

Web Design

Principles of Accessibility
Overview of Tools

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Who are you?

Please,
stop me and ask questions

- In one hour I can not explain how to make an “accessible” website.
- In one hour I can not teach how to check if a website passes accessibility standards.
- A little knowledge about web accessibility can cause *more* problems than no knowledge.

- A framework for thinking about web accessibility.
- Enough knowledge so you can go out and learn what you need to learn.
- Tricks to simplify thinking about web accessibility.

Warning

This talk contains opinions.

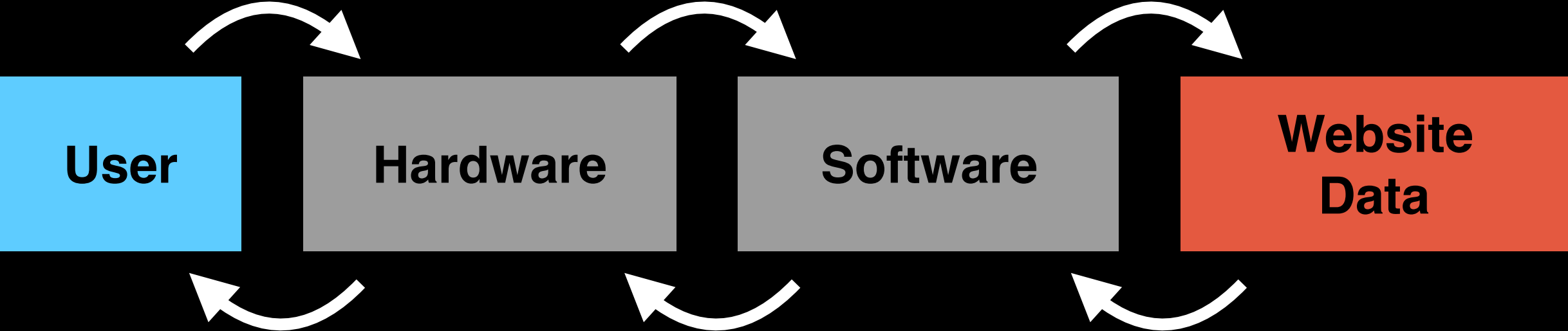
What is web
accessibility?

Accessible for whom,
and how?

Web Accessibility

Making websites which users with disabilities
can understand and interact with.

“Standard” Interaction



User's Domain

User

Hardware

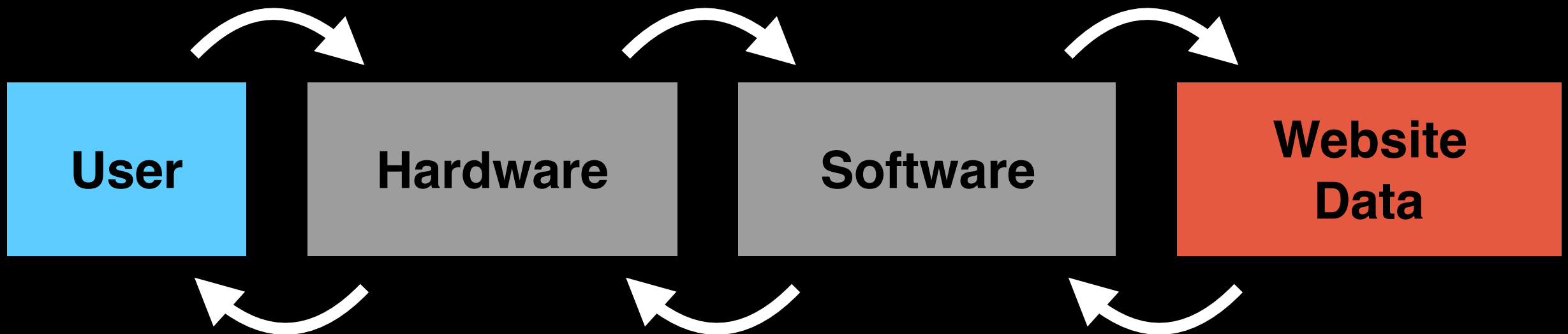
Software

Our Domain

**Website
Data**

Disability

Accessibility is a consideration at
every step of the chain



User's Domain

Disability

User

Assistive Technologies

Hardware

Software

Our Domain

**Website
Data**

Web Accessibility

Making websites which users with disabilities
can understand and interact with.

This is pretty ableist.

Computers are not
inherently inaccessible.

The world wide web
is not inaccessible.

We make hardware,
software and data which
is inaccessible.

Web Accessibility

Making websites which users can
understand and interact with.

Web Accessibility vs. Usability

There is more to web
accessibility than
technology.

When does
web accessibility
happen?

Planning

Prevent wasted effort and establish priorities.

While designing and writing content

Minimize the likelihood
that auditing will catch problems.

Auditing

The only requirement.

Let's make stuff
accessible!

Content

Only give authors just
enough to do their job.

Offer everything else
as a service.

Avoid academic or
library speak.

Properly encode
abbreviations.

<abbr title="____">

Design

Bake accessibility into
your design guidelines.

Stick to your
design guidelines.

Do design checks
frequently.

Err on the side
of one design.

Universal Design, Responsive Design,
Adaptive Design, etc.

Implementation

Add accessibility checks
to code reviews.

Should you ever release
anything without first
checking it?

Build a network
of experts: teaching
everyone a little, and a
few people a lot.

Be wary of hacks.

Favor testing
over trusting.

Tools

Standards

Yup, standards are tools.

HTML

WAI-ARIA

Web Accessibility Initiative
Accessible Rich Internet Applications

WCAG 2.0

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

WCAG 1.0 and Section 508

VPATs

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

Testing

Here be dragons

Manual
vs.
Automated

Paid vs. Free

False Positives

vs.

False Negatives

Color Contrast



1954, Vogue (Henry Clarke)

Are you testing
something which
users really do?

Will “fixing” something
cause more problems?

Not all assistive
technologies work
the same.

Assistive technologies
have bugs.

Is your testing biased?

What is the
real problem?

(secrets)

Simplify.

Try considering assistive
technologies last.

Always be learning.

Go learn!

WCAG 2.0

HTML semantics

Read blog posts

Join mailing lists

Training

Share!

Questions?

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