Web Accessibility and You: Let's Learn to Audit Websites

with Stephanie Slattery

Welcome!

Who am I?

— **Front End Web Developer**
— **Work for Adage Technologies in Chicago**
— **Graduate of Illinois Tech and Dev Bootcamp**

This workshop is accessible!

Who are you?

— Name
— Pronouns
— Something you'd like to get out of this workshop

What do we know about accessibility?

Agenda

— **What is accessibility? Why do we care?**

— **What is an audit? Why would we do one?**

— **How do we do an audit?**

— **Let's audit some websites!**

What is accessibility?

The design of products, devices, services, or environments for people who experience disabilities.

Categories of disabilities

— **visual**

Categories of disabilities

— **visual**
— **hearing**

Categories of disabilities

— **visual**

— **hearing**

— **motor**

Categories of disabilities

— **visual**
— **hearing**
— **motor**
— **cognitive**

Categories of disabilities

— visual
— hearing
— motor
— cognitive
— seizure

Accessibility helps everyone!

Why make an accessible site?

—To improve the lives of people with disabilities

Why make an accessible site?

— To improve the lives of people with disabilities
— To capitalize on a wider audience or consumer base

Why make an accessible site?

— To improve the lives of people with disabilities
— To capitalize on a wider audience or consumer base
— To avoid lawsuits or bad press

Major Laws

Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Major Laws

Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

How do we know if a website is accessible?

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG)

by the Worldwide Web Consortium (W3C)

Four Principles of the WCAG

1. Perceivable

Four Principles of the WCAG

1. Perceivable

2. Operable

Four Principles of the WCAG
1. Perceivable
2. Operable
3. Understandable

Four Principles of the WCAG

1. Perceivable

2. Operable

3. Understandable

4. Robust

WCAG Conformance Levels

— **A - must**
— **AA - should**
— **AAA - may**

Why might you do an audit?

— **You're taking over a site from someone else.**
— **You want to know how to improve your own site.**
— **Your client needs to improve their site's accessibility.**
— **Someone is being sued.**

How do we do an audit?

Example Time!

Guideline 1.1.1 - Non-text Content

All non-text content that is presented to the user has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose, except for [certain exceptions].

Chicago Botanic Garden

Guideline 1.4.3 - Contrast (Minimum)

The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1, except for the following:
- Large text
- Incidental
- Logotypes

Hacker News

Guideline 2.1.1 - Keyboard

All functionality of the content is operable through a keyboard interface without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes, except where the underlying function requires input that depends on the path of the user's movement and not just the endpoints.

18F

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Different ways to organize your audit

— **Listed in a document**
— **An organized spreadsheet**
— **Something else?**

What do I keep track of?

— **Which page you're evaluating**
— **Which guideline you're using**
— **Does it fail?**
— **If it fails, how does it fail?**
— **Potential notes for future fixes**

Let's do this! Time to try an audit!

— On your own or with a group of 2-3 people
— Pick one of 10 example sites
— Use WCAG 2.0 site and recommended tools
— Pick 4 of the recommended guidelines and audit the site!
— Afterwards, we'll share what we found

So, what did we find?

— **What site did you look at it?**
— **Which guideline?**

Wrap Up

Thank You!