Making a Web Form Accessible

GETTING STARTED WITH KEYBOARD ACCESSIBILITY

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Accessibility

Web accessibility means that people with disabilities can use the Web

W3C Web Accessibility Initiative

Accessibility

Accessibility is the word used to describe whether a product ... can be used by people of all abilities.

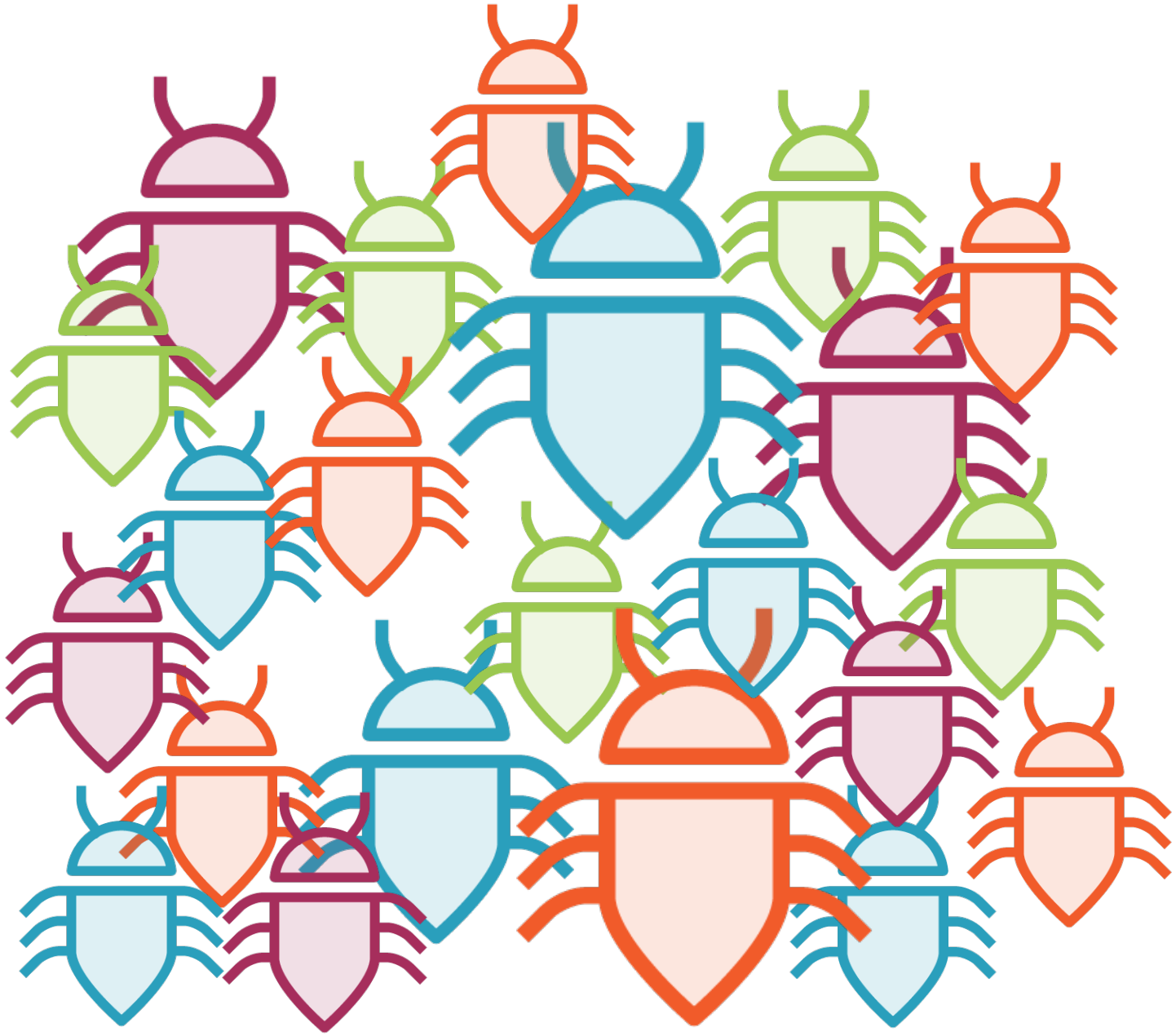
BBC – My Web My Way

More Users, More Success

In This Course

- Our Case Study
- Keyboard Accessibility
- Working with a Screen Reader
- ARIA for Context
- Form Validation
- Final Improvements

22 issues to resolve



Why Have We Got so Much Work to Do?

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Consider Accessibility from the Start

As developers, it's our responsibility to ensure that accessibility doesn't start in "phase two".

What Kind of Disabilities Should We Accommodate For?

Physical Disabilities

Various disabilities, long-term and temporary

Navigating websites using a keyboard alone

Lack of fine motor control – don’t put buttons too close together

Color Blindness

Difficulty to differentiate between colors

Shouldn’t use color alone to convey information

Deafness

Need captions on videos

Useful to those in noisy environments too

Visual Disabilities

Mild vision impairment to blindness

Need increased font size and magnifiers

Screen readers read out content and allow navigation with keyboard commands

We'll try out a screen reader later on

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

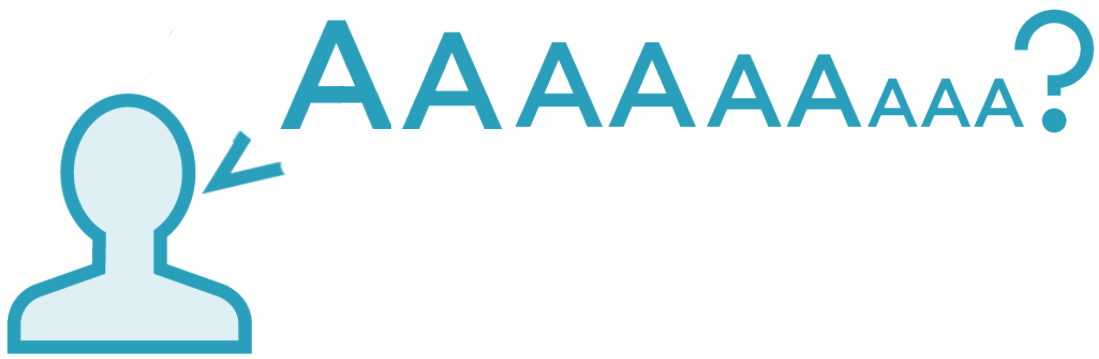
Testable success criteria

A, AA, AAA

Three levels of conformance

Each success criterion has an associated level

Typically, we try to ensure AA



Four Principles

Perceivable

Operable

Understandable

Robust

You Can Still Use JavaScript!

Common misconception that the site must work without JavaScript to meet WCAG

WCAG 2.0 says it's fine to rely on JavaScript, as long as the success criteria are still met

“WCAG is a technical standard, not an introduction to accessibility.”

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Section 508

Another set of guidelines from the U.S.

Software used by Federal Agencies must comply

Single level of compliance

Similar to the WCAG

Our Case Study

Booking a Room at a Hotel

Keyboard Accessibility

Keyboard Navigation

Arrow keys to scroll up and down

Tab and Shift-Tab to navigate through controls

Enter to click a focused link or button

Space to check boxes

Issue 1

Keyboard Focus

WCAG 2.4.7

Level A | Level AA | Level AAA

Focus Visible

Keyboard focus should be “highly visible” at all times

Keyboard-only users can easily get confused without it

Styling Items That Have Focus

Leave the default outline, or just change the outline color

Try to make custom styling more than just a color change

Don’t be subtle

The site looks a lot more polished and professional now

Issue 2

Focus Order

WCAG 2.4.3

Level A

Level AA

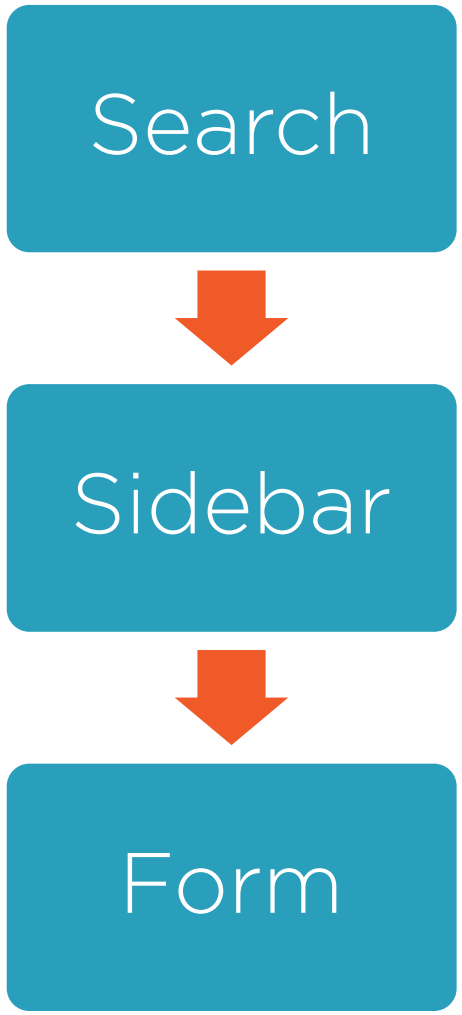
Level AAA

Focus Order

Components receive focus in a “meaningful” order

Focus shouldn’t jump around unexpectedly

Consider those using a magnifier



By default, focus order just follows the structure of the underlying HTML

The tabindex attribute

Set to a numerical value

That is the order that is followed

Unless really, really necessary...

Don’t set tabindex to control focus order

Issue 3

Select Box Options

```
<select>
  <option>Aberdeen, Scotland</option>
  <option>Leeds, England</option>
  <option>Reading, England</option>
  <option>Glasgow, Scotland</option>
</select>
```

```
<select>
  <optgroup label="England">
    <option>Leeds</option>
    <option>Reading</option>
  </optgroup>
  <optgroup label="Scotland">
    <option>Aberdeen</option>
    <option>Glasgow</option>
  </optgroup>
</select>
```

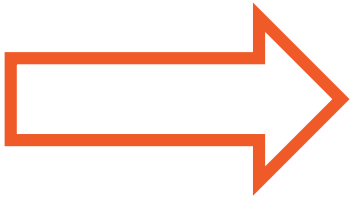
Module Review

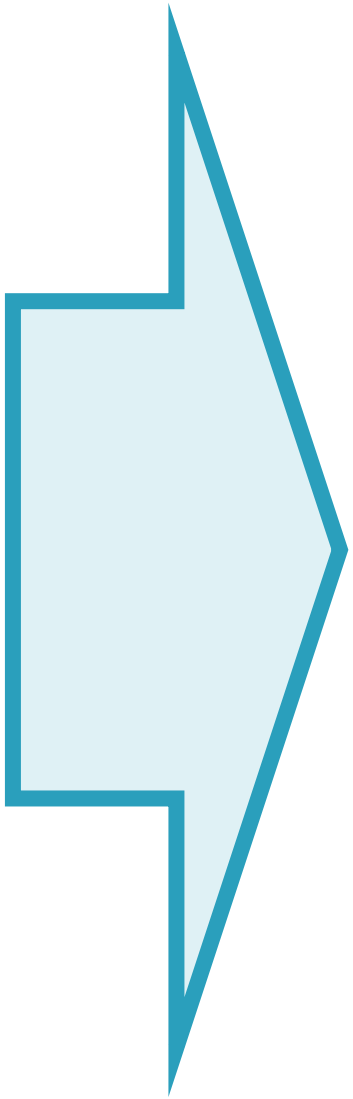
What is Accessibility?

WCAG Guidelines

Case Study Site

Focus Visibility



Focus Order

Select Options