

Checklist for Developers

Semantics and Structure

- When possible, are **HTML tags** used and applied for their **native semantics**?
- Can **structure, information, and relationships** conveyed through visual presentation (in headings, lists, menus, forms, etc.) be **programmatically determined**?

Readability

- Has the **reading order** been tested to confirm that all content on the page is available in a **logical order for assistive technologies**?

Images

- Do all **linked, informative, and decorative elements** have **appropriate alternative text** (e.g., alt attributes)?
- Do all **informative background images** have **alternative text** that can be read by assistive technologies?

Keyboard and Touchscreen Navigation

- When interacting with a page with the keyboard, is **focus always visible**, is it **managed when necessary**, and does it follow a **logical order**?
- Can all functionality be accomplished **using only the keyboard**?
- Do all **keyboard-only (and touchscreen) interactions** follow expected patterns so users know how to interact with all widgets on the page?
- Can keyboard-only users **always move focus** without ever getting trapped?

Tables

- Are **data tables** marked up to convey the correct relationships between **data cells** and their associated column or row **header cells**?
- Do **layout tables** contain **only <td> cells** and no other structural markup such as a <th> or <caption> tag?

Form Labels

- Do form controls have **visible labels**? Are the label and control **programmatically associated**?
- Are **related fields grouped** and associated with a **common label** (if present)?

Form Errors

- Are **error descriptions** programmatically associated with their form element?
- If an **error is detected on form submission**, are screen reader users made aware of it?
- If a **validation error occurs during user input** or **when a user moves focus**, is the error message spoken by a screen reader?

Custom Controls

- Do all **custom controls, scripted components and widgets** provide **names and roles** to mimic native HTML controls and are they programmatically determinable?

Context Changes

- Has it been verified that when an **element receives focus**, for example by tabbing to it, **no major change of context is automatically triggered**?
- Has it been verified that when a person **changes the setting** of a user interface component, **no major change of context is automatically triggered** unless they have been notified beforehand?

Timing

- For **scrolling, moving, blinking, dynamic or auto-updating content**, are mechanisms provided to stop, pause, hide, and control it?
- Can the **time limit** for completing a task be **turned off, adjusted, or extended** by the user — unless an exception applies?