

# Lighthouse 2.8 Updates



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Lighthouse 2.8 is out! Highlights include:

- New Performance and SEO audits
- Performance as the first section of Lighthouse report
- Updated Accessibility scoring
- New loading message and fast facts
- New Lighthouse release guide

See the [2.8 release notes](#) [↗](#) for the full list of new features, changes, and bug fixes.

## How to update to 2.8

- NPM. Run `npm update lighthouse`, or `npm update lighthouse -g` flag if you installed Lighthouse globally.
- Chrome Extension. The extension should automatically update, but you can manually update it via `chrome://extensions`.
- DevTools. The Audits panel will be shipping with 2.8 in Chrome 65. You can check what version of Chrome you're running via `chrome://version`. Chrome updates to a new version about every 6 weeks. You can run the latest Chrome code by downloading Chrome Canary.

## New Performance and SEO audits

The **Avoid Plugins** audit lists plugins that you should remove, since plugins prevent the page from being mobile-friendly. Most mobile devices don't support plugins.

▼ Document uses plugins

Most mobile devices do not support plugins, and many desktop browsers restrict them.



▼ View Details

Element source
<pre>&lt;object data="movie_name.swf" type="application/x-shockwave-flash"&gt; &lt;param movie="movie_name.swf" /&gt;&lt;/object&gt;</pre>
<pre>&lt;object&gt;&lt;param movie="movie_name.swf" /&gt;&lt;/object&gt;</pre>
<pre>&lt;object data="movie_name.swf" type="application/x-shockwave-flash"&gt; &lt;param movie="movie_name.swf" /&gt;&lt;/object&gt;</pre>
<pre>&lt;object&gt;&lt;param movie="movie_name.swf" /&gt;&lt;/object&gt;</pre>
<pre>&lt;embed src="movie_name.swf" type="application/x-shockwave-flash"&gt; &lt;/embed&gt;</pre>
<pre>&lt;embed code="HelloWorld.class"&gt;&lt;/embed&gt;</pre>
<pre>&lt;applet code="HelloWorld.class"&gt;&lt;/applet&gt;</pre>
<pre>&lt;object data="data:application/x-silverlight-2," type="application/x- silverlight-2"&gt;&lt;param source="SilverlightApplication1.xap" /&gt;&lt;/object&gt;</pre>

**Figure 1.** The **Avoid Plugins**

The **Document Has A Valid rel=canonical** audit in the SEO category checks for a rel=canonical URL to make sure that a crawler knows which URL to show in search results.

▼ Document has a valid rel=canonical

Canonical links suggest which URL to show in search results. Read more in [Use canonical URLs](#).



**Figure 2.** The **Document Has A Valid rel=canonical** audit

The **Page Is Mobile-Friendly** and **Structured Data Is Valid** manual audits can help further improve your SEO. "Manual" in this case means that Lighthouse can't automate these audits, so you need to test them yourself.

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▼ **Additional items to manually check**

Run these additional validators on your site to check additional SEO best practices.

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▼ **Page is mobile friendly**

Take the [Mobile-Friendly Test](#) to see how easily a visitor can use your page on a mobile device. [Learn more.](#)

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▼ **Structured data is valid**

Run the [Structured Data Testing Tool](#) and the [Structured Data Linter](#) to validate structured data. [Learn more.](#)

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**Figure 3.** The manual SEO audits

The **Minify CSS** and **Minify JavaScript** audits in the Performance category check for any CSS or Javascript that can be minified to reduce payload size and parse time.

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▼ **Minify CSS**

Minifying CSS files can reduce network payload sizes. [Learn more.](#)

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▼ **Minify JavaScript**

Minifying JavaScript files can reduce payload sizes and script parse time. [Learn more.](#)

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**Figure 4.** The **Minify CSS** and **Minify JavaScript** audits

## Performance as the first category in Lighthouse reports

Performance is now the first category you see in Lighthouse reports. Some users thought that Lighthouse was only for Progressive Web Apps, since that was the first category in reports. In reality, Lighthouse can help you understand how to improve any web page, whether or not it's a [Progressive Web App](#).

## Updated Accessibility scoring

If an accessibility audit is not applicable for a given page, that audit no longer counts towards the **Accessibility** score.

## New loading message and fast facts

**Note:** This update is only visible when you run Lighthouse from the **Audits** panel of Chrome DevTools.

### Audits to perform

- ☒ Progressive Web App  
Does this page meet the standard of a Progressive Web App
- ☒ Performance  
How long does this app take to show content and become usable
- ☒ Best practices  
Does this page follow best practices for modern web development
- ☒ Accessibility  
Is this page usable by people with disabilities or impairments

Run audit

Cancel

**Figure 5.** The loading message and fast facts in Chrome DevTools

## New Lighthouse release guide

Check out the [Release Guide For Maintainers](#) [🔗](#) for information on release timing, masters, naming conventions, and more.



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