

# Web Design

Principles of Accessibility

Overview of Tools

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(also artist, freelance theatre designer, etc)

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?

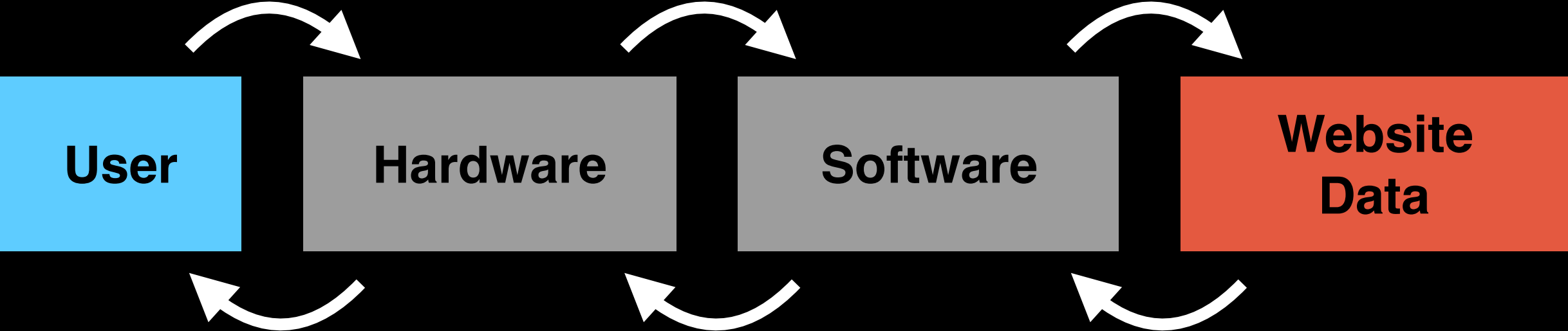


Accessible for whom,  
and how?

# Web Accessibility

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

“Standard” Interaction



*User's Domain*

**User**

**Hardware**

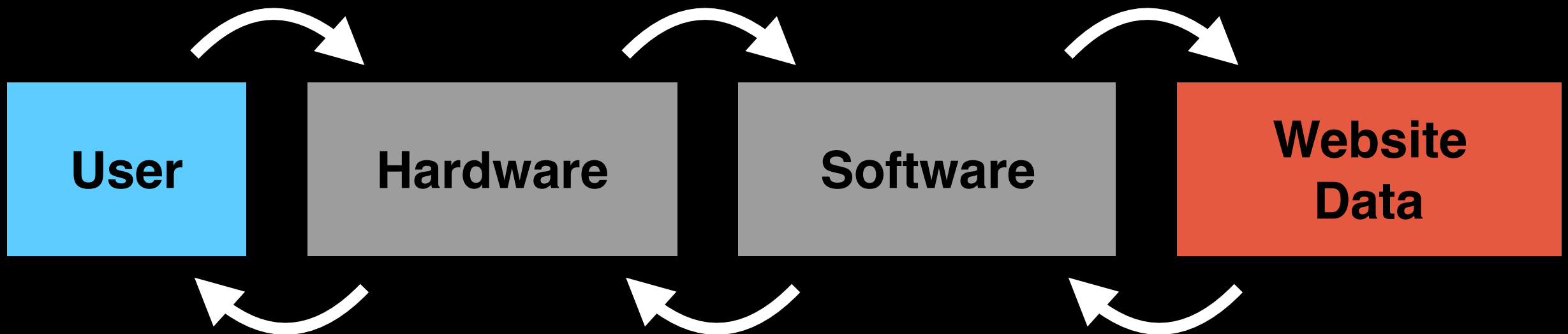
**Software**

*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 instead of  
teaching everyone.

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 this cause  
more problems?

Not all assistive  
technologies work  
the same.

Assistive technologies  
have bugs.

Is your testing biased?



What is the  
real problem?

(secrets)

Website users  
do not care about your  
library's culture.

Try considering assistive  
technologies last.

User testing is  
not a panacea.

Simplify.

*Always be learning.*

Go learn!



WCAG 2.0

# HTML semantics

Read blog posts

Join mailing lists

Training

Share!

# Questions?

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