I tested my email newsletter using multiple accessibility tools to understand how well it performs for users with disabilities. Overall, the email showed strong foundational accessibility but revealed some inherent challenges with HTML email development.

1. **WAVE (WebAIM)** - For general accessibility violations
2. **axe DevTools** - For WCAG compliance checking

Additionally, I tested the email on two popular websites (Amazon and YouTube) for comparison.

Pros

Good color contrast - The dark blue on white background passes WCAG AAA standards with a 16.5:1 ratio, making it easy to read for users with visual impairments.

All images have alt text - Every image includes descriptive alternative text, which helps screen reader users understand the content.

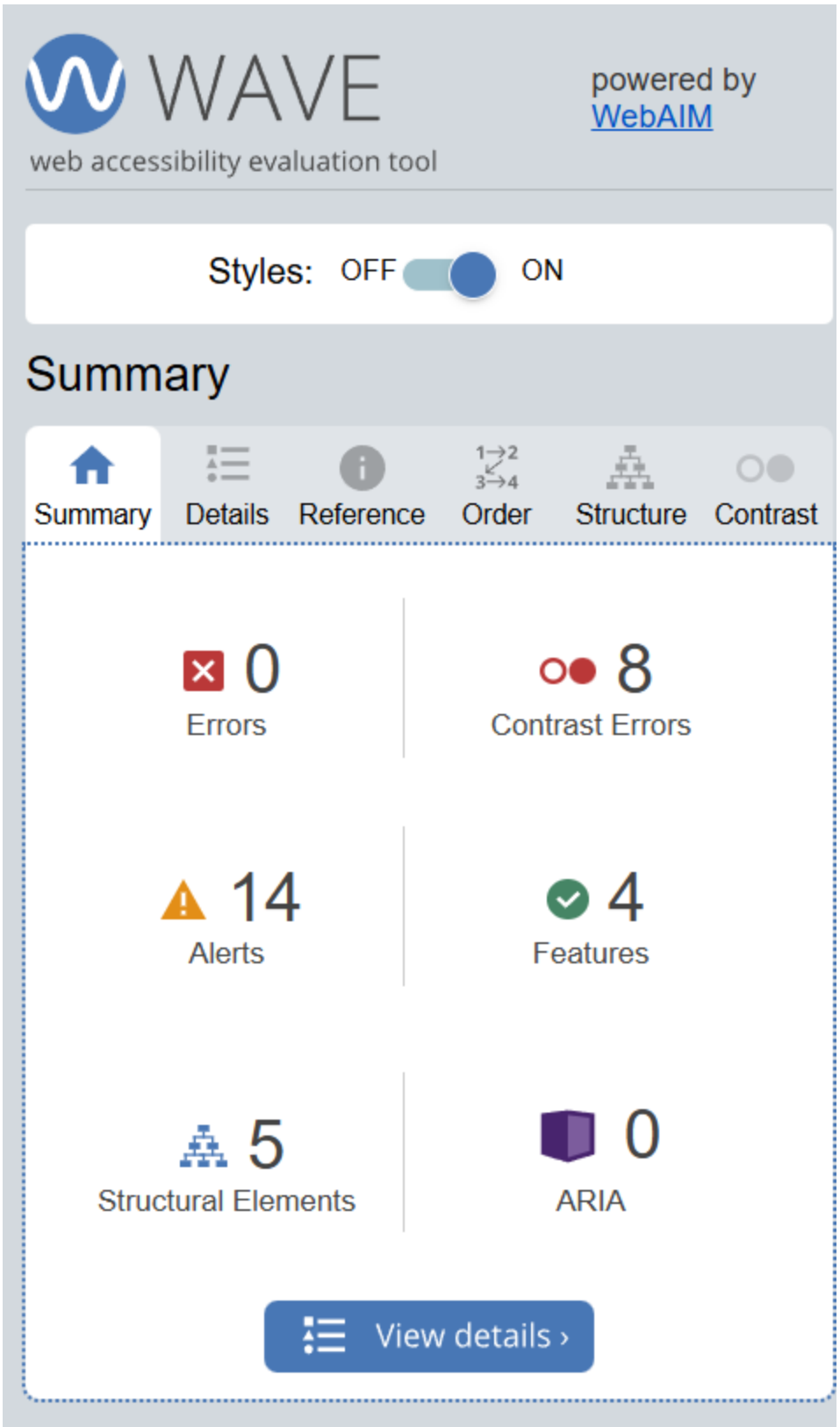
Logical heading structure - Headers follow a proper hierarchy (h1 - h2 -h3), making navigation easier for assistive technology users.

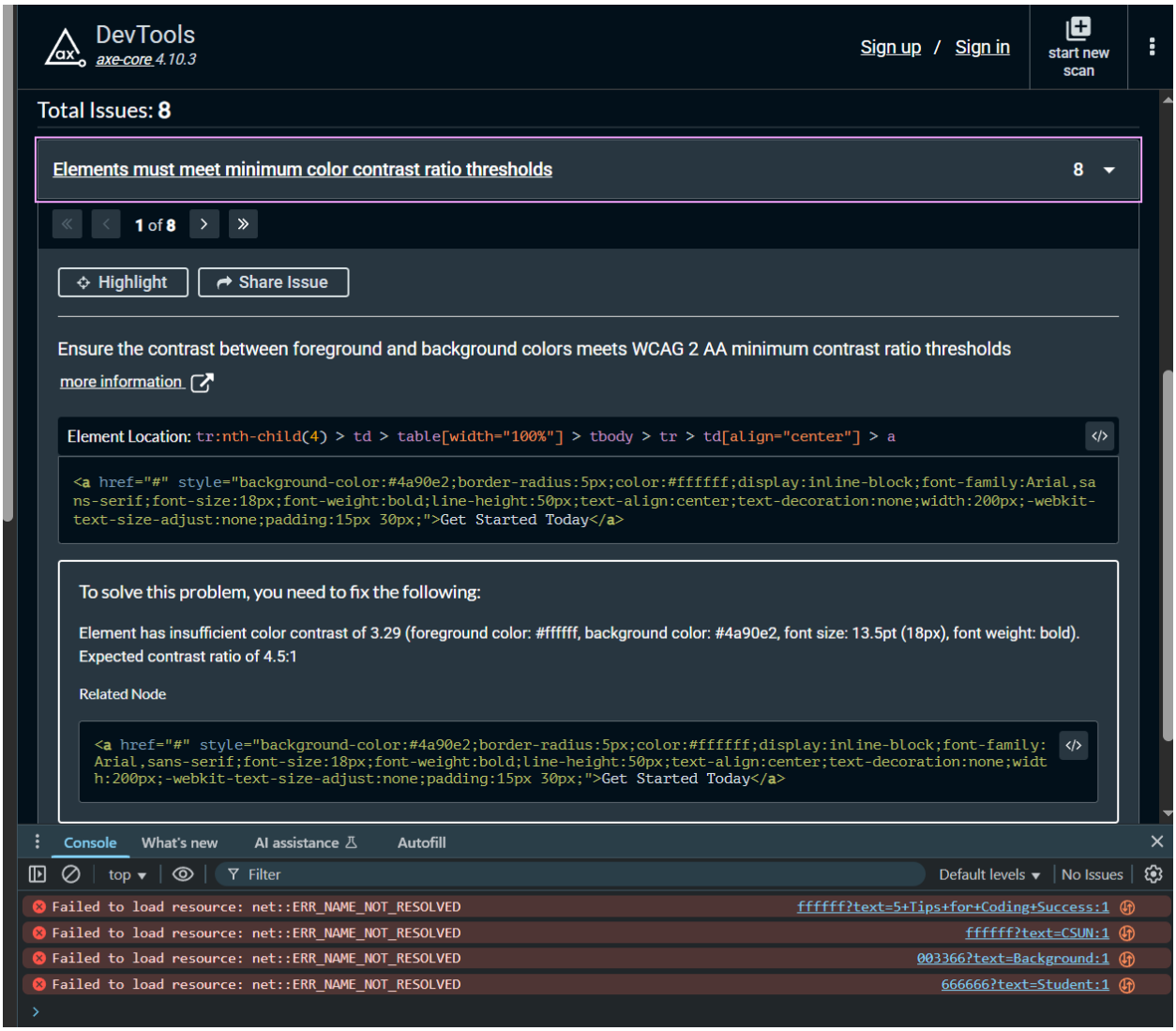
Cons

Table based layout creates verbosity - Screen readers announce every table cell, making the email longer to navigate. A simple paragraph might be announced as "Table with 1 row, 1 column, cell content, etc."

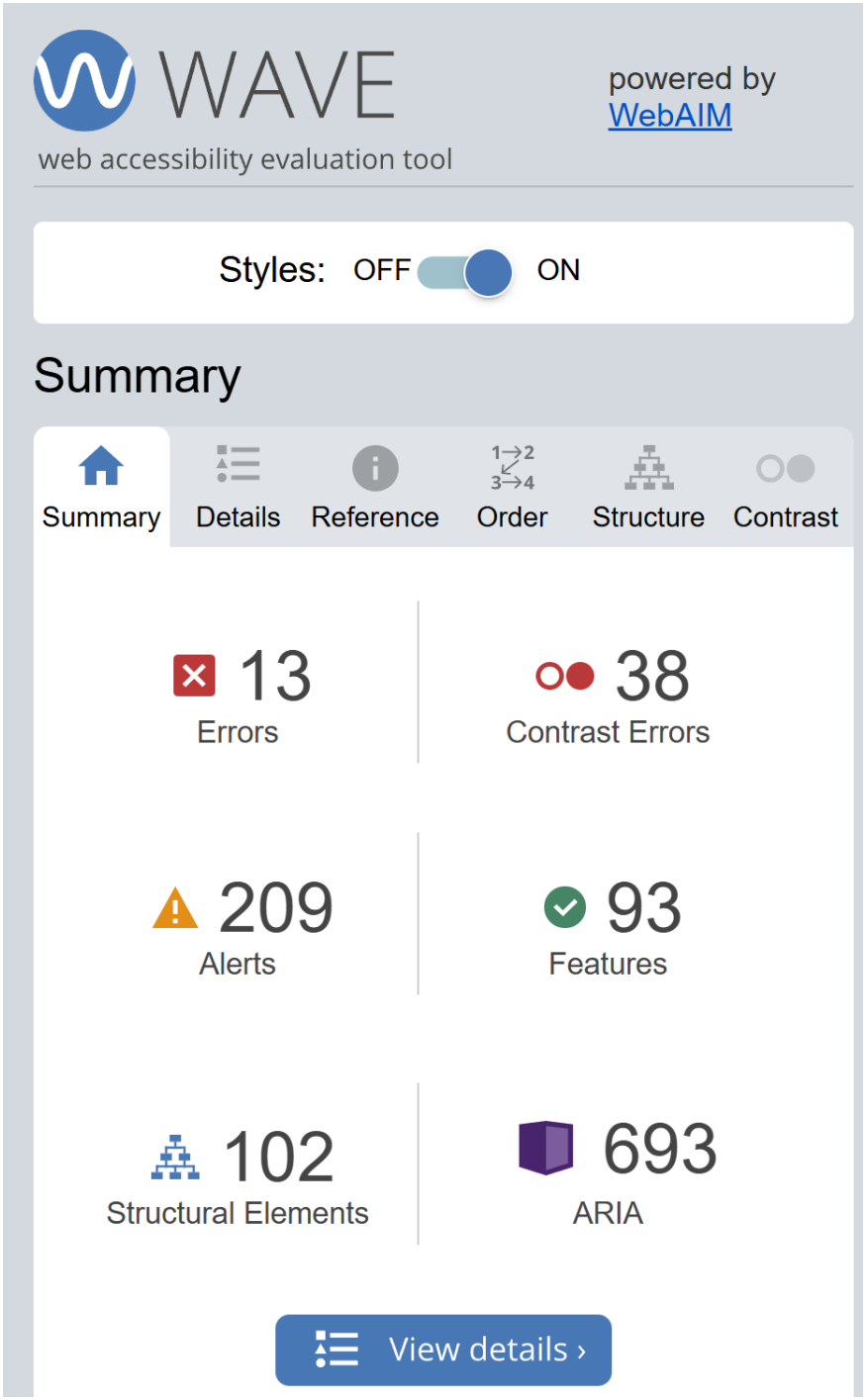
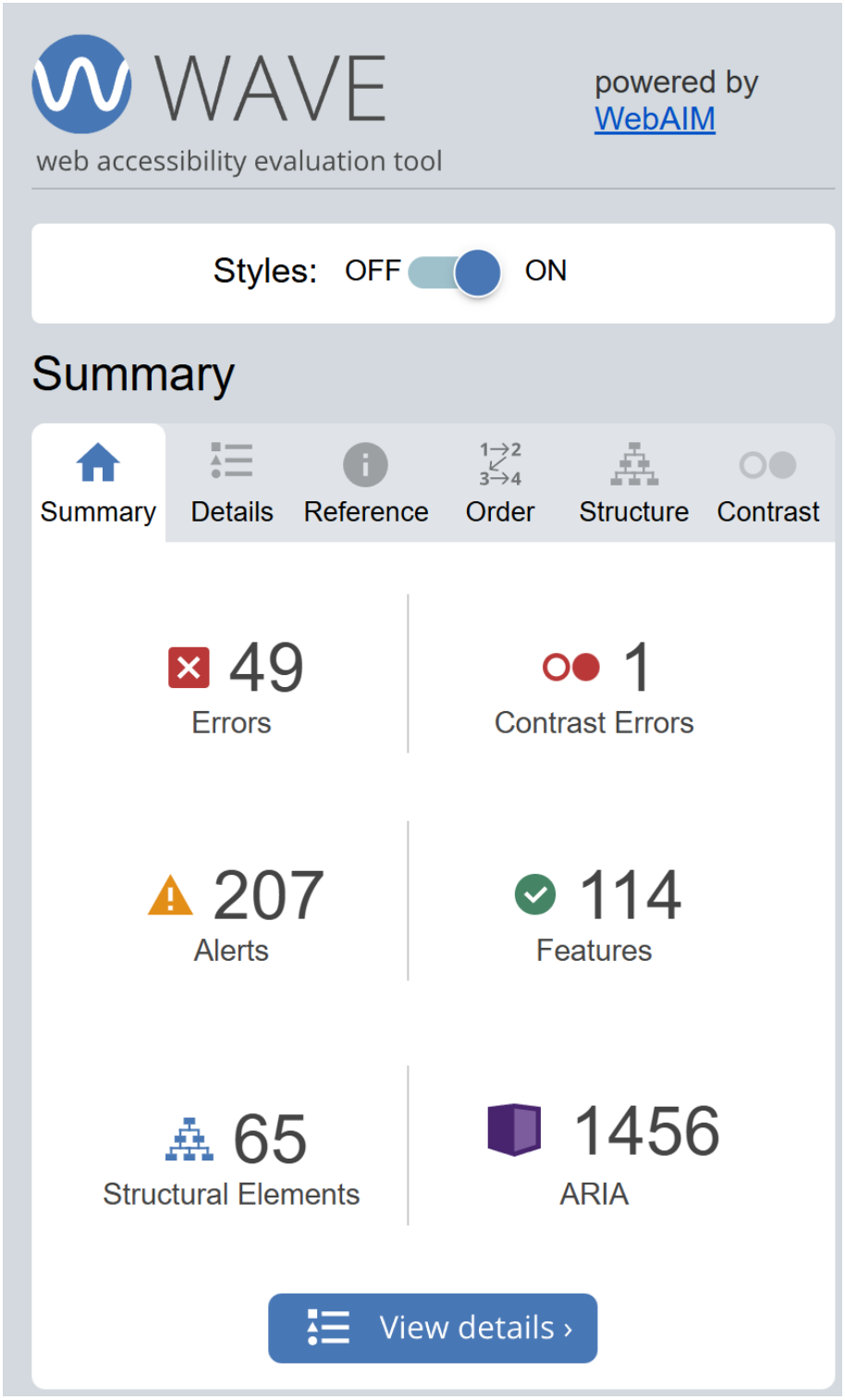
Inline CSS reduces maintainability - Having to update styles in multiple places makes it harder to maintain consistent accessibility features

Background images may not load - Some email clients block images by default, potentially losing context in the "Upcoming Events" section


WAVE
web accessibility evaluation tool
powered by
WebAIM
Styles: OFF ON
Summary
Summary
Details
Reference
Order
Structure
Contrast
0
Errors
8
Contrast Errors
14
Alerts
4
Features
5
Structural Elements
0
ARIA
View details ›


DevTools
axe-core 4.10.3
Sign up / Sign in
start new scan
Total Issues: 8
Elements must meet minimum color contrast ratio thresholds
8
1 of 8
Highlight
Share Issue
Ensure the contrast between foreground and background colors meets WCAG 2 AA minimum contrast ratio thresholds
more information
Element Location: tr:nth-child(4) > td > table[width="100%"] > tbody > tr > td[align="center"] > a
<a href="#" style="background-color:#4a90e2;border-radius:5px;color:#ffffff;display:inline-block;font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-size:18px;font-weight:bold;line-height:50px;text-align:center;text-decoration:none;width:200px;-webkit-text-size-adjust:none;padding:15px 30px;">Get Started Today</a>
To solve this problem, you need to fix the following:
Element has insufficient color contrast of 3.29 (foreground color: #ffffff, background color: #4a90e2, font size: 13.5pt (18px), font weight: bold). Expected contrast ratio of 4.5:1
Related Node
<a href="#" style="background-color:#4a90e2;border-radius:5px;color:#ffffff;display:inline-block;font-family:Arial,sans-serif;font-size:18px;font-weight:bold;line-height:50px;text-align:center;text-decoration:none;width:200px;-webkit-text-size-adjust:none;padding:15px 30px;">Get Started Today</a>
Console
What's new
AI assistance
Autofill
top
Filter
Default levels
No Issues
Failed to load resource: net::ERR_NAME_NOT_RESOLVED ffffff?text=5+Tips+for+Coding+Success:1
Failed to load resource: net::ERR_NAME_NOT_RESOLVED ffffff?text=CSUN:1
Failed to load resource: net::ERR_NAME_NOT_RESOLVED 003366?text=Background:1
Failed to load resource: net::ERR_NAME_NOT_RESOLVED 666666?text=Student:1

Amazon.com results



Youtube.com results