

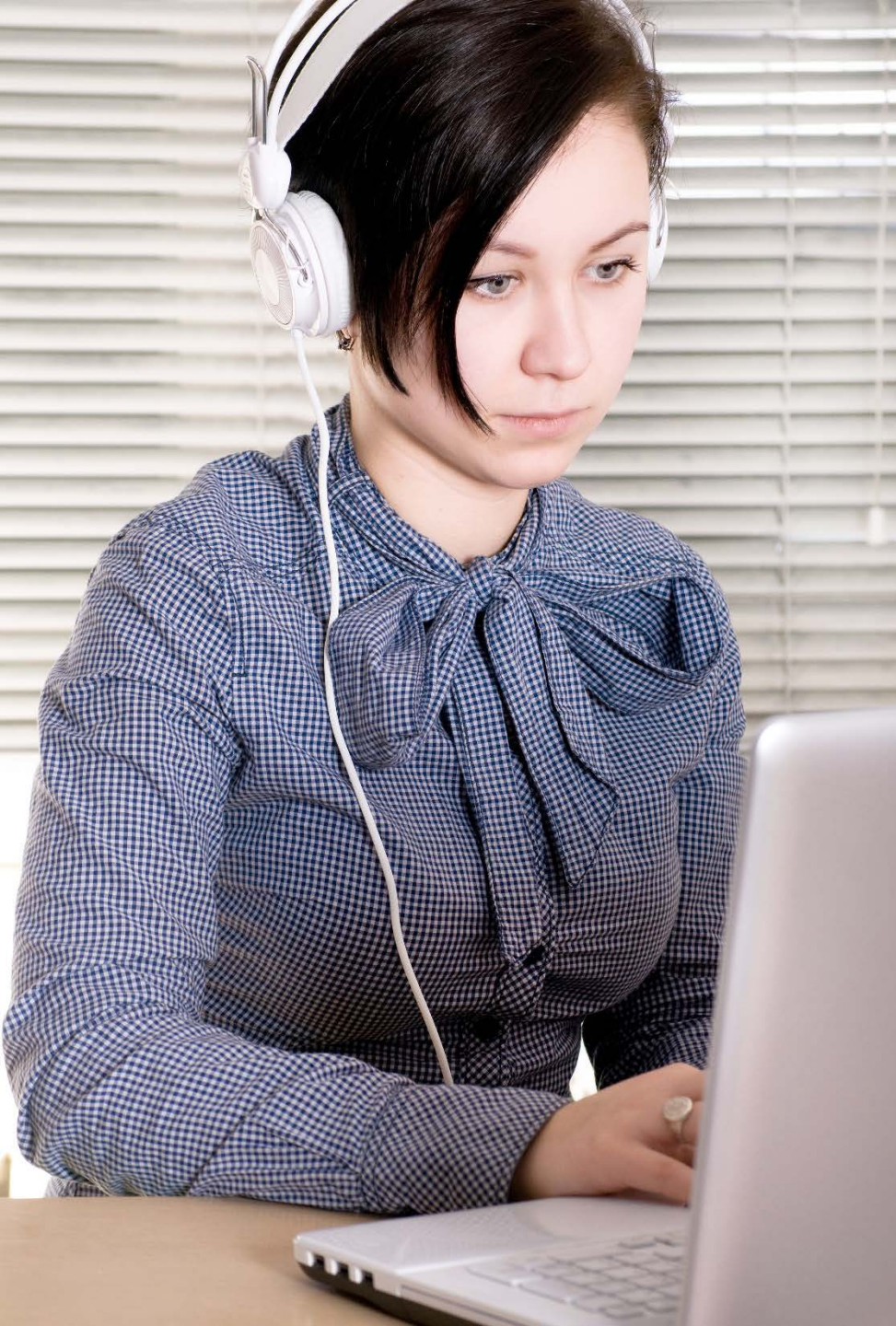
Improving Our Form for Screen Reader Users



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What Is a Screen Reader?

Software to allow users with severe visual impairments to use a computer

Outputs speech or braille

Allow the user to navigate and enter data with a keyboard

Speech and/or Braille Outputs

Text to Speech is synthesized and can be quite fast

Refreshable braille displays can raise dots to form characters





How Content Is Output

Can't glance around content like sighted user

Process text line by line

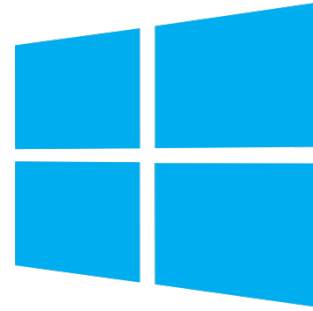
Can jump between headers, links and different regions to make it easier

Popular Screen Readers



FREE

VoiceOver



JAWS



Window-Eyes



FREE

NVDA



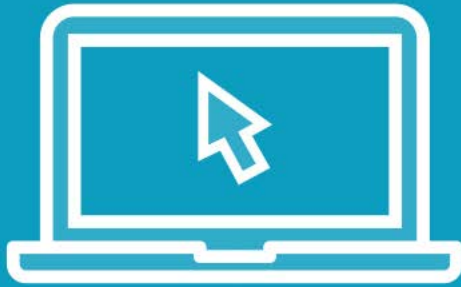
Which Should I Test Against?

Screen readers do have some differences

Usually, if content is accessible to one screen reader, it will be accessible to another

Follow best practices and test in at least one screen reader

Demo



NVDA on Windows:
<http://www.nvaccess.org/>

Configuration, reading, navigation and
form data entry

Browsing a Website

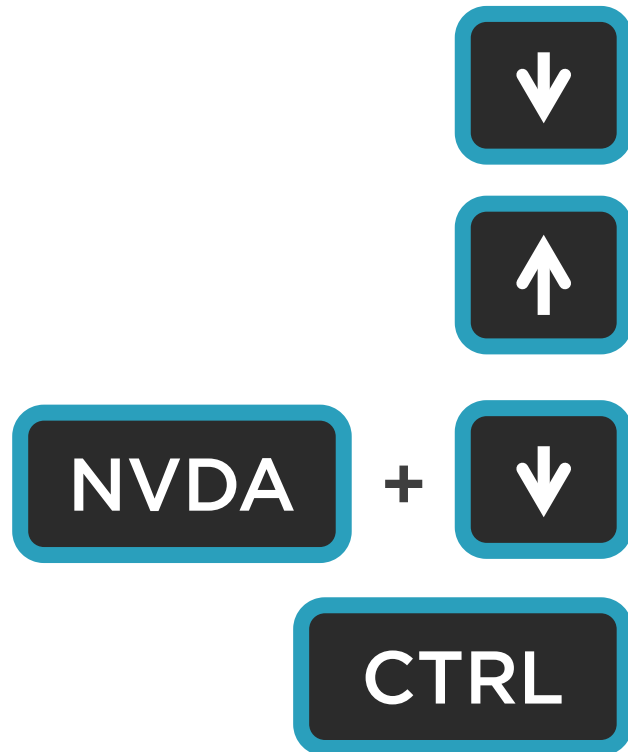
Use Firefox



Don't use the
mouse

Turn your monitor
off?

NVDA Browsing Commands



Read next line

Read previous line

Read all from current position

Stop reading

Browse and Focus Modes

Two modes: Browse & Focus

Browse is for reading content

Focus is for entering data on
forms

NVDA sometimes switches
automatically

NVDA Form Commands

SPACE

Enter focus mode for control

TAB

Jump focus to next control

SHIFT

+

TAB

Jump focus to previous control

ESC

Exit focus mode

Quick Keys

Used to quickly see what content is there

Single letter commands, browse mode only

Jump between different types of element on the page

Shift and the quick key jumps backwards

Quick Key Commands

H

Headings

K

Links

B

Buttons

L

Lists

D

Landmarks

Issue 4
Images
Without Alt
Text



WCAG 1.1.1



Level
AA

Level
AAA

Non-text
content



All non-text content should have a text equivalent

A few exceptions, like CAPTCHAs

Purely decorative content should be identified as such

```

```



Empty alt attributes identify an image as purely decorative

Issue 5

Link

Purpose



Issue 6

Images
Used for
Buttons



Issue 7

Labels for
Form Fields



WCAG 3.3.2



Level
AA

Level
AAA

Labels or
Instructions

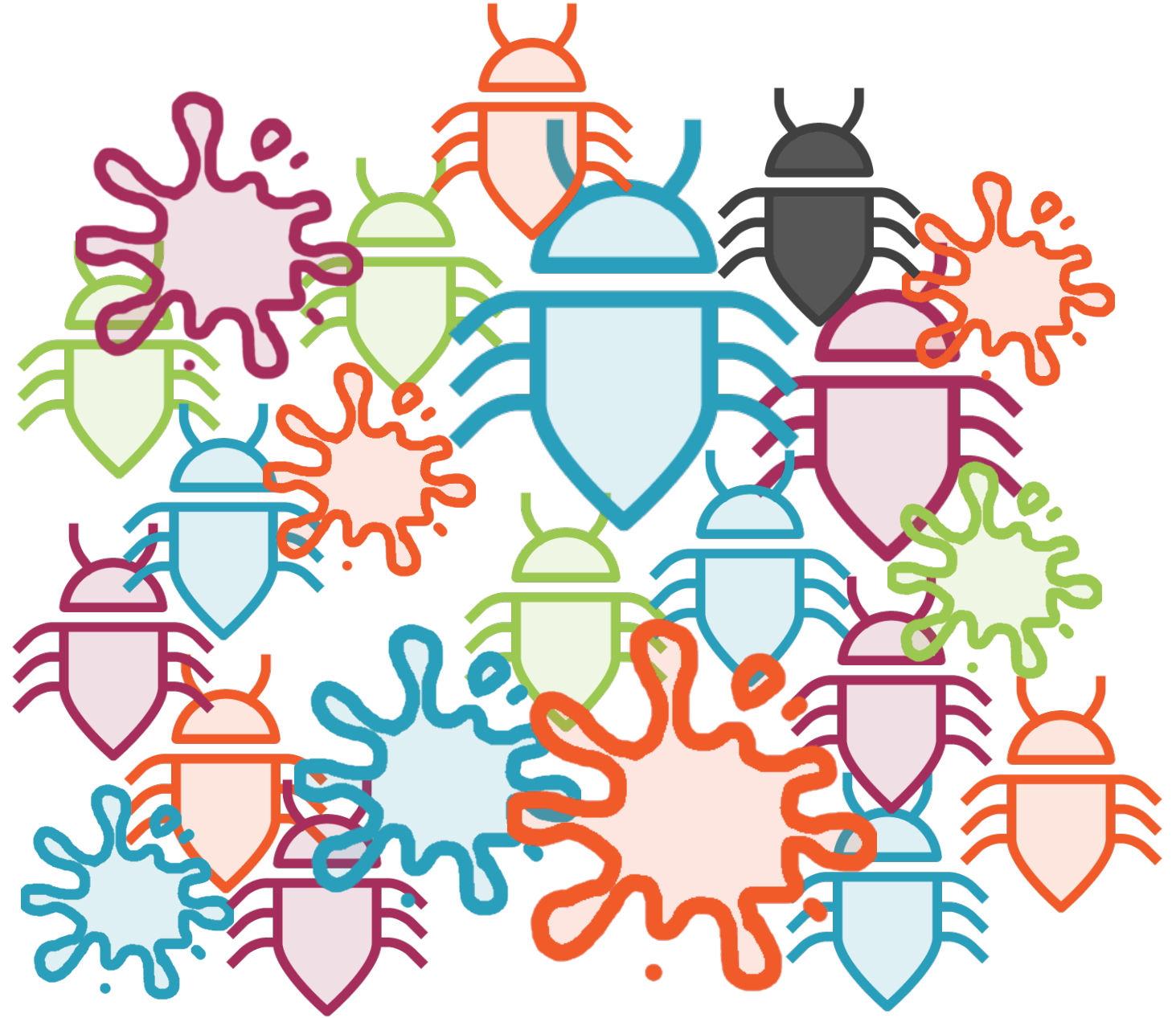


When content requires user input, labels or instructions are provided

Labels in close proximity to inputs

Issue 8

Labels for
Checkboxes



```
<label>Your favourite colour?</label>

<div>
  <input type="checkbox" id="green" />
  <label for="green">Green</label>
</div>

<div>
  <input type="checkbox" id="red" />
  <label for="red">Red</label>
</div>
```

```
<fieldset>
```

```
  <legend>Your favourite colour?</legend>

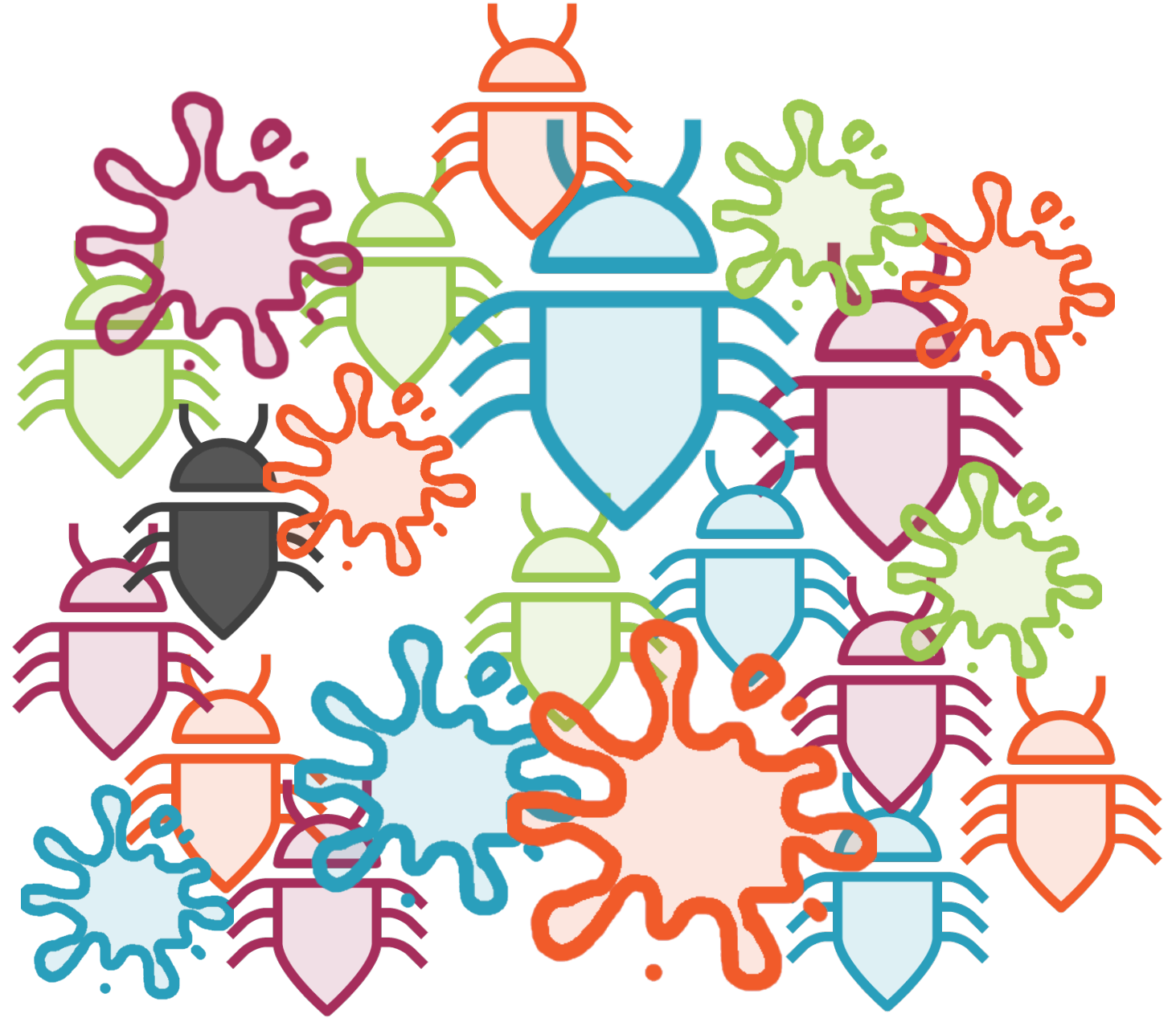
  <div>
    <input type="checkbox" id="green" />
    <label for="green">Green</label>
  </div>

  <div>
    <input type="checkbox" id="red" />
    <label for="red">Red</label>
  </div>
```

```
</fieldset>
```

Issue 9

Setting
Keyboard
Focus

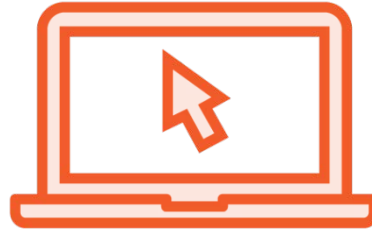


Try not to set focus using
JavaScript, it can be really
disorientating for screen
reader users

Module Review



What's a Screen Reader?



Using NVDA



Making Content Readable



Labelling Form Fields



Grouping with Fieldsets



Not Jumping Focus

