

Visual Testing in Playwright

Visual Testing ensures that the UI looks the same as expected by comparing current screenshots of pages or elements with **baseline images** (golden images).

Purpose:

To detect unintended visual changes like layout shifts, colour mismatches, or broken components in a web application.

Full Page Visual Comparison

```
expect(await page.screenshot()).toMatchSnapshot("homepage.png");
```

- Takes a **screenshot of the entire page**.
- Compares it with the baseline image named homepage.png.
- Fails the test if there's any visual difference.

First run: Playwright saves the snapshot.

Later runs: It compares new screenshots with the saved ones.

Element-Level Snapshot Comparison

```
const logo = page.locator("img[alt='Tricentis Demo Web Shop']");  
expect(await logo.screenshot()).toMatchSnapshot('logo.png');
```

- Targets a **specific element** (the website logo).
- Captures its screenshot and compares it with the baseline logo.png.

Notes:

- **Baseline images** are stored in the `__screenshots__` folder.
- Run with `--update-snapshots` to update baseline images if changes are expected.
- Alternative way:
- `await expect(page).toHaveScreenshot();`
 - Automatically handles screenshot capturing and comparison.

Accessibility Testing in Playwright

What is Accessibility Testing?

Accessibility testing ensures that your web application is usable by people with disabilities. It checks for compliance with **WCAG** (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines), covering issues like:

- Missing ALT text on images
- Poor colour contrast
- Missing labels on forms
- Inaccessible keyboard navigation

Setting Up Accessibility Testing in Playwright

To get started, install the accessibility testing plugin:

```
npm install @axe-core/playwright
```

This plugin integrates **Axe-core**, a powerful accessibility engine, into your Playwright tests.

Example: Accessibility Test in Playwright

```
import { test, expect } from '@playwright/test';
import AxeBuilder from '@axe-core/playwright';

test('accessibility test', async ({ page }, testInfo) => {

  await page.goto('https://www.w3.org');

  // Run full accessibility scan using Axe
  const accessibilityScanResults = await new AxeBuilder({ page }).analyze();

  // Log results to console
  console.log(accessibilityScanResults);

  // Attach results to the test report (useful in CI)
  await testInfo.attach('accessibility-scan-results', {
    body: JSON.stringify(accessibilityScanResults, null, 2),
    contentType: 'application/json',
  });

  // Assert that there are no accessibility violations
  expect(accessibilityScanResults.violations.length).toEqual(0);
});
```

Optional Configurations

You can customize the scan with:

- **Tags filtering** (e.g., ['wcag2a', 'wcag21aa']) to target specific **WCAG** levels
- **Disabling rules** (e.g., disableRules(['duplicate-id'])) to ignore known issues

Only scan for specific WCAG tags

```
new AxeBuilder({ page }).withTags(['wcag2a', 'wcag2aa']);
```

Disable certain rules from scan

```
new AxeBuilder({ page }).disableRules(['duplicate-id']);
```