Web Clinic IT GWU

IT.GWU.EDU

Reviewed by:

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Student, USFSP

Special Thanks to:

Kara Gillepsie, GWU

And very especial thanks to:

Robert Beasey, USFSP

How evaluation was done…

FIRST, AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE SITE BY MYSELF, RESPONDING ONLY TO VISUAL CUES. THEN I TABBED THROUGH THE SITE TO SEE IF I COULD REACH ALL AREAS BY KEYBOARD ONLY. I ASKED MYSELF IF THE CONTENT AND THE TERMINOLOGY MADE SENSE TO A NEWCOMER. FINALLY, I USED SOME DEVELOPER TOOLS TO EVALUATE THE SITE.

NEXT, I ASKED ROBERT TO COME IN AND EVALUATE THE SITE…..

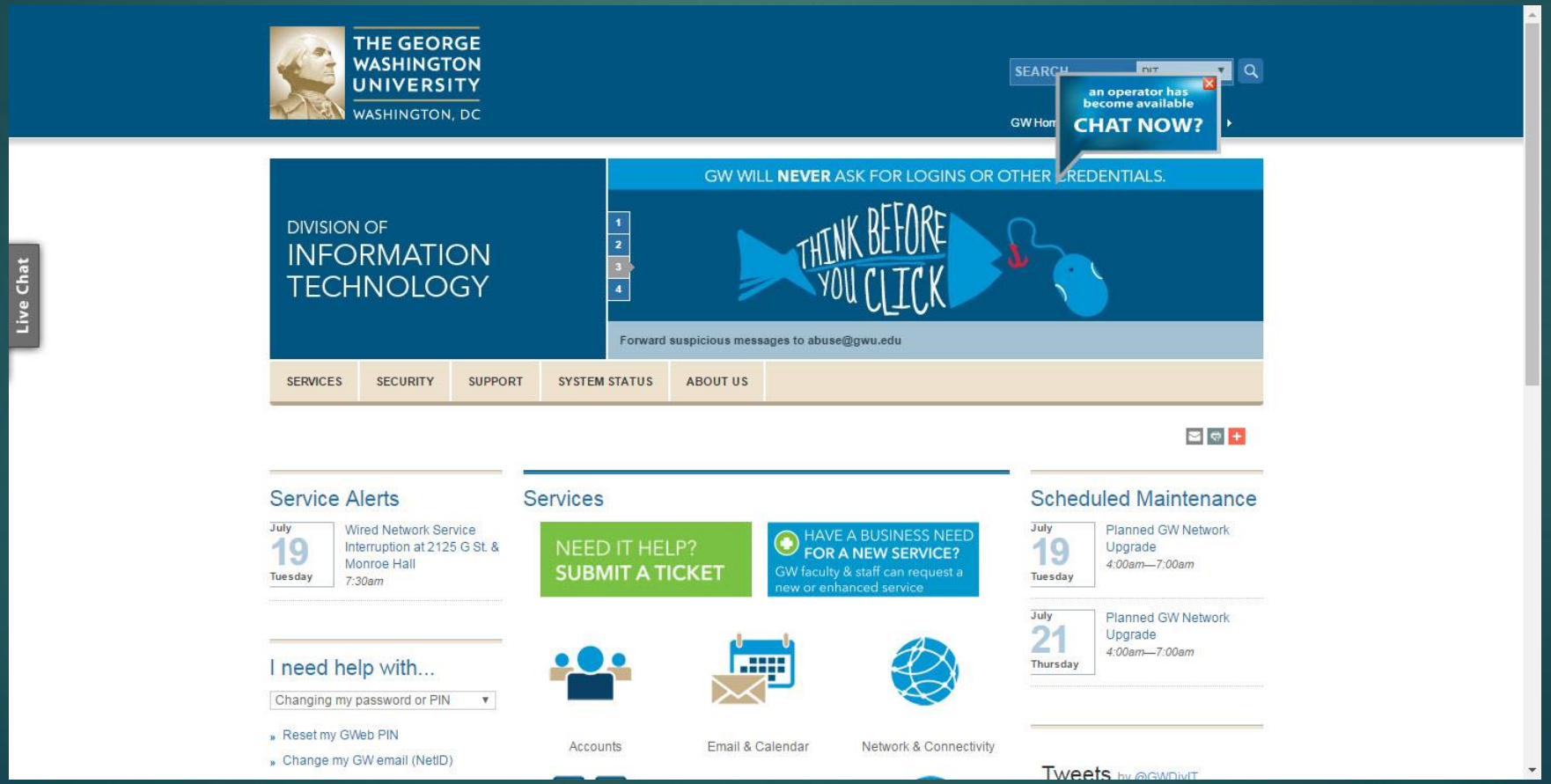
THERE WAS A STRONG MATCH IN OUR ASSESSMENT, AND THE ABILITY TO SEE THE SITE THROUGH ROBERT'S EYES CAME ABOUT FOR ONLY ONE REASON: I WORKED WITH HIM ON A REGULAR BASIS.

The Bottom Line: Involve testers with disabilities on a regular basis.

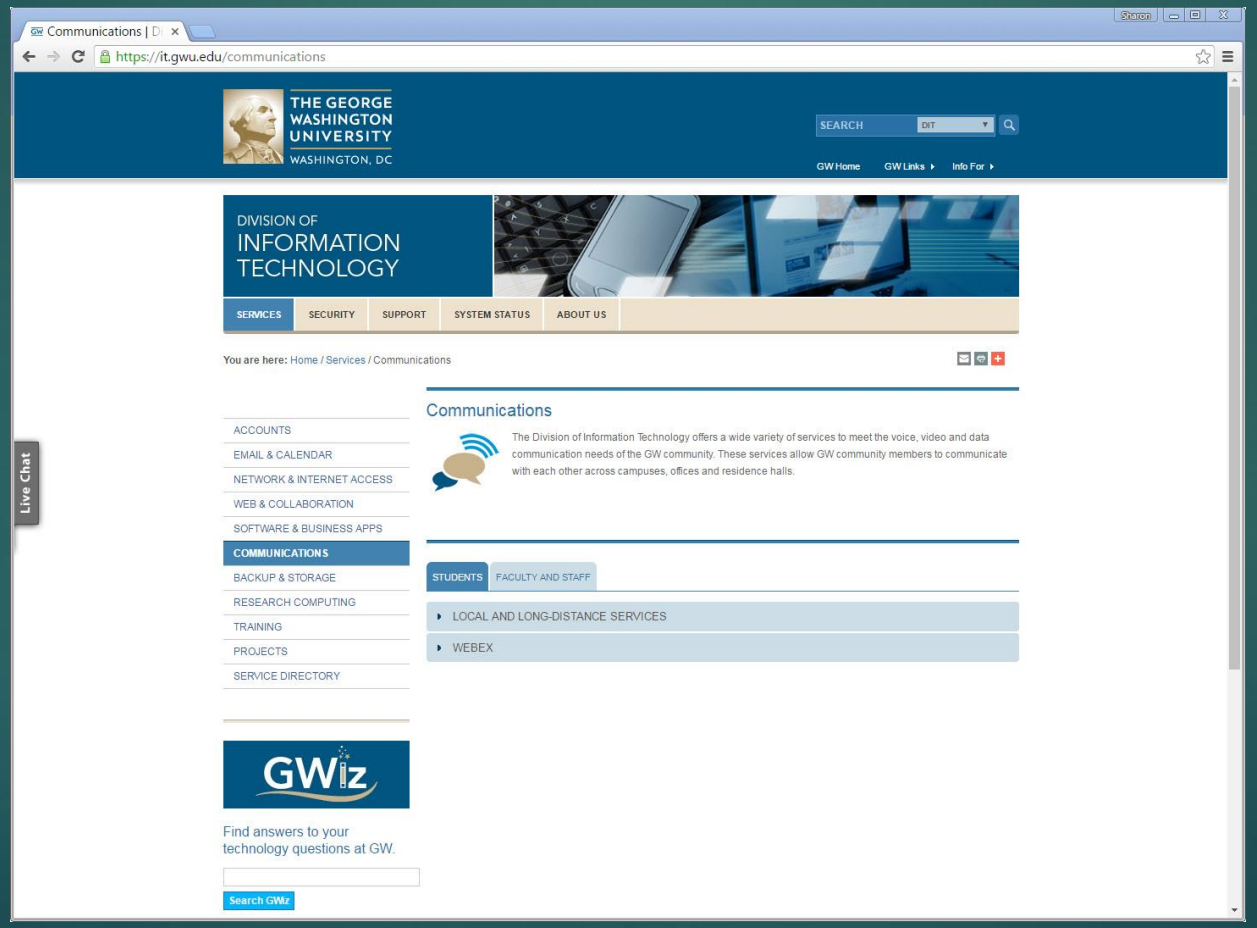
Awesome Site!

MUCH MORE “RIGHT” THAN “WRONG” SO KUDOS TO IT GWU!

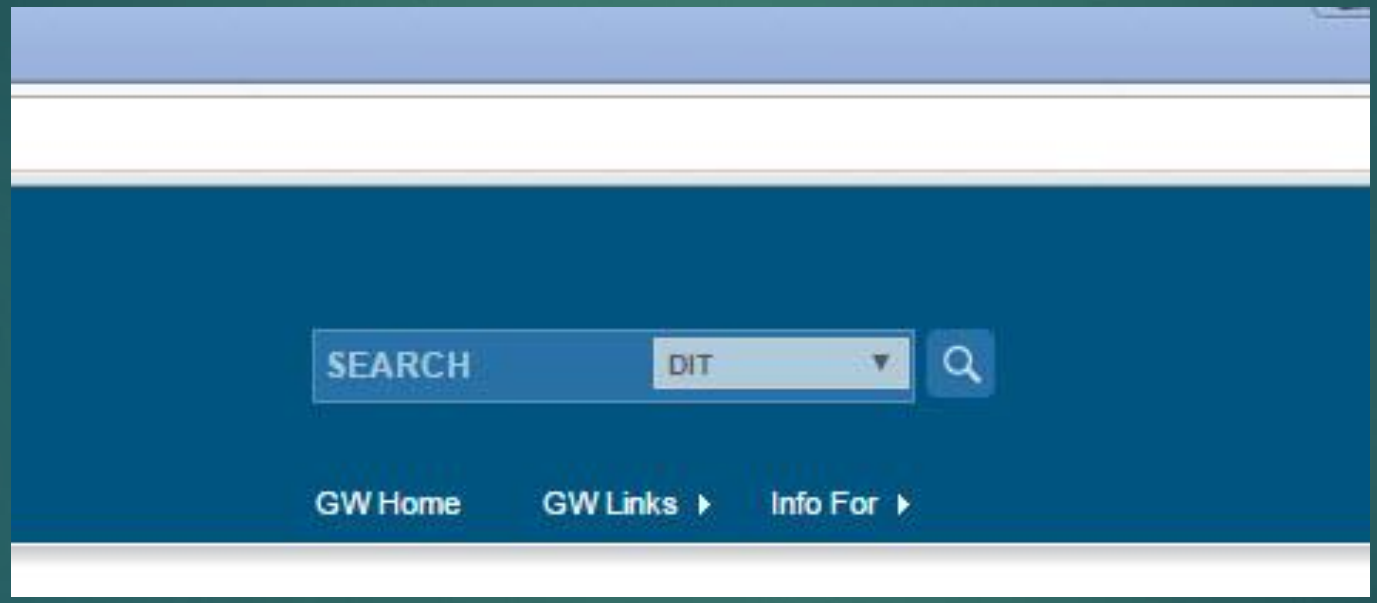
Robert: Chat Now is hard to follow, hard to use (moving target, small print, colors too similar to background, and the lettering above the words, "Chat Now" is too small).



Robert: Communications Icon seemed to be a duplicate of the "Chat Now" function, so there was a little confusion over what he supposed to do.

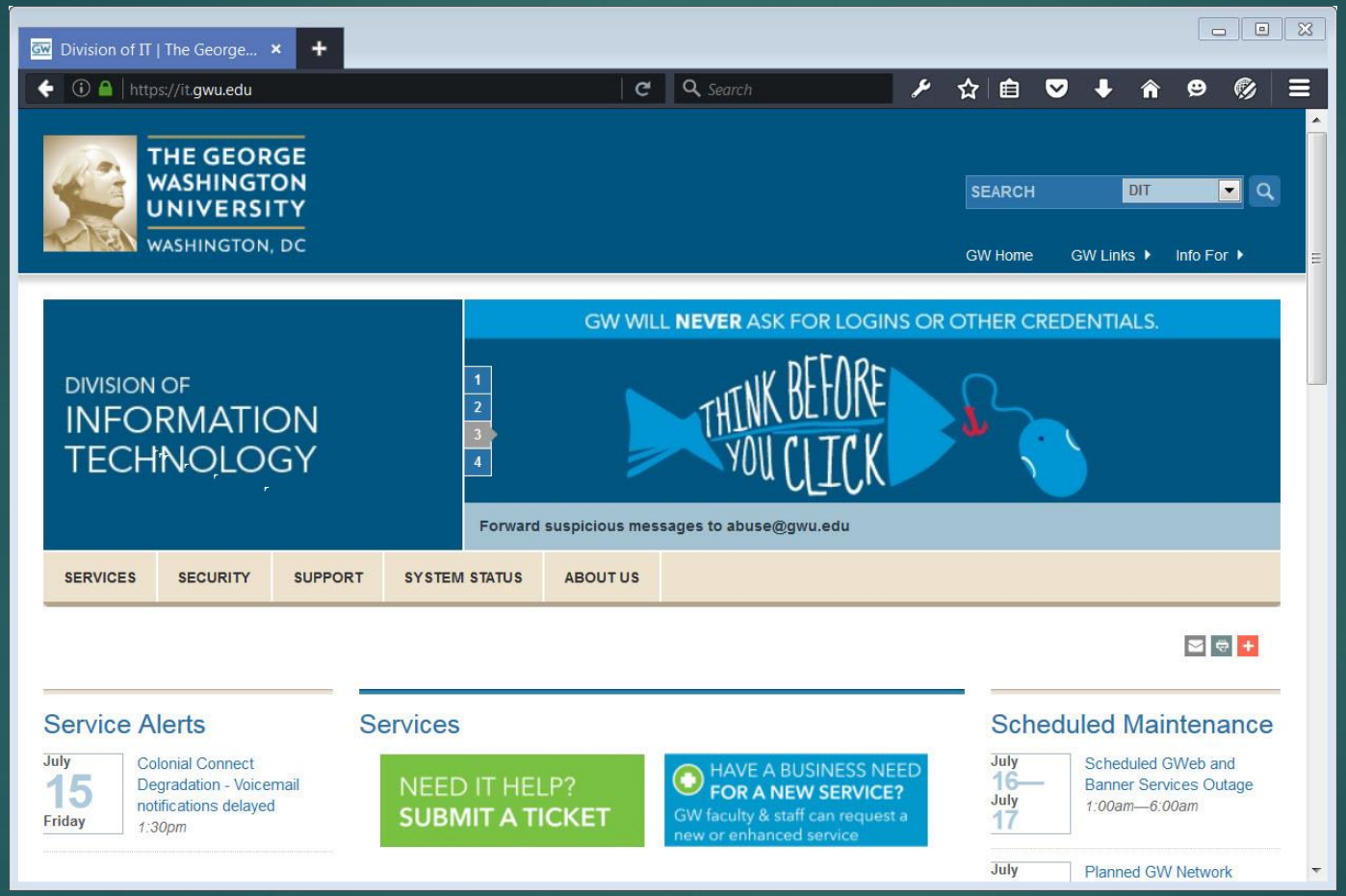


Robert: The search bar is very hard to see, and he cannot read the lettering inside the light blue portion of the search bar. When the letters were read out loud to him, the letters, "DIT" had no meaning. He also did not see the dropdown.



https://www.cludo.com/en/blog/search-vs-navigate-people-behave-websites-search-navigate/

Carousels are Evil….

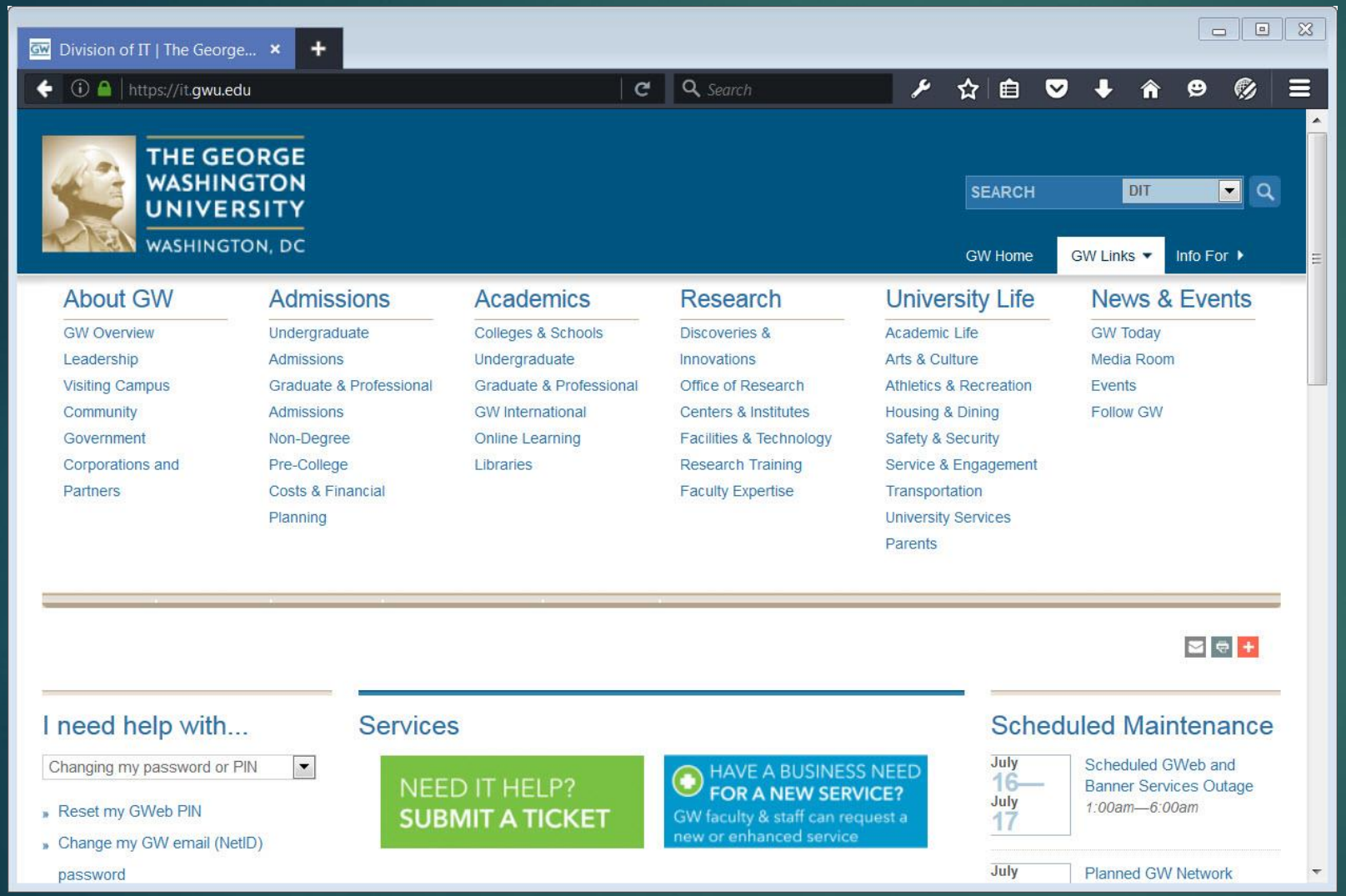


http://shouldiuseacarousel.com/

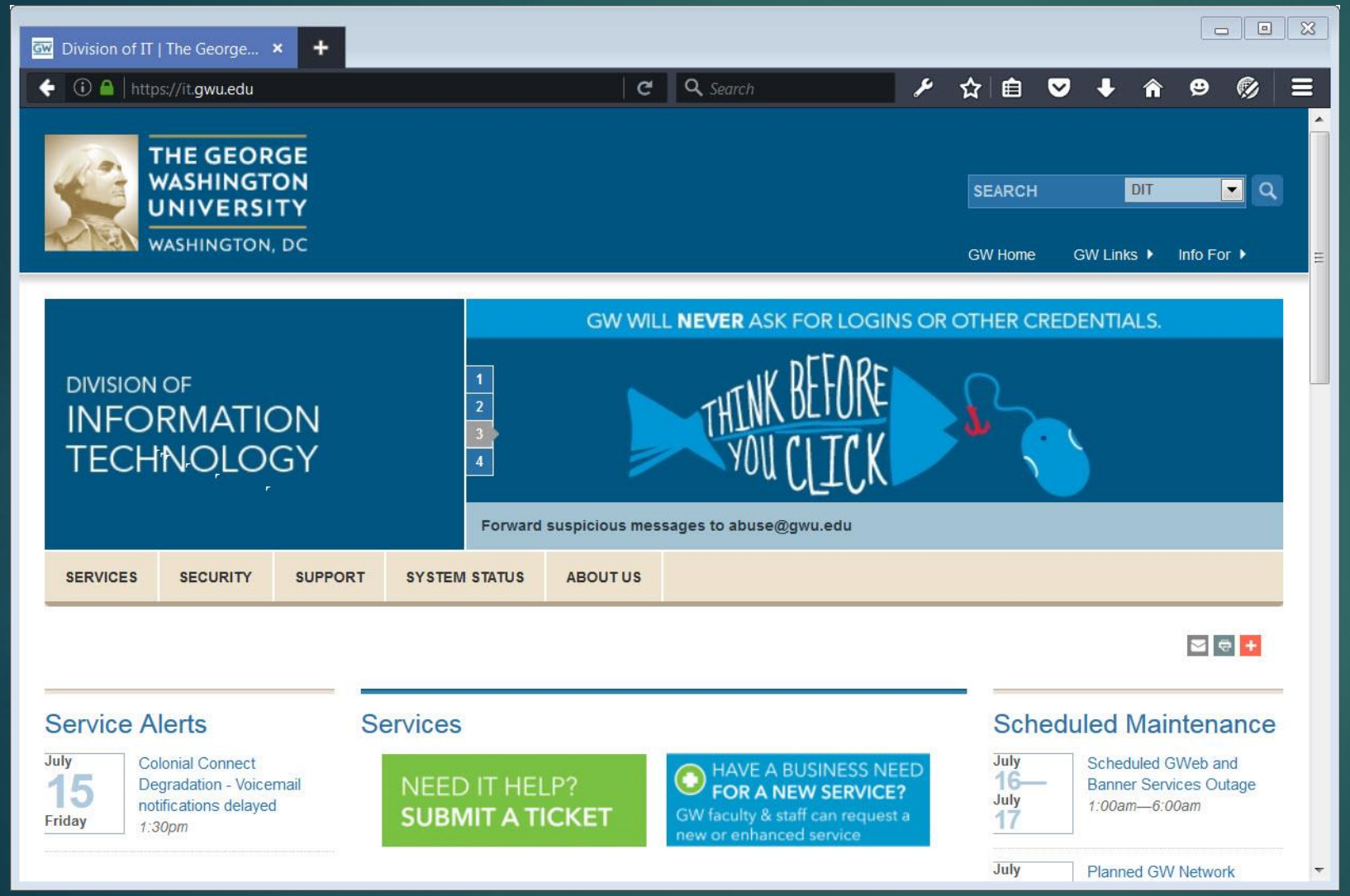
Important content areas do not stand out, so in terms of "visual communication" content importance does not align with the visual hierarchy. This matters greatly for those with weak vision skills, and for general cognition.

Those with disabilities rely heavily on tabbing to navigate through a site. On this site, visual Indicators are difficult to see.

One of the elements has focus on it right now, but it is hard to tell by looking which element has focus.



This content must rely on the click of a mouse, or specialized knowledge of how to use a screen-reader to access.



Search is an extremely important feature on any website, not only for those with physical disabilities, but those with cognitive disabilities. This configuration is problematic on a visual level, an accessibility level, and for usability.

Use Screen Readers to test, but always, always remember…..

YOU ARE NOT AN EXPERT…

The ONLY experts are those with disabilities who rely on the technology. If you have use of your eyes and hands, you can never be an expert without dedicated, targeted, years of study.

So why do I use screen-readers?

I AM NOT AN EXPERT…

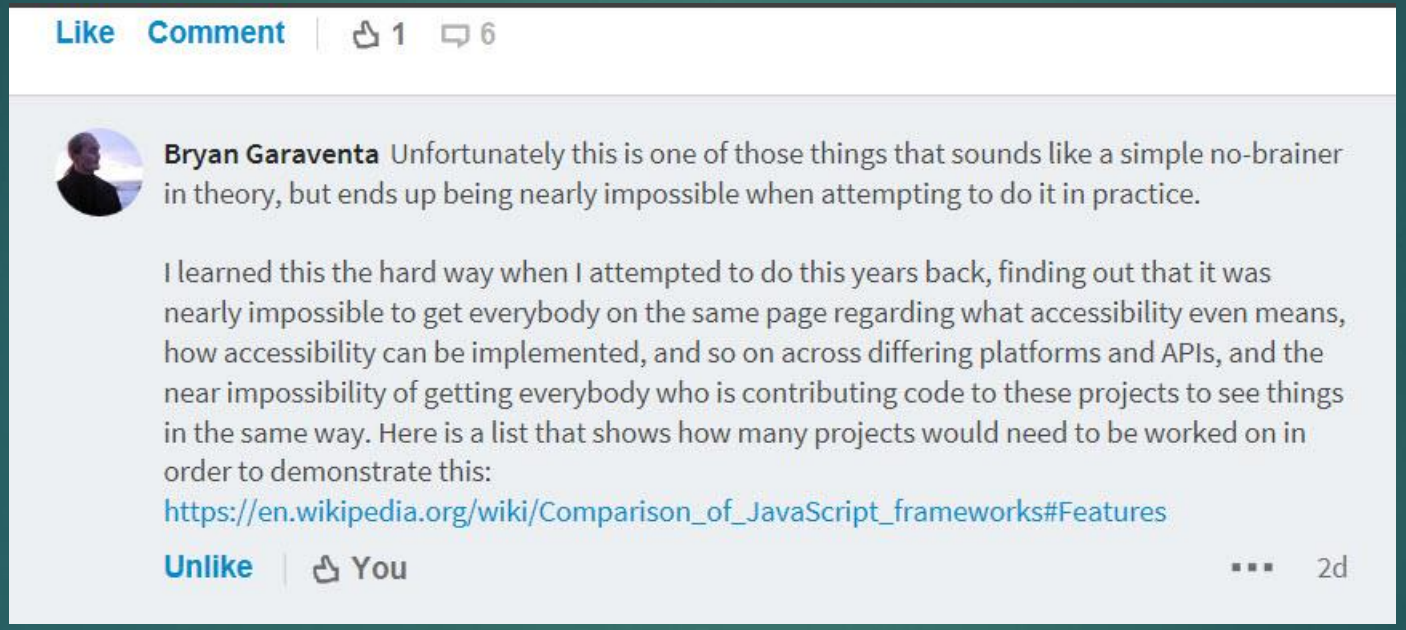
It helps me to get a feel for how the other half lives, to test code, and to "narrow down" my questions to ask Robert on the chances I get to work with him. Time is not unlimited.

Keep in mind….

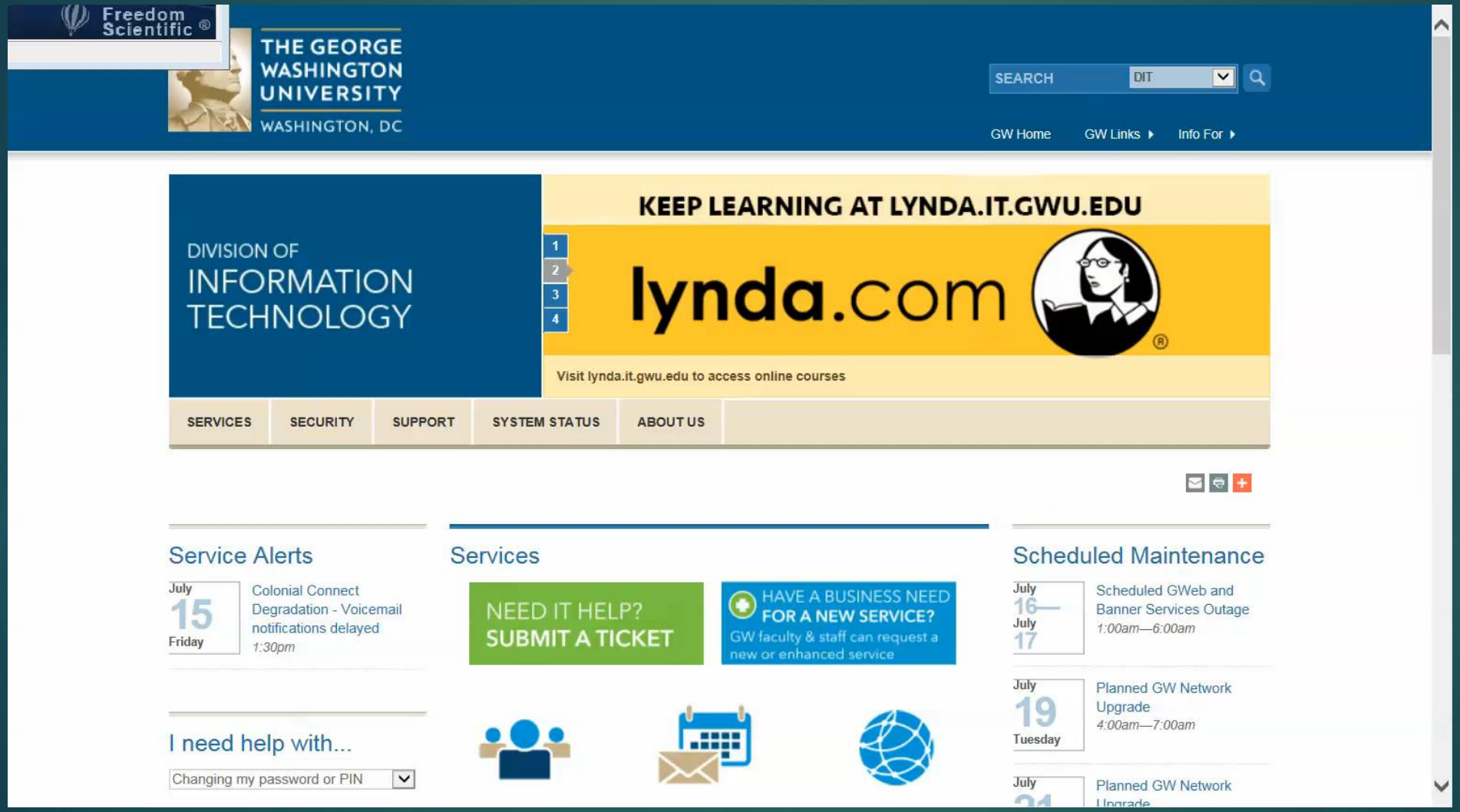
JUST BECAUSE IT PASSES A SCREEN-READER TEST DOESN'T MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE…

Those with low-vision rely on different cues than the linear path presented by screen-readers

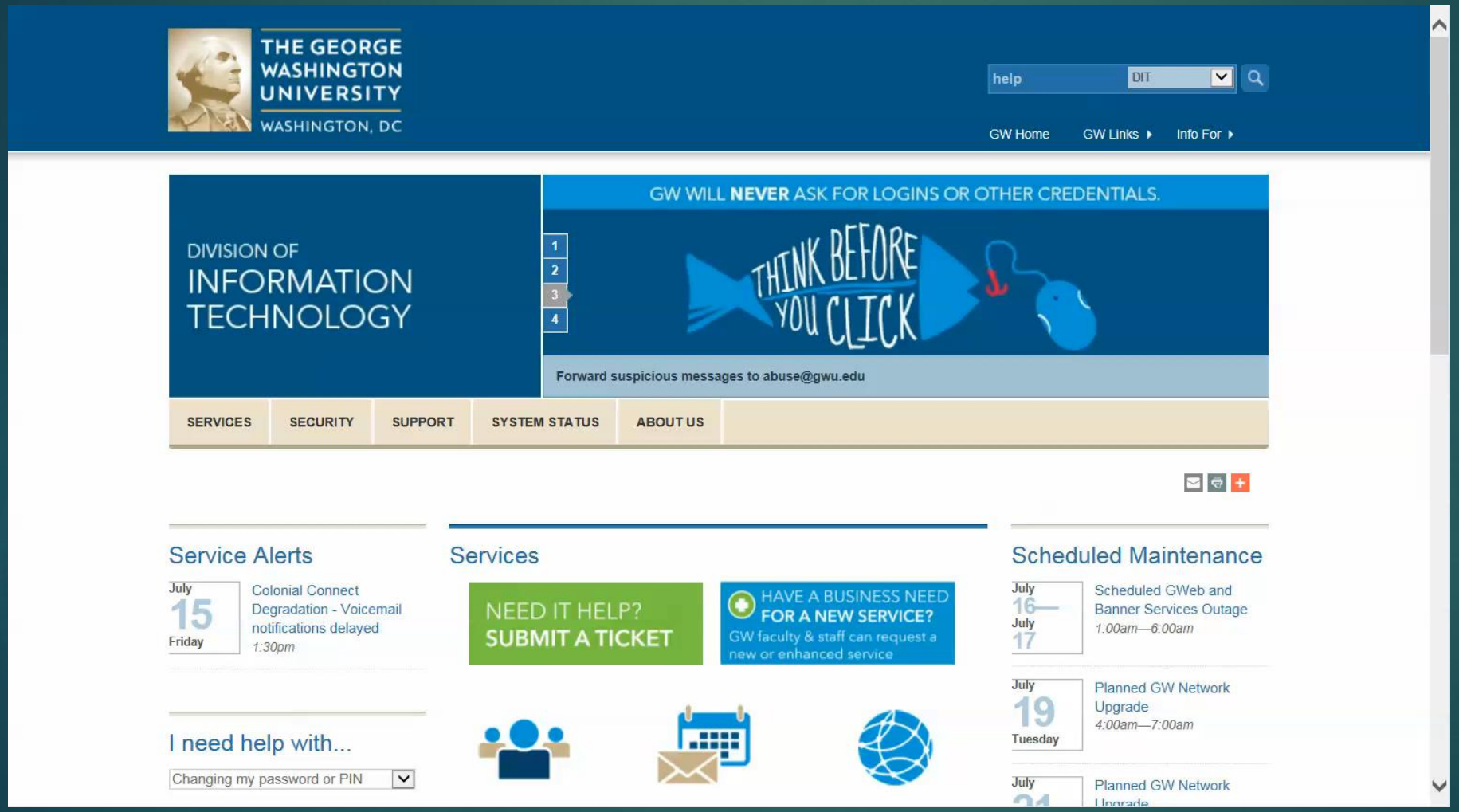
About working with screen-readers, as observed by a blind developer



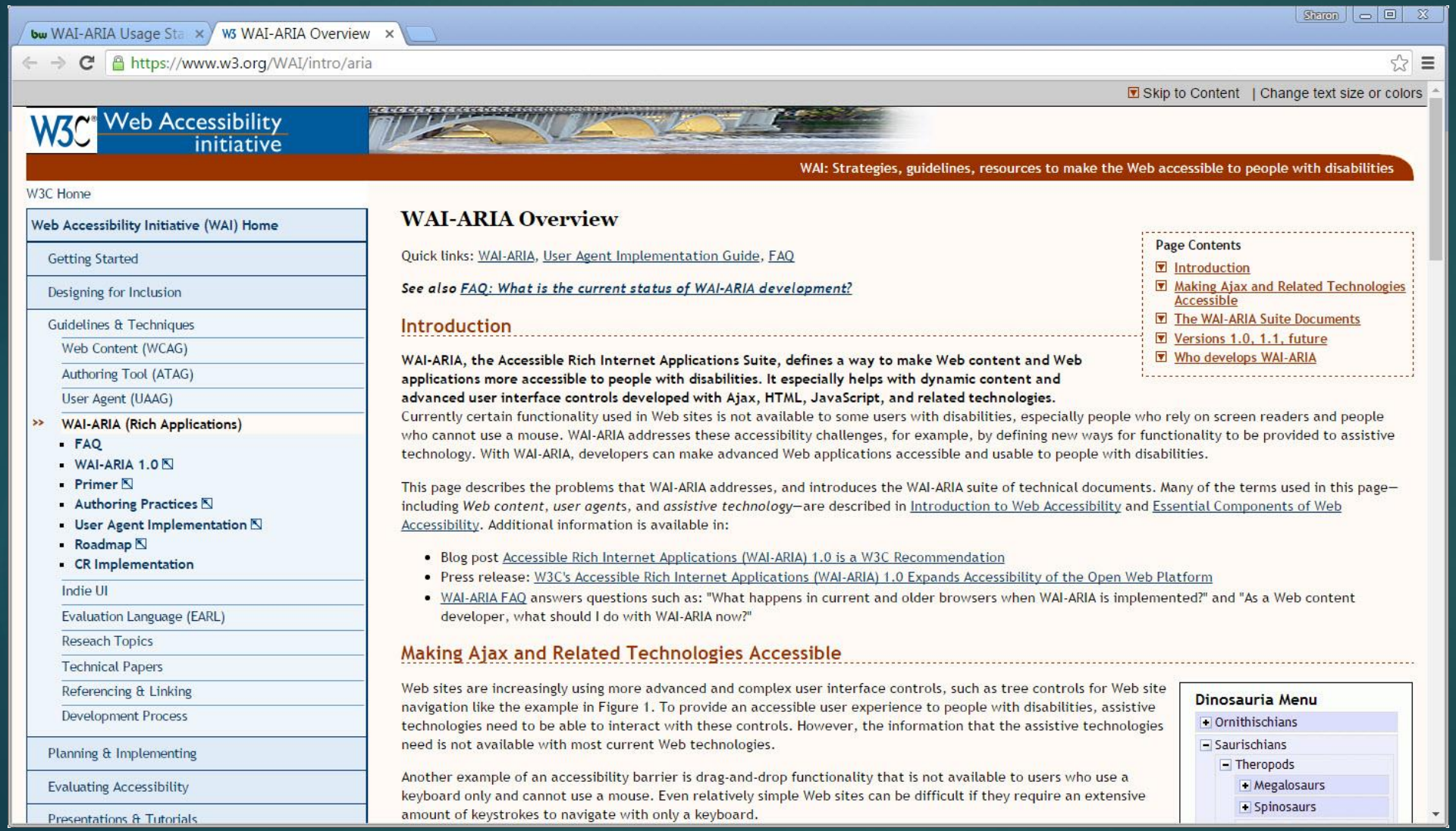
What would a screen reader see?



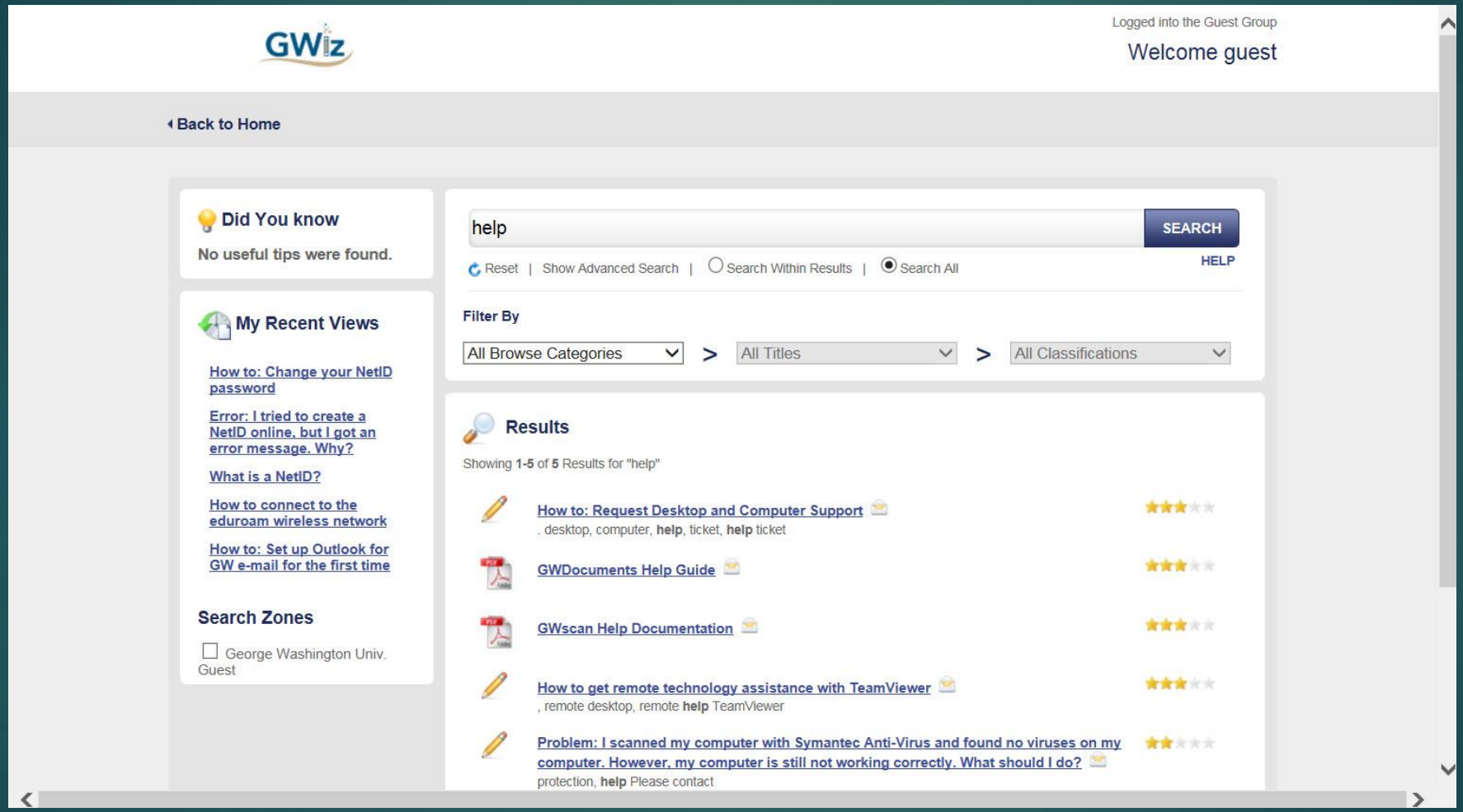
Another screen reader…



General Guidelines…

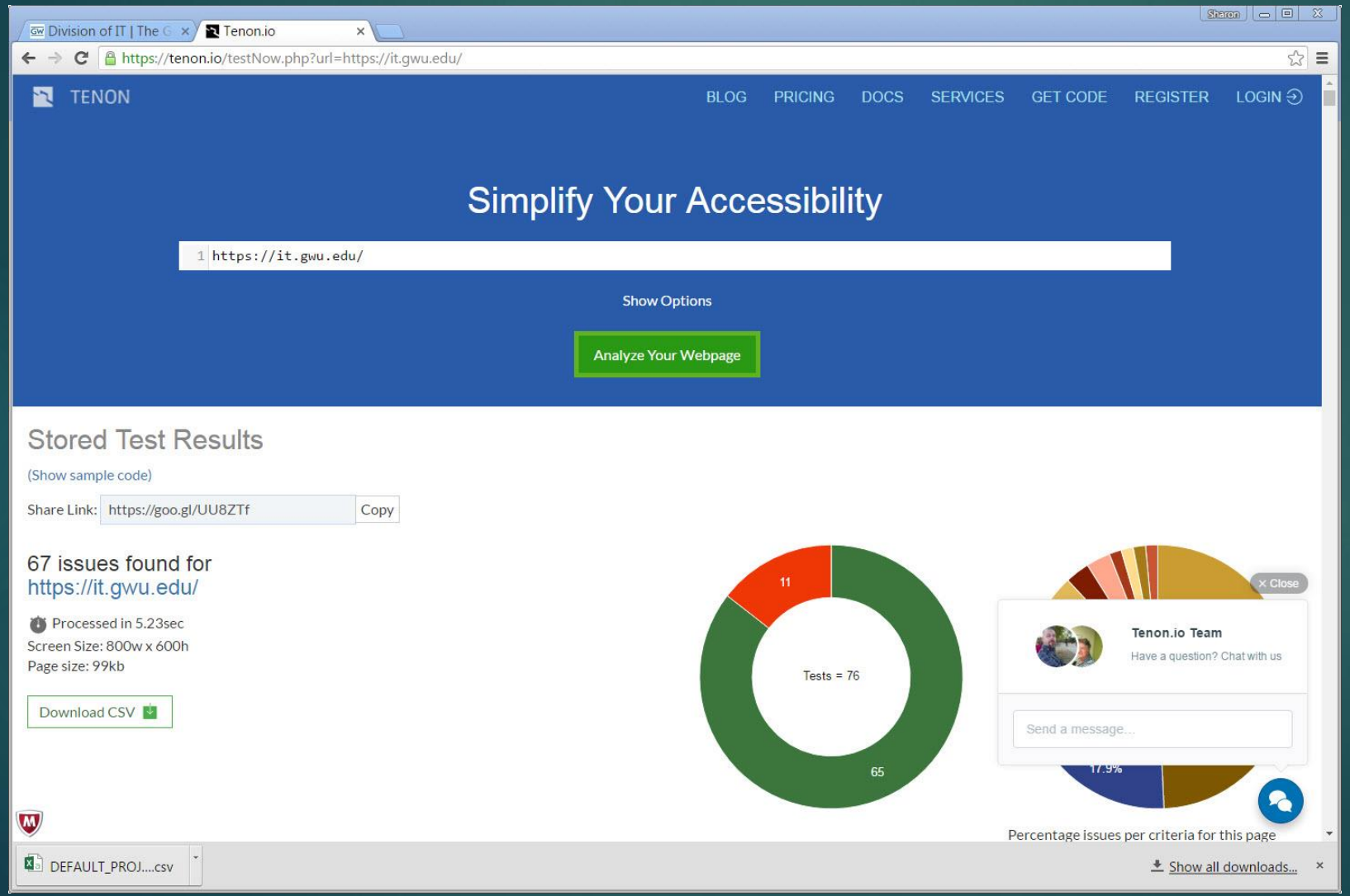


This page did well with screen-readers..



FROM TYPING "HELP" IN LOWER SEARCH BOX

Tools to help…tenon.io



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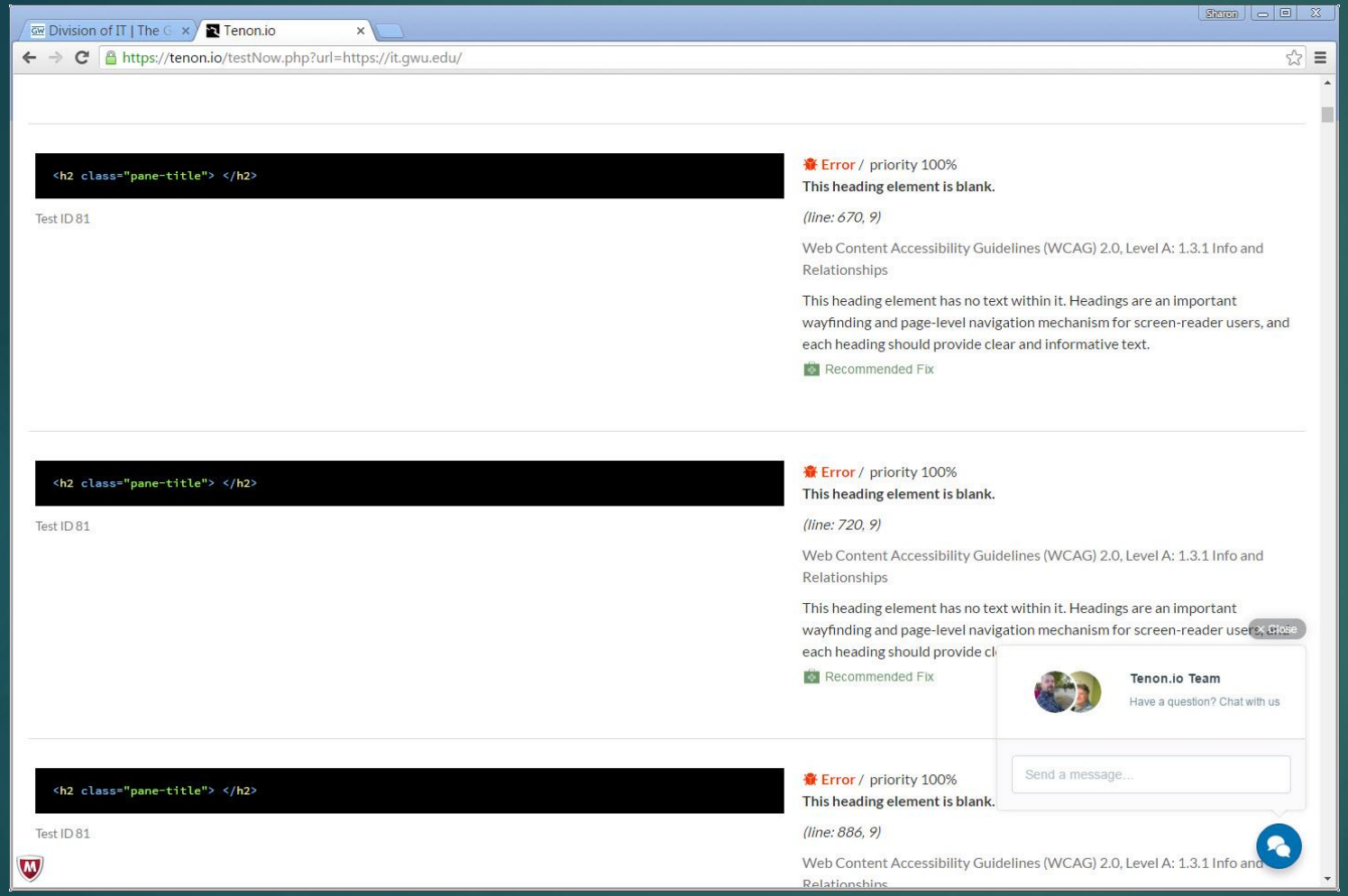
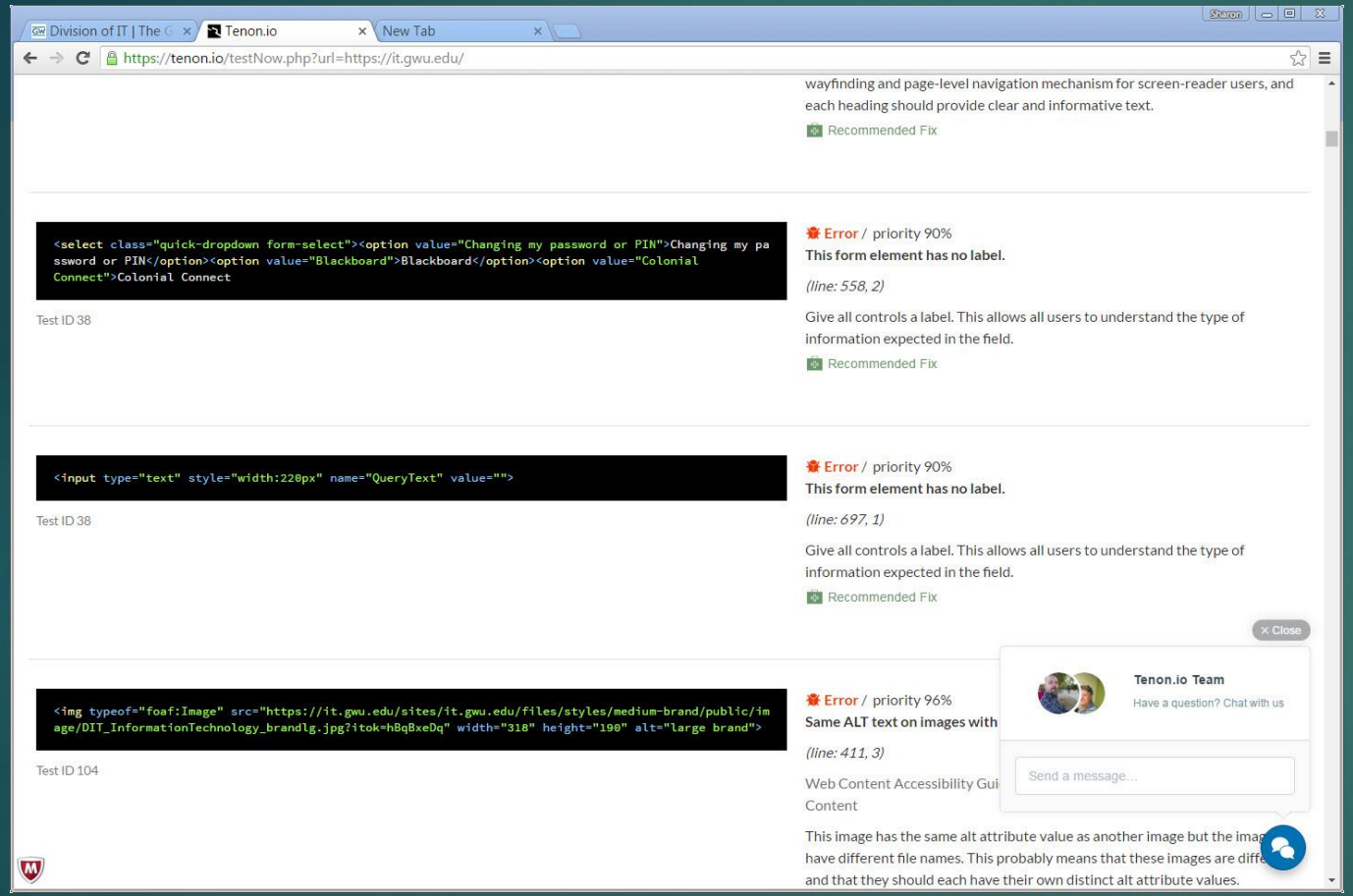


Screen readers often navigate by headings…leaving them empty sends blind users on a wild goose chase for content.

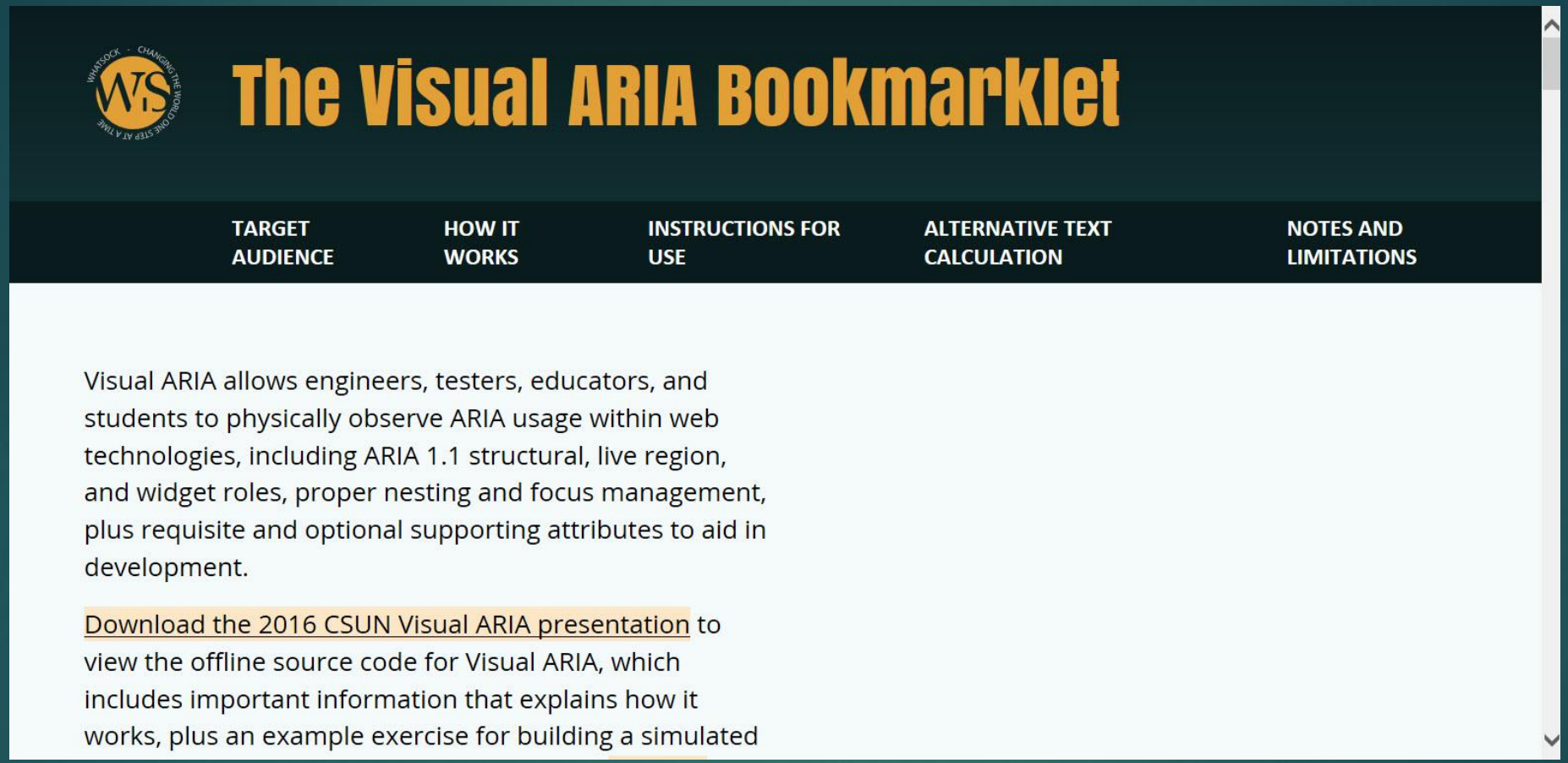
Also, please ensure headers are in a logical order…h2 before h3, and don't use for styling.

Tools to help … tenon.io



Support this, and all such tools, if you can. Sign up and/or donate.

Tools to Help….



CAUTION WHEN USING ARIA…CAN DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD IF USED INCORRECTLY…..TEST, TEST, TEST, AND TEST SOME MORE WITH ACTUAL BLIND USERS.

Tools to help … ChromeLens

View on GitHub

ChromeLens

Chrome DevTools extension to develop for the visually impaired

tar.gz .zip

What is ChromeLens?

ChromeLens is a set of developer tools that allow developers to code websites better suited for the visually impaired.

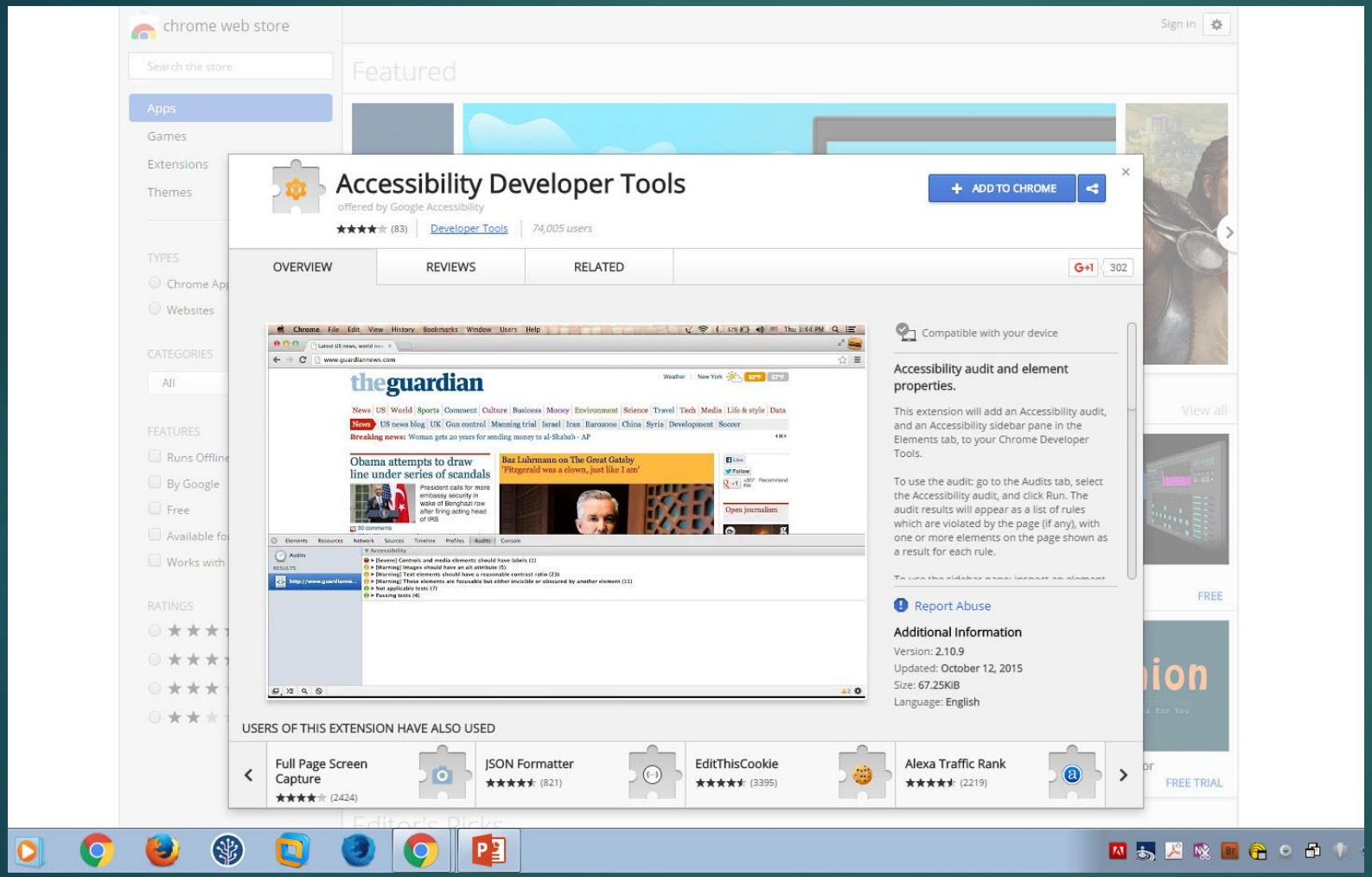
The three tools that are currently available are:

- Filters to experience a website as a blind or colorblind person.
- Scanners to audit the accessibility readiness of a website.
- Trackers to visually show the path of a tab/shift-tab navigation flow with the keyboard

Download from the Chrome Store

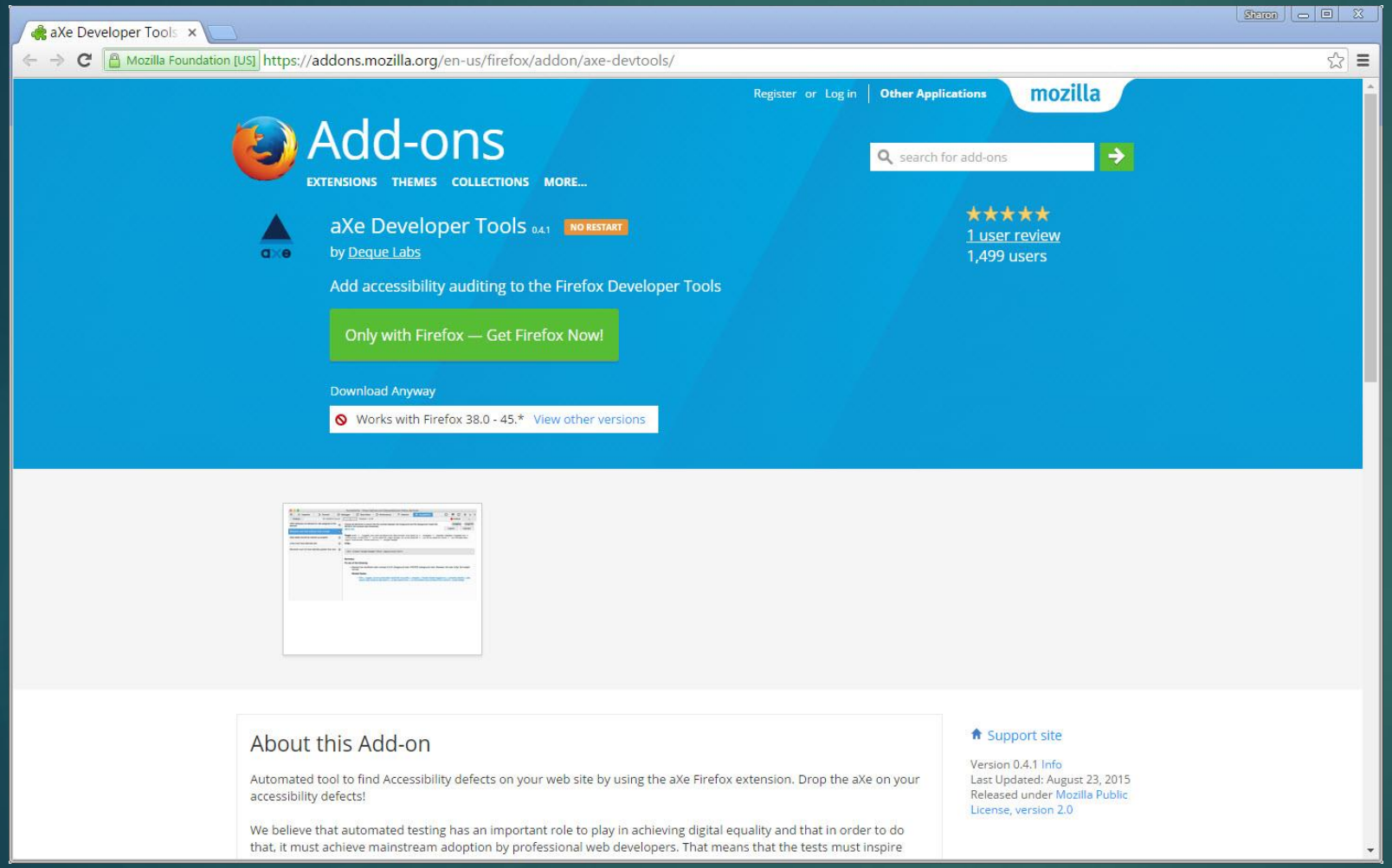
https://chrome.google.webstore

Tools to help …. Chrome Plugins



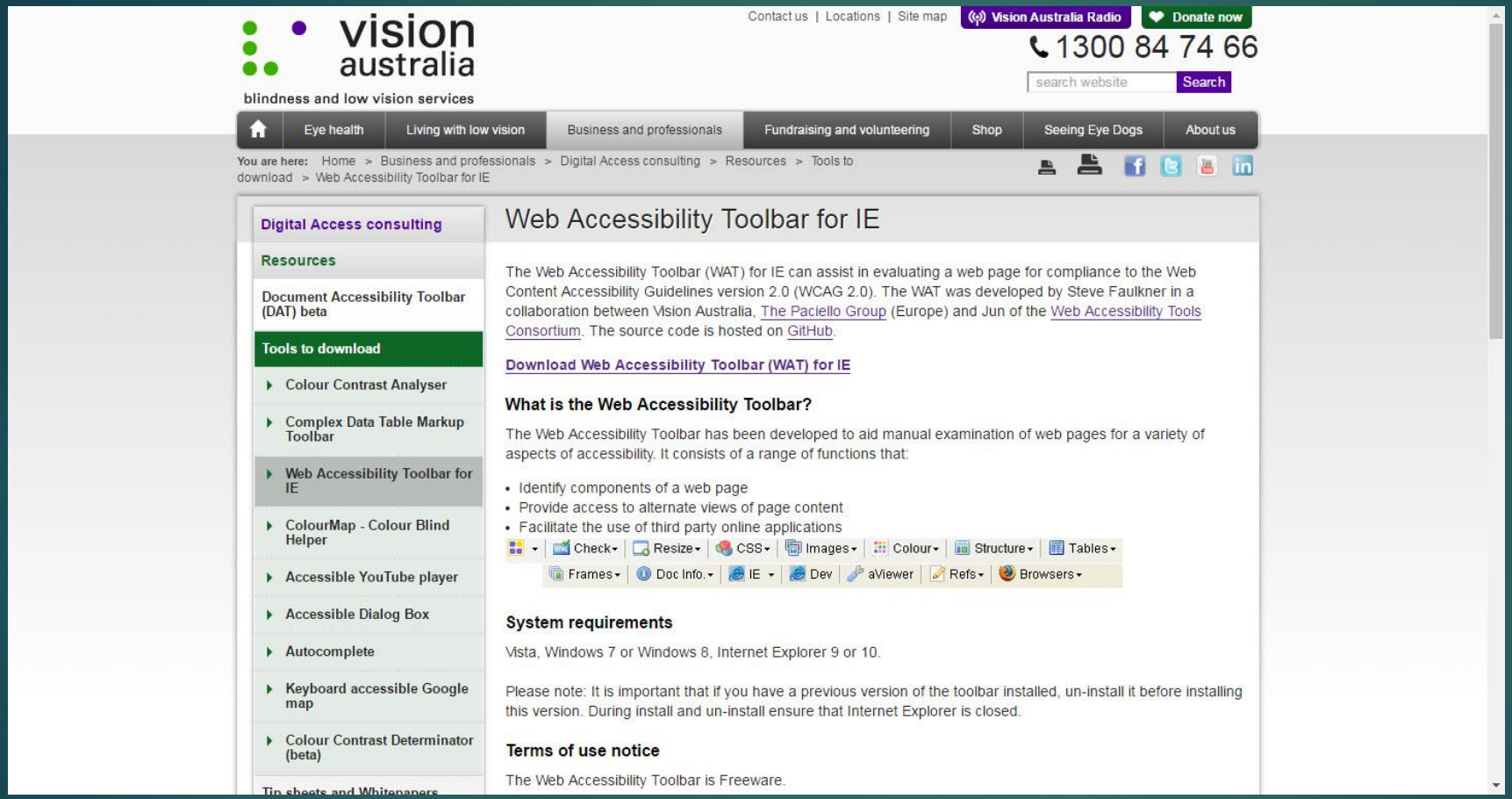
https://chrome.google.com/webstore

Tools to help … Firefox



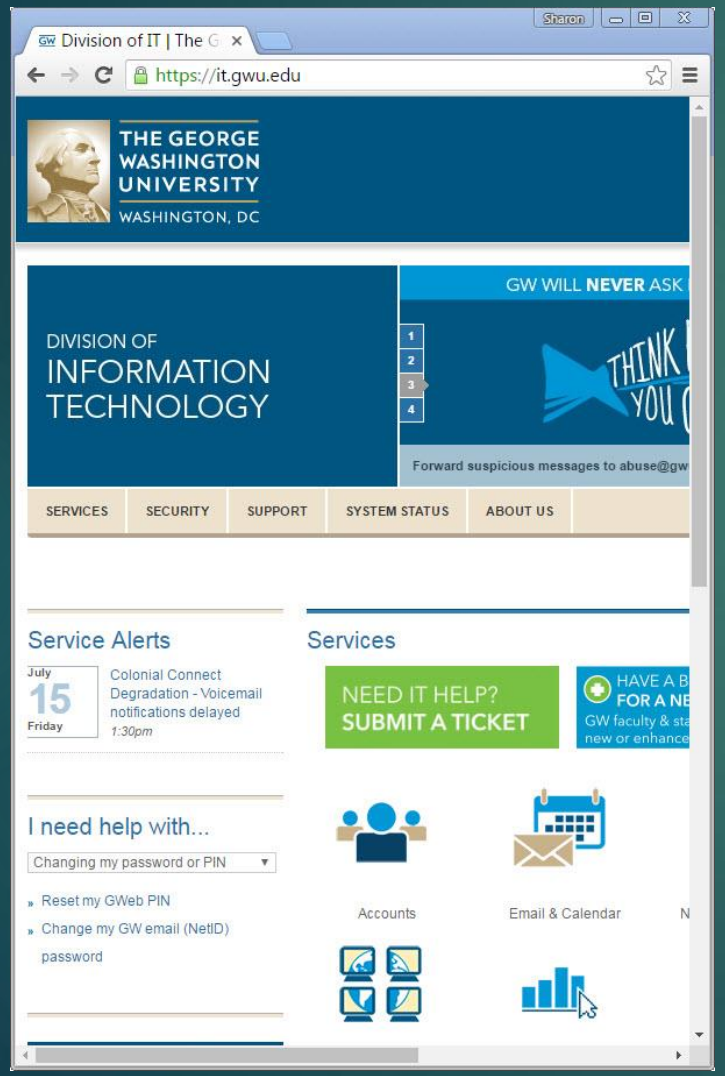
https://addons.Mozilla.org/en-us/firefox/addon/axe-devtools

Tools to help … IE



www.visionaustralia.org/digital-access-wat

Usability is a kind of accessibility too.



At a minimum, sites need to be mobile friendly. A narrow screen hides the search box on this site, creating problems for individuals with certain disabilities.

Article in 2015: Mobile Searches Surpass Desktop Searches At Google For The First Time

https://techcrunch.com/2015/10/08/mobile-searches-surpass-desktop-searches-at-google-for-the-first-time/

What this means…..

CAN'T RELY ON CLICK EVENTS ALONE…

SMALL FILE SIZES…..GIGANTIC IMAGES, OR RESOURCE-INTENSIVE PROCESSES MAY EFFECTIVELY PREVENT SOME OF YOUR USERS FROM ACCESSING CONTENT

Questions?

THANK YOU!