

WAI-Tools proposal for a W4A 2019 Hackathon activity

Background

The W3C Accessibility Conformance Testing ACT Rules provide transparent and vetted checks for accessibility conformance of web content to the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). They are intended to help align conformance evaluation across accessibility testing tools and manual evaluation methodologies, to provide more reliability and trust.

Objectives

The objective of this hackathon activity is to bring together volunteer experts of web accessibility evaluation methodologies and end-users of assistive technologies. We welcome experts in both automatic and manual evaluation methodologies, to explore the use of ACT Rules for specific situations reported by end-users. In the scope of this activity we can explore:

- How ACT Rules map to existing evaluation methodologies
- How ACT Rules cover real accessibility needs
- What challenges are there in using ACT Rules
- How you can contribute ACT Rules
- What you can do with data generated by the application of ACT Rules

Planning

The activity is flexible enough to accommodate from a half-day session to a full day session (it can be run in both days if there is interest).

The activity starts with an introduction to the ACT Rules objectives and format (about 30 minutes).

From then onwards, depending of the participants, different activities can occur in parallel:

- Rule reviewing: a fundamental part of the ACT Rules process is peer-review of written rules. Participants will be walked through the evaluation process and have the opportunity to review submitted rules.
- Rule writing: the rule writing process will be explained to interested participants. They will then have the opportunity to write rules that apply to the use cases they are most interested in.
- Rule implementation: in the event that any of the participants is responsible for an automated evaluation tool or for the application of manual evaluation methodologies, they will have the opportunity of implementing existing ACT Rules in their methodology.
- Data exploration: methodologies that support ACT Rules, output their evaluation results according an Open Data Format. This format is a JSON-LD serialization of the EARL 1.0 schema. Willing participants can hack this data to explore comparisons of methodologies, for instance.

Links and references

ACT Rules – <https://auto-wcag.github.io/auto-wcag/pages/rules.html>

WCAG – <https://www.w3.org/WAI/intro/wcag>

Open Data Format – <https://github.com/w3c/earl>

W3C Auto-WCAG Community Group – <https://auto-wcag.github.io/auto-wcag/>

ACT Task Force – <https://www.w3.org/wai/gl/task-forces/conformance-testing/>