage. If no background color is specified, then white is assumed.

NOTE

Background color is the specified color of content over which the text is to be rendered in normal usage. It is a failure if no background color is specified when the text color is specified, because the user's default background color is unknown and cannot be evaluated for sufficient contrast. For the same reason, it is a failure if no text color is specified when a background color is specified.

NOTE

When there is a border around the letter, the border can add contrast and would be used in calculating the contrast between the letter and its background. A narrow border around the letter would be used as the letter. A wide border around the letter that fills in the inner details of the letters acts as a halo and would be considered background.

NOTE

WCAG conformance should be evaluated for color pairs specified in the content that an author would expect to appear adjacent in typical presentation. Authors need not consider unusual presentations, such as color changes made by the user agent, except where caused by authors' code.

correct reading sequence

any sequence where words and paragraphs are presented in an order that does not change the meaning of the content

CSS pixel

visual angle of about 0.0213 degrees

A CSS pixel is the canonical unit of measure for all lengths and measurements in CSS. This unit is density-independent, and distinct from actual hardware pixels present in a display. User agents and operating systems should ensure that a CSS pixel is set as closely as possible to the [CSS Values and Units Module Level 3 reference pixel](#) [css3-values], which takes into account the physical dimensions of the display and the assumed viewing distance (factors that cannot be determined by content authors).

down-event

platform event that occurs when the trigger stimulus of a pointer is depressed

The down-event may have different names on different platforms, such as "touchstart" or "mousedown".

emergency

a sudden, unexpected situation or occurrence that requires immediate action to preserve health, safety, or property

essential

if removed, would fundamentally change the information or functionality of the content, **and** information and functionality cannot be achieved in another way that would conform

extended audio description

audio description that is added to an audiovisual presentation by pausing the [video](#) so that there is time to add additional description

NOTE

This technique is only used when the sense of the [video](#) would be lost without the additional [audio description](#) and the pauses between dialogue/narration are too short.

flash

a pair of opposing changes in [relative luminance](#) that can cause seizures in some people if it is large enough and in the right frequency range

NOTE

See [general flash and red flash thresholds](#) for information about types of flash that are not allowed.

NOTE

See also [blinking](#).

functionality

[processes](#) and outcomes achievable through user action

general flash and red flash thresholds

a [flash](#) or rapidly changing image sequence is below the threshold (i.e., content **passes**) if any of the following are true:

1. there are no more than three **general flashes** and / or no more than three **red flashes** within any one-second period; or
2. the combined area of flashes occurring concurrently occupies no more than a total of .006 steradians within any 10 degree visual field on the screen (25% of any 10 degree visual field on the screen) at typical viewing distance

where:

- A **general flash** is defined as a pair of opposing changes in [relative luminance](#) of 10% or more of the maximum relative luminance (1.0) where the relative luminance of the darker image is below 0.80; and where "a pair of opposing changes" is an increase followed by a decrease, or a decrease followed by an increase, and
- A **red flash** is defined as any pair of opposing transitions involving a saturated red

Exception: Flashing that is a fine, balanced, pattern such as white noise or an alternating checkerboard pattern with "squares" smaller than 0.1 degree (of visual field at typical viewing distance) on a side does not violate the thresholds.

NOTE

For general software or Web content, using a 341 x 256 pixel rectangle anywhere on the displayed screen area when the content is viewed at 1024 x 768 pixels will provide a good estimate of a 10 degree visual field for standard screen sizes and viewing distances (e.g., 15-17 inch screen at 22-26 inches). This resolution of 75 - 85 ppi is known to be lower, and thus more conservative than the nominal CSS pixel resolution of 96 ppi in CSS specifications. Higher resolutions displays showing the same rendering of the content yield smaller and safer images so it is lower resolutions that are used to define the thresholds.

NOTE

A transition is the change in relative luminance (or relative luminance/color for red flashing) between adjacent peaks and valleys in a plot of relative luminance (or relative luminance/color for red flashing) measurement against time. A flash consists of two opposing transitions.

NOTE

The working definition (as of 2022) in the field for "**pair of opposing transitions involving a saturated red**" is a pair of opposing transitions where, one transition is either to or from a state with a value $R/(R + G + B)$ that is greater than or equal to 0.8, and the difference between states is more than 0.2 (unitless) in the CIE 1976 UCS chromaticity diagram. [\[ISO_9241-391\]](#)

NOTE

Tools are available that will carry out analysis from video screen capture. However, no tool is necessary to evaluate for this condition if flashing is less than or equal to 3 flashes in any one second. Content automatically passes (see #1 and #2 above).

human language

language that is spoken, written or signed (through visual or tactile means) to communicate with humans

NOTE

See also [sign language](#).

idiom

phrase whose meaning cannot be deduced from the meaning of the individual words and the specific words cannot be changed without losing the meaning

NOTE

idioms cannot be translated directly, word for word, without losing their (cultural or language-dependent) meaning.

EXAMPLE 7

In English, "spilling the beans" means "revealing a secret." However, "knocking over the beans" or "spilling the vegetables" does not mean the same thing.

EXAMPLE 8

In Japanese, the phrase "さじを投げる" literally translates into "he throws a spoon," but it means that there is nothing he can do and finally he gives up.

EXAMPLE 9

In Dutch, "Hij ging met de kippen op stok" literally translates into "He went to roost with the chickens," but it means that he went to bed early.

image of text

text that has been rendered in a non-text form (e.g., an image) in order to achieve a particular visual effect

NOTE

This does not include [text](#) that is part of a picture that contains significant other visual content.

EXAMPLE 10

A person's name on a nametag in a photograph.

informative

for information purposes and not required for conformance

NOTE

Content required for [conformance](#) is referred to as "[normative](#)."

input error

information provided by the user that is not accepted

NOTE

This includes:

1. Information that is required by the [Web page](#) but omitted by the user
2. Information that is provided by the user but that falls outside the required data format or values

jargon

words used in a particular way by people in a particular field

EXAMPLE 11

The word StickyKeys is jargon from the field of assistive technology/accessibility.

keyboard interface

interface used by software to obtain keystroke input

NOTE

A keyboard interface allows users to provide keystroke input to programs even if the native technology does not contain a keyboard.

EXAMPLE 12

A touchscreen PDA has a keyboard interface built into its operating system as well as a connector for external keyboards. Applications on the PDA can use the interface to obtain keyboard input either from an external keyboard or from other applications that provide simulated keyboard output, such as handwriting interpreters or speech-to-text applications with "keyboard emulation" functionality.

NOTE

Operation of the application (or parts of the application) through a keyboard-operated mouse emulator, such as MouseKeys, does not qualify as operation through a keyboard interface because operation of the program is through its pointing device interface, not through its keyboard interface.

keyboard shortcut

alternative means of triggering an action by the pressing of one or more keys

label

[text](#) or other component with a [text alternative](#) that is presented to a user to identify a component within Web [content](#)

NOTE

A label is presented to all users whereas the [name](#) may be hidden and only exposed by assistive technology. In many (but not all) cases the name and the label are the same.

NOTE

The term label is not limited to the label element in HTML.

large scale (text)

with at least 18 point or 14 point bold or font size that would yield equivalent size for Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) fonts

NOTE

Fonts with extraordinarily thin strokes or unusual features and characteristics that reduce the familiarity of their letter forms are harder to read, especially at lower contrast levels.

NOTE

Font size is the size when the content is delivered. It does not include resizing that may be done by a user.

NOTE

The actual size of the character that a user sees is dependent both on the author-defined size and the user's display or user agent settings. For many mainstream body text fonts, 14 and 18 point is roughly equivalent to 1.2 and 1.5 em or to 120% or 150% of the default size for body text (assuming that the body font is 100%), but authors would need to check this for the particular fonts in use. When fonts are defined in relative units, the actual point size is calculated by the user agent for display. The point size should be obtained from the user agent, or calculated based on font metrics as the user agent does, when evaluating this success criterion. Users who have low vision would be responsible for choosing appropriate settings.

NOTE

When using text without specifying the font size, the smallest font size used on major browsers for unspecified text would be a reasonable size to assume for the font. If a level 1 heading is rendered in 14pt bold or higher on major browsers, then it would be reasonable to assume it is large text. Relative scaling can be calculated from the default sizes in a similar fashion.

NOTE

The 18 and 14 point sizes for roman texts are taken from the minimum size for large print (14pt) and the larger standard font size (18pt). For other fonts such as CJK languages, the "equivalent" sizes would be the minimum large print size used for those languages and the next larger standard large print size.

legal commitments

transactions where the person incurs a legally binding obligation or benefit

EXAMPLE 13

A marriage license, a stock trade (financial and legal), a will, a loan, adoption, signing up for the army, a contract of any type, etc.

link purpose

nature of the result obtained by activating a hyperlink

live

information captured from a real-world event and transmitted to the receiver with no more than a broadcast delay

NOTE

A broadcast delay is a short (usually automated) delay, for example used in order to give the broadcaster time to cue or censor the audio (or video) feed, but not sufficient to allow significant editing.

NOTE

If information is completely computer generated, it is not live.

lower secondary education level

the two or three year period of education that begins after completion of six years of school and ends nine years after the beginning of [primary education](#)

NOTE

This definition is based on the International Standard Classification of Education [[UNESCO](#)].

mechanism

[process](#) or technique for achieving a result

NOTE

The mechanism may be explicitly provided in the content, or may be [relied upon](#) to be provided by either the platform or by [user agents](#), including [assistive technologies](#).

NOTE

The mechanism needs to meet all success criteria for the conformance level claimed.

media alternative for text

media that presents no more information than is already presented in text (directly or via text alternatives)

NOTE

A media alternative for text is provided for those who benefit from alternate representations of text. Media alternatives for text may be audio-only, video-only (including sign-language video), or audio-video.

motion animation

addition of steps between conditions to create the illusion of movement or to give a sense of a smooth transition

EXAMPLE 14

For example, an element which moves into place or changes size while appearing is considered to be animated. An element which appears instantly without transitioning is not using animation. Motion animation does not include changes of color, blurring, or opacity which do not change the perceived size, shape, or position of the element.

name

text by which software can identify a component within Web content to the user

NOTE

The name may be hidden and only exposed by assistive technology, whereas a [label](#) is presented to all users. In many (but not all) cases, the label and the name are the same.

NOTE

This is unrelated to the name attribute in HTML.

navigated sequentially

navigated in the order defined for advancing focus (from one element to the next) using a [keyboard interface](#)

non-text content

any content that is not a sequence of characters that can be [programmatically determined](#) or where the sequence is not expressing something in [human language](#)

NOTE

This includes [ASCII Art](#) (which is a pattern of characters), emoticons, leetspeak (which uses character substitution), and images representing text

normative

required for conformance

NOTE

One may conform in a variety of well-defined ways to this document.

NOTE

Content identified as "[informative](#)" or "non-normative" is never required for [conformance](#).

on a full-screen window

on the most common sized desktop/laptop display with the viewport maximized

NOTE

Since people generally keep their computers for several years, it is best not to rely on the latest desktop/laptop display resolutions but to consider the common desktop/laptop display resolutions over the course of several years when making this evaluation.

paused

stopped by user request and not resumed until requested by user

pointer input

an input that only targets a single point on the page/screen at a time - such as a mouse, single finger on a touch screen, or stylus.

NOTE

In contrast to single pointer inputs, multipoint interactions involve the use of two or more pointers at the same time - such as two finger interactions on a touchscreen, or the simultaneous use of a mouse and stylus.

prerecorded

information that is not [live](#)

presentation

rendering of the [content](#) in a form to be perceived by users

primary education level

six year time period that begins between the ages of five and seven, possibly without any previous education

NOTE

This definition is based on the International Standard Classification of Education [[UNESCO](#)].

process

series of user actions where each action is required in order to complete an activity

EXAMPLE 15

Successful use of a series of Web pages on a shopping site requires users to view alternative products, prices and offers, select products, submit an order, provide shipping information and provide payment information.

EXAMPLE 16

An account registration page requires successful completion of a [Turing test](#) before the registration form can be accessed.

programmatically determined (programmatically determinable)

determined by software from author-supplied data provided in a way that different [user agents](#), including [assistive technologies](#), can extract and present this information to users in different modalities

EXAMPLE 17

Determined in a markup language from elements and attributes that are accessed directly by commonly available assistive technology.

EXAMPLE 18

Determined from technology-specific data structures in a non-markup language and exposed to assistive technology via an accessibility API that is supported by commonly available assistive technology.

programmatically determined link context

additional information that can be [programmatically determined](#) from [relationships](#) with a link, combined with the link text, and presented to users in different modalities

EXAMPLE 19

In HTML, information that is programmatically determinable from a link in English includes text that is in the same paragraph, list, or table cell as the link or in a table header cell that is associated with the table cell that contains the link.

NOTE

Since screen readers interpret punctuation, they can also provide the context from the current sentence, when the focus is on a link in that sentence.

programmatically set

set by software using methods that are supported by user agents, including assistive technologies

pure decoration

serving only an aesthetic purpose, providing no information, and having no functionality

NOTE

Text is only purely decorative if the words can be rearranged or substituted without changing their purpose.

EXAMPLE 20

The cover page of a dictionary has random words in very light text in the background.

real-time event

event that a) occurs at the same time as the viewing and b) is not completely generated by the content

EXAMPLE 21

A Webcast of a live performance (occurs at the same time as the viewing and is not prerecorded).

EXAMPLE 22

An on-line auction with people bidding (occurs at the same time as the viewing).

EXAMPLE 23

Live humans interacting in a virtual world using avatars (is not completely generated by the content and occurs at the same time as the viewing).

region

perceivable, programmatically determined section of content

NOTE

In HTML, any area designated with a landmark role would be a region.

relationships

meaningful associations between distinct pieces of content

relative luminance

the relative brightness of any point in a colorspace, normalized to 0 for darkest black and 1 for lightest white

NOTE

For the sRGB colorspace, the relative luminance of a color is defined as $L = 0.2126 * \mathbf{R} + 0.7152 * \mathbf{G} + 0.0722 * \mathbf{B}$ where **R**, **G** and **B** are defined as:

- if $\mathbf{RsRGB} \leq 0.04045$ then $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{RsRGB}/12.92$ else $\mathbf{R} = ((\mathbf{RsRGB}+0.055)/1.055) ^ 2.4$
- if $\mathbf{GsRGB} \leq 0.04045$ then $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{GsRGB}/12.92$ else $\mathbf{G} = ((\mathbf{GsRGB}+0.055)/1.055) ^ 2.4$
- if $\mathbf{BsRGB} \leq 0.04045$ then $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{BsRGB}/12.92$ else $\mathbf{B} = ((\mathbf{BsRGB}+0.055)/1.055) ^ 2.4$

and **RsRGB**, **GsRGB**, and **BsRGB** are defined as:

- $\mathbf{RsRGB} = \mathbf{R8bit}/255$
- $\mathbf{GsRGB} = \mathbf{G8bit}/255$
- $\mathbf{BsRGB} = \mathbf{B8bit}/255$

The "^" character is the exponentiation operator. (Formula taken from [\[SRGB\]](#).)

NOTE

Before May 2021 the value of 0.04045 in the definition was different (0.03928). It was taken from an older version of the specification and has been updated. It has no practical effect on the calculations in the context of these guidelines.

NOTE

Almost all systems used today to view Web content assume sRGB encoding. Unless it is known that another color space will be used to process and display the content, authors should evaluate using sRGB colorspace. If using other color spaces, see [Understanding Success Criterion 1.4.3](#).

NOTE

If dithering occurs after delivery, then the source color value is used. For colors that are dithered at the source, the average values of the colors that are dithered should be used (average R, average G, and average B).

NOTE

Tools are available that automatically do the calculations when testing contrast and flash.

NOTE

A [separate page giving the relative luminance definition using MathML](#) to display the formulas is available.

relied upon (technologies that are)

the content would not [conform](#) if that [technology](#) is turned off or is not supported

role

text or number by which software can identify the function of a component within Web content

EXAMPLE 24

A number that indicates whether an image functions as a hyperlink, command button, or check box.

same functionality

same result when used

EXAMPLE 25

A submit "search" button on one Web page and a "find" button on another Web page may both have a field to enter a term and list topics in the Web site related to the term submitted. In this case, they would have the same functionality but would not be labeled consistently.

same relative order

same position relative to other items

NOTE

Items are considered to be in the same relative order even if other items are inserted or removed from the original order. For example, expanding navigation menus may insert an additional level of detail or a secondary navigation section may be inserted into the reading order.

satisfies a success criterion

the success criterion does not evaluate to 'false' when applied to the page

section

a self-contained portion of written content that deals with one or more related topics or thoughts

NOTE

A section may consist of one or more paragraphs and include graphics, tables, lists and sub-sections.

set of web pages

collection of [web pages](#) that share a common purpose and that are created by the same author, group or organization

EXAMPLE 26

Examples include:

- a publication which is split across multiple Web pages, where each page contains one chapter or other significant section of the work. The publication is logically a single contiguous unit, and contains navigation features that enable access to the full set of pages.
- an e-commerce website shows products in a set of Web pages that all share the same navigation and identification. However, when progressing to the checkout process, the template changes; the navigation and other elements are removed, so the pages in that process are functionally and visually different. The checkout pages are not part of the set of product pages.
- a blog on a sub-domain (e.g. [blog.example.com](#)) which has a different navigation and is authored by a distinct set of people from the pages on the primary domain ([example.com](#)).

NOTE

Different language versions would be considered different sets of Web pages.

sign language

a language using combinations of movements of the hands and arms, facial expressions, or body positions to convey meaning

sign language interpretation

translation of one language, generally a spoken language, into a [sign language](#)

NOTE

True sign languages are independent languages that are unrelated to the spoken language(s) of the same country or region.

single pointer

pointer input that operates with one point of contact with the screen, including single taps and clicks, double-taps and clicks, long presses, and path-based gestures

specific sensory experience

a sensory experience that is not purely decorative and does not primarily convey important information or perform a function

EXAMPLE 27

Examples include a performance of a flute solo, works of visual art etc.

state

dynamic property expressing characteristics of a user interface component that may change in response to user action or automated processes

States do not affect the nature of the component, but represent data associated with the component or user interaction possibilities. Examples include focus, hover, select, press, check, visited/unvisited, and expand/collapse.

status message

change in content that is not a [change of context](#), and that provides information to the user on the success or results of an action, on the waiting state of an application, on the progress of a process, or on the existence of errors

structure

1. The way the parts of a [Web page](#) are organized in relation to each other; and
2. The way a collection of [Web pages](#) is organized

style property

property whose value determines the presentation (e.g. font, color, size, location, padding, volume, synthesized speech prosody) of content elements as they are rendered (e.g. onscreen, via loudspeaker, via braille display) by user agents

Style properties can have several origins:

- User agent default styles: The default style property values applied in the absence of any author or user styles. Some web content technologies specify a default rendering, others do not;
- Author styles: Style property values that are set by the author as part of the content (e.g. in-line styles, author style sheets);
- User styles: Style property values that are set by the user (e.g. via user agent interface settings, user style sheets)

supplemental content

additional [content](#) that illustrates or clarifies the primary content

EXAMPLE 28

An audio version of a [Web page](#).

EXAMPLE 29

An illustration of a complex [process](#).

EXAMPLE 30

A paragraph summarizing the major outcomes and recommendations made in a research study.

synchronized media

[audio](#) or [video](#) synchronized with another format for presenting information and/or with time-based interactive components, unless the media is a [media alternative for text](#) that is clearly labeled as such

target

region of the display that will accept a pointer action, such as the interactive area of a user interface component

NOTE

If two or more targets are overlapping, the overlapping area should not be included in the measurement of the target size, except when the overlapping targets perform the same action or open the same page.

technology (Web content)

[mechanism](#) for encoding instructions to be rendered, played or executed by [user agents](#)

NOTE

As used in these guidelines "Web Technology" and the word "technology" (when used alone) both refer to Web Content Technologies.

NOTE

Web content technologies may include markup languages, data formats, or programming languages that authors may use alone or in combination to create end-user experiences that range from static Web pages to synchronized media presentations to dynamic Web applications.

EXAMPLE 31

Some common examples of Web content technologies include HTML, CSS, SVG, PNG, PDF, Flash, and JavaScript.

text

sequence of characters that can be [programmatically determined](#), where the sequence is expressing something in [human language](#)

text alternative

[Text](#) that is programmatically associated with [non-text content](#) or referred to from text that is programmatically associated with non-text content. Programmatically associated text is text whose location can be programmatically determined from the non-text content.

EXAMPLE 32

An image of a chart is described in text in the paragraph after the chart. The short text alternative for the chart indicates that a description follows.

NOTE

Refer to [Understanding Text Alternatives](#) for more information.

up-event

platform event that occurs when the trigger stimulus of a pointer is released

The up-event may have different names on different platforms, such as "touchend" or "mouseup".

used in an unusual or restricted way

words used in such a way that requires users to know exactly which definition to apply in order to understand the content correctly

EXAMPLE 33

The term "gig" means something different if it occurs in a discussion of music concerts than it does in article about computer hard drive space, but the appropriate definition can be determined from context. By contrast, the word "text" is used in a very specific way in WCAG 2.1, so a definition is supplied in the glossary.

user agent

any software that retrieves and presents Web content for users

EXAMPLE 34

Web browsers, media players, plug-ins, and other programs — including [assistive technologies](#) — that help in retrieving, rendering, and interacting with Web content.

user-controllable

data that is intended to be accessed by users

NOTE

This does not refer to such things as Internet logs and search engine monitoring data.

EXAMPLE 35

Name and address fields for a user's account.

user interface component

a part of the content that is perceived by users as a single control for a distinct function

NOTE

Multiple user interface components may be implemented as a single programmatic element. "Components" here is not tied to programming techniques, but rather to what the user perceives as separate controls.

NOTE

User interface components include form elements and links as well as components generated by scripts.

NOTE

What is meant by "component" or "user interface component" here is also sometimes called "user interface element".

EXAMPLE 36

An applet has a "control" that can be used to move through content by line or page or random access. Since each of these would need to have a name and be settable independently, they would each be a "user interface component."

user inactivity

any continuous period of time where no user actions occur

The method of tracking will be determined by the web site or application.

video

the technology of moving or sequenced pictures or images

NOTE

Video can be made up of animated or photographic images, or both.

video-only

a time-based presentation that contains only [video](#) (no [audio](#) and no interaction)

viewport

object in which the user agent presents content

NOTE

The [user agent](#) presents content through one or more viewports. Viewports include windows, frames, loudspeakers, and virtual magnifying glasses. A viewport may contain another viewport (e.g., nested frames). Interface components created by the user agent such as prompts, menus, and alerts are not viewports.

NOTE

This definition is based on [User Agent Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 Glossary](#) [UAAG10].

visually customized

the font, size, color, and background can be set

Web page

a non-embedded resource obtained from a single URI using HTTP plus any other resources that are used in the rendering or intended to be rendered together with it by a [user agent](#)

NOTE

Although any "other resources" would be rendered together with the primary resource, they would not necessarily be rendered simultaneously with each other.

NOTE

For the purposes of conformance with these guidelines, a resource must be "non-embedded" within the scope of conformance to be considered a Web page.

EXAMPLE 37

A Web resource including all embedded images and media.

EXAMPLE 38

A Web mail program built using Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX). The program lives entirely at <http://example.com/mail>, but includes an inbox, a contacts area and a calendar. Links or buttons are provided that cause the inbox, contacts, or calendar to display, but do not change the URI of the page as a whole.

EXAMPLE 39

A customizable portal site, where users can choose content to display from a set of different content modules.

EXAMPLE 40

When you enter "<http://shopping.example.com/>" in your browser, you enter a movie-like interactive shopping environment where you visually move around in a store dragging products off of the shelves around you and into a visual shopping cart in front of you. Clicking on a product causes it to be demonstrated with a specification sheet floating alongside. This might be a single-page Web site or just one page within a Web site.

§ 7. Input Purposes for User Interface Components

This section contains a listing of common [user interface component](#) input purposes. The terms below are not keywords that must be used, but instead represent purposes that must be captured in the taxonomy adopted by a webpage. Where applicable, authors mark up controls with the chosen taxonomy to indicate the semantic purpose. This provides the potential for user agents and assistive technologies to apply personalized presentations that can enable more people to understand and use the content.

NOTE

The list of input type purposes is based on the control purposes defined in the [HTML 5.2 Autofill field section](#), but it is important to understand that a different technology may have some or all of the same concepts defined in its specification and only the concepts that are mapped to the meanings below are required.

The following input control purposes are intended to relate to the user of the content and pertain only to information related to that individual.

- **name** - Full name
- **honorific-prefix** - Prefix or title (e.g., "Mr.", "Ms.", "Dr.", "M^{lle}")
- **given-name** - Given name (in some Western cultures, also known as the *first name*)
- **additional-name** - Additional names (in some Western cultures, also known as *middle names*, forenames other than the first name)
- **family-name** - Family name (in some Western cultures, also known as the *last name* or *surname*)
- **honorific-suffix** - Suffix (e.g., "Jr.", "B.Sc.", "MBASW", "II")
- **nickname** - Nickname, screen name, handle: a typically short name used instead of the full name
- **organization-title** - Job title (e.g., "Software Engineer", "Senior Vice President", "Deputy Managing Director")
- **username** - A username
- **new-password** - A new password (e.g., when creating an account or changing a password)
- **current-password** - The current password for the account identified by the **username** field (e.g., when logging in)
- **organization** - Company name corresponding to the person, address, or contact information in the other fields associated with this field
- **street-address** - Street address (multiple lines, newlines preserved)
- **address-line1** - Street address (one line per field, line 1)
- **address-line2** - Street address (one line per field, line 2)
- **address-line3** - Street address (one line per field, line 3)
- **address-level4** - The most fine-grained administrative level, in addresses with four administrative levels
- **address-level3** - The third administrative level, in addresses with three or more administrative levels
- **address-level2** - The second administrative level, in addresses with two or more administrative levels; in the countries with two administrative levels, this would typically be the city, town, village, or other locality within which the relevant street address is found
- **address-level1** - The broadest administrative level in the address, i.e., the province within which the locality is found; for example, in the US, this would be the state; in Switzerland it would be the canton; in the UK, the post town

- **country** - Country code
- **country-name** - Country name
- **postal-code** - Postal code, post code, ZIP code, CEDEX code (if CEDEX, append "CEDEX", and the *arrondissement*, if relevant, to the **address-level2** field)
- **cc-name** - Full name as given on the payment instrument
- **cc-given-name** - Given name as given on the payment instrument (in some Western cultures, also known as the *first name*)
- **cc-additional-name** - Additional names given on the payment instrument (in some Western cultures, also known as *middle names*, forenames other than the first name)
- **cc-family-name** - Family name given on the payment instrument (in some Western cultures, also known as the *last name* or *surname*)
- **cc-number** - Code identifying the payment instrument (e.g., the credit card number)
- **cc-exp** - Expiration date of the payment instrument
- **cc-exp-month** - Month component of the expiration date of the payment instrument
- **cc-exp-year** - Year component of the expiration date of the payment instrument
- **cc-csc** - Security code for the payment instrument (also known as the card security code (CSC), card validation code (CVC), card verification value (CVV), signature panel code (SPC), credit card ID (CCID), etc)
- **cc-type** - Type of payment instrument
- **transaction-currency** - The currency that the user would prefer the transaction to use
- **transaction-amount** - The amount that the user would like for the transaction (e.g., when entering a bid or sale price)
- **language** - Preferred language
- **bday** - Birthday
- **bday-day** - Day component of birthday
- **bday-month** - Month component of birthday
- **bday-year** - Year component of birthday
- **sex** - Gender identity (e.g., Female, Fa'afafine)
- **url** - Home page or other Web page corresponding to the company, person, address, or contact information in the other fields associated with this field

- **photo** - Photograph, icon, or other image corresponding to the company, person, address, or contact information in the other fields associated with this field
- **tel** - Full telephone number, including country code
- **tel-country-code** - Country code component of the telephone number
- **tel-national** - Telephone number without the country code component, with a country-internal prefix applied if applicable
- **tel-area-code** - Area code component of the telephone number, with a country-internal prefix applied if applicable
- **tel-local** - Telephone number without the country code and area code components
- **tel-local-prefix** - First part of the component of the telephone number that follows the area code, when that component is split into two components
- **tel-local-suffix** - Second part of the component of the telephone number that follows the area code, when that component is split into two components
- **tel-extension** - Telephone number internal extension code
- **email** - E-mail address
- **impp** - URL representing an instant messaging protocol endpoint (for example, "**aim:goim?screenname=example**" or "**xmpp:fred@example.net**")

A. Change Log

This section shows changes for WCAG 2.1 since its publication as a W3C Recommendation. These changes are also recorded as [errata](#).

Changes since the [W3C Recommendation of 21 September 2023](#):

- Modified the formatting of definitions for [changes of context](#), [general flash and red flash thresholds](#), and [structure](#)
- Corrected typo in [input purposes](#) list
- Modified the visual presentation for content identified as New
- Modified the language covering devices in the [Abstract](#)
- Made editorial changes to improve consistent use of definitions in the success criteria
- Made editorial changes to improve consistent use of the terms “success criteria/criterion”, “web”, “website”, and “web page”

Changes since the [W3C Recommendation of 05 June 2018](#):

- In the [Status of This Document](#) the paragraph beginning "This document has been reviewed by W3C Members..." appears twice. The first instance of this paragraph has been removed.
- In the [Introduction](#), several (but not all) references to "WCAG 2.0" has been changed to "WCAG 2.1".
- In the [0.5.2 Numbering in WCAG 2.1](#), the words "critera" and "ccriteria" have been changed to "criteria".
- In [1.4.10 Reflow](#), the first note had a supernumary "Note" indicator which has been removed.
- In [1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus](#), the word "dismissable" has been changed to "dismissible".
- In [4. Robust](#), repetition of the word "by" has been removed.
- In [5.2.2 Full pages](#), the third note began with "New" which has been removed.
- In [5.3.1 Required Components of a Conformance Claim](#) the editorial note "In WCAG 2.0 this was a dated URI, which may need to be adjusted when this becomes a Rec." has been removed.
- In the definition for [keyboard interface](#), the second (of three) note has been changed to be an example of the first note, leaving only two actual notes.
- In the definition for [technology](#), the third note has been changed to be an example.
- In [7. Input Purposes for User Interface Components](#), the word "county" has been changed to "country".
- In [1.3.4 Orientation](#), the note referencing "binary display orientation" has been clarified to read "content is not necessarily restricted to landscape or portrait display orientation".
- In [a note in the definition of accessibility supported](#), references to "Conformance Criterion" were changed to "Conformance Requirement".
- In the [definition of relative luminance](#), the red threshold was updated from 0.03928 to 0.04045.
- In [4.1.1 Parsing](#) one note was deleted, and two notes were added, including: "This Success Criterion should be considered as always satisfied for any content using HTML or XML."

The full [commit history to WCAG 2.1](#) is available.

B. Acknowledgments

This section is non-normative.

Additional information about participation in the Accessibility Guidelines Working Group (AG WG) can be found on the [Working Group home page](#).

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§ B.3 Enabling funders

This publication has been funded in part with U.S. Federal funds from the Health and Human Services, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), initially under contract number ED-OSE-10-C-0067 and now under contract number HHSP23301500054C. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the U.S. Department of Education, nor does

mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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