

# Automated a11y testing



Tim Damen  
22 January 2024  
DevCon



# Tim Damen

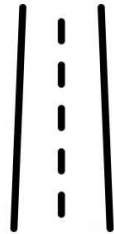
- Team Warp, Grid DCC
- Frontend Chapter Lead
- Accessibility Guild Lead



# Accessibility (a11y)



Why



How



How +

# Our applications are not accessible



The most recent two audits show that we comply with only 45% of the successcriteria

# Why care about Accessibility (a11y)

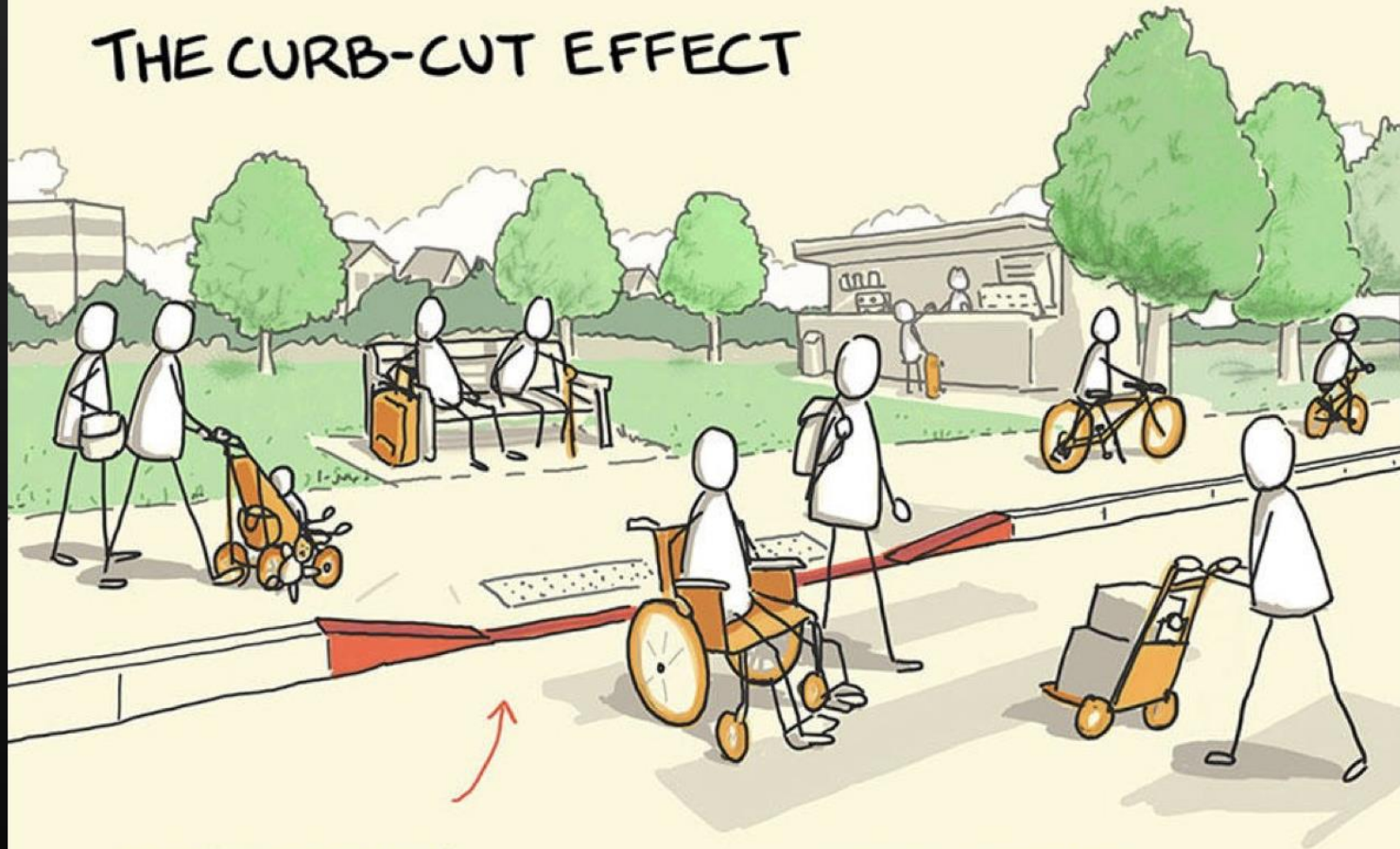






Of the 7.000.000 customers of the ABN AMRO, 1.600.000 have a disability

# THE CURB-CUT EFFECT



WHEN WE DESIGN  
FOR DISABILITIES

... WE MAKE THINGS  
BETTER FOR EVERYONE

sketchplanations



# European Accessibility Act (2025)



*"(...) should ensure that people with (functional) disabilities have the same (online) opportunities throughout the European Union as people without (functional) disabilities.'*

*The starting point (here) is that the user experience for everyone should be as similar as possible."*

- **All our apps need to be WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) 2.1 AA compliant by 2025**
- **AND We must be able to show proactive that we are accessible by submitting an accessibility statement and submitting audits and test results.**

# WCAG 2.1 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines)

Principles	Guidelines	Level A	Level AA	Level AAA
1. Perceivable	1.1 Text Alternatives	1.1.1		
	1.2 Time-based Media	1.2.1 – 1.2.3	1.2.4 – 1.2.5	1.2.6 – 1.2.9
	1.3 Adaptable	1.3.1 – 1.3.3		
	1.4 Distinguishable	1.4.1 – 1.4.2	1.4.3 – 1.4.5	1.4.6 – 1.4.9
2. Operable	2.1 Keyboard Accessible	2.1.1 – 2.1.2		2.1.3
	2.2 Enough Time	2.2.1 – 2.2.2		2.2.3 – 2.2.5
	2.3 Seizures	2.3.1		2.3.2
	2.4 Navigable	2.4.1 – 2.4.4	2.4.5 – 2.4.7	2.4.8 – 2.4.10
3. Understandable	3.1 Readable	3.1.1	3.1.2	3.1.3 – 3.1.6
	3.2 Predictable	3.2.1 – 3.2.2	3.2.3 – 3.2.4	3.2.5
	3.3 Input Assistance	3.3.1 – 3.3.2	3.3.3 – 3.3.4	3.3.5 – 3.3.6
4. Robust	4.1 Compatible	4.1.1 – 4.1.2		

4 Principles, 12 Guidelines, 50 Success Criteria

[← Terug naar Nieuws](#)

## Banken ondertekenen Manifest Digitale Inclusie van Alliantie Digitaal Samenleven

13 oktober 2023

  Lees voor 



Rabobank



# Complaint leads to penalty?

## Beyoncé's Parkwood Entertainment sued over website accessibility

A lawsuit claims beyonce.com violates the Americans With Disabilities Act by failing to accommodate visually impaired users



📷 Beyoncé. Photograph: Evan Agostini/AP

A class action lawsuit claims that Beyoncé's official website violates the Americans With Disabilities Act (1990) by denying visually impaired users equal access to its products and services, according to [the Hollywood Reporter](#).

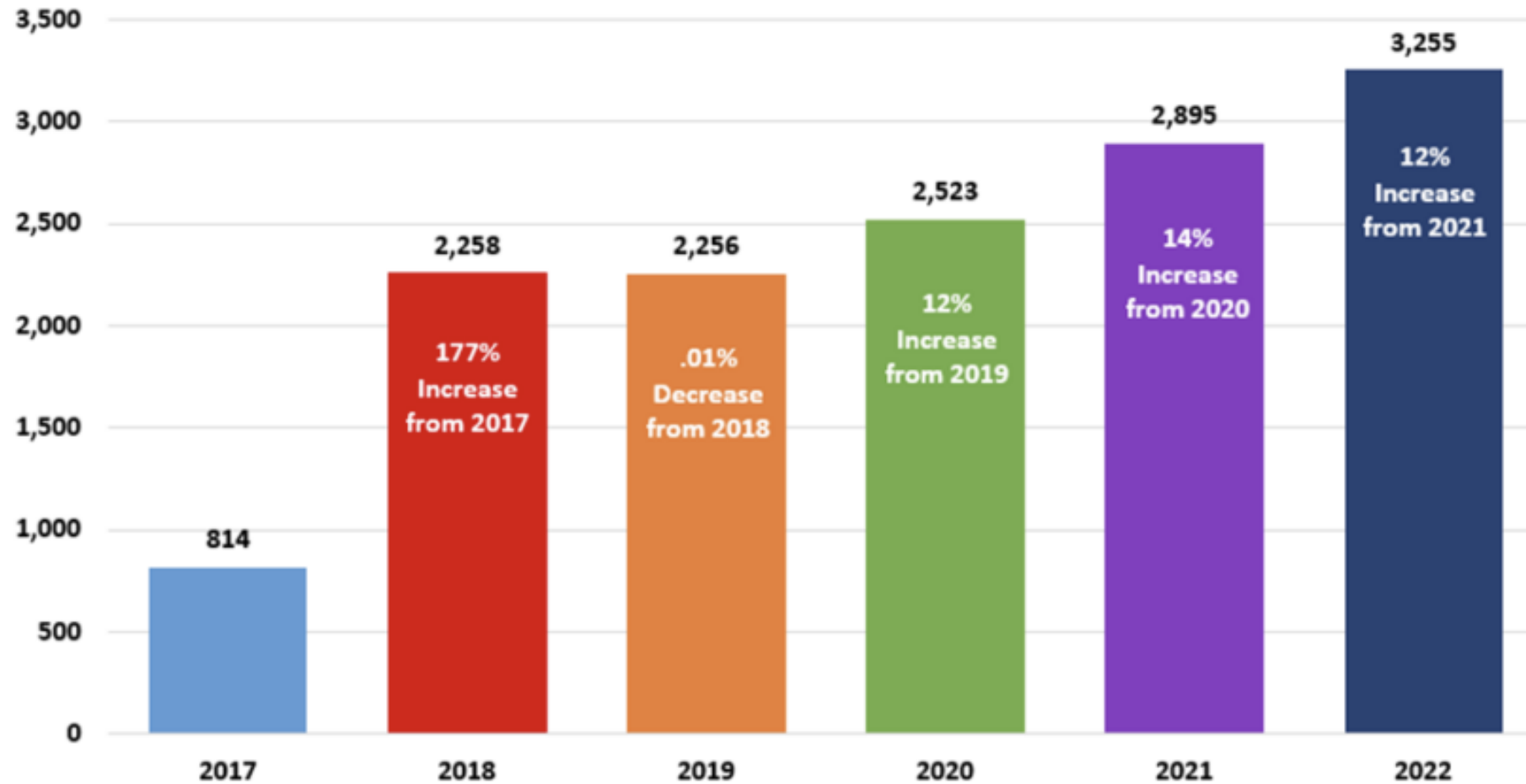
## Amazon Class Action Lawsuit Says Website Not Accessible to the Blind



In 2022 more than 3,255 lawsuits were filed against allegedly inaccessible websites



## ADA Title III Website Accessibility Lawsuits in Federal Court 2017-2022



# A11y improvement cases

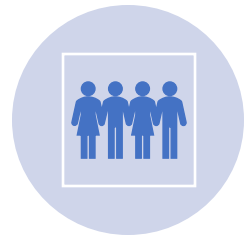
"Improvement in code quality was observed when we focused on testing and resolving accessibility issues, lower costs, more consistent code, improved customer experience, a decrease in complaints and calls to customer service, higher customer score and a lot of good press."

- Matthew Luke, Head of accessibility US BANK (USA)





**POSITIVE IMAGE**



**HIGHER SALES, BY  
APPEALING TO LARGER  
AUDIENCES AND EASY-  
TO-USE APPS**



**REDUCED HELP DESK  
LOAD**



**HIGHER LEVELS OF  
CUSTOMER  
SATISFACTION**



**BETTER CODE QUALITY  
AND CONSISTENCY  
YIELDS LOWER COSTS IN  
THE LONG RUN**

How?



## Contact page

\* Fill the required fields

Email \*

Error: Email must contain @ and . symbols.

Phone number \*

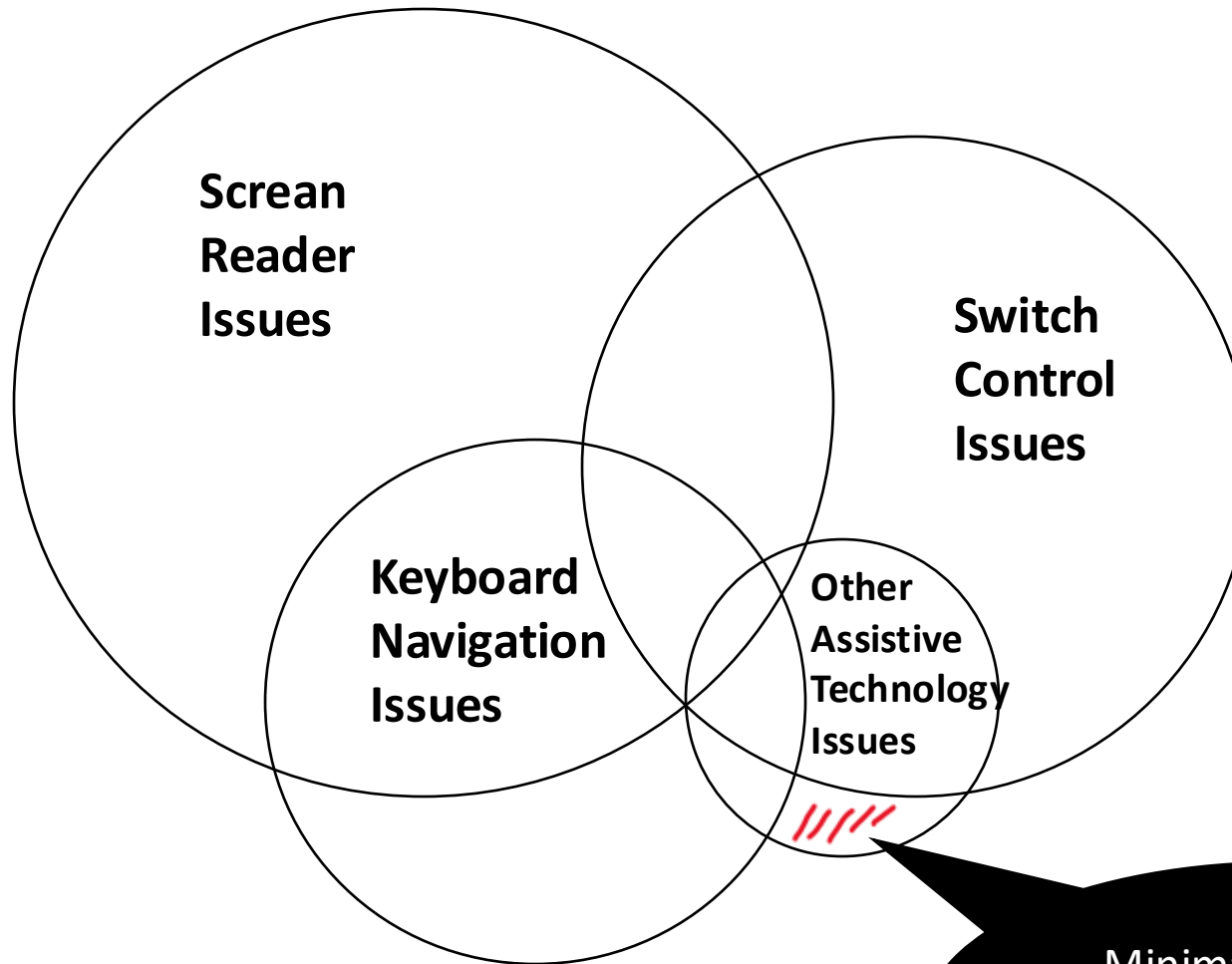
Error: Phone number must start with 06.

Hint: Phone number must start with 06.

Error: Failed to save because 2 fields are invalid.

Save

## All Accessibility Issues (web)

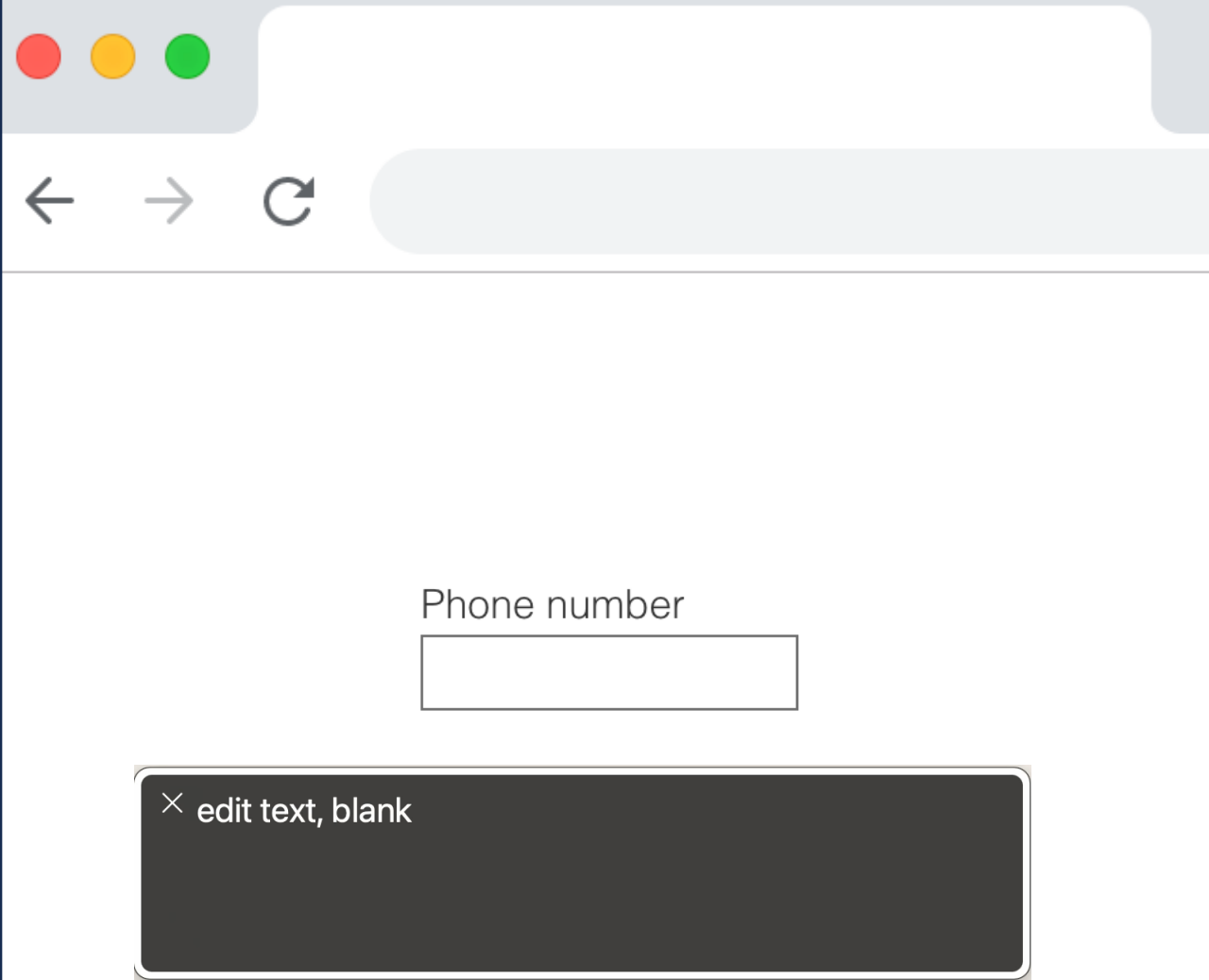


Minimal benefit to  
focus on other types of  
assistive technology





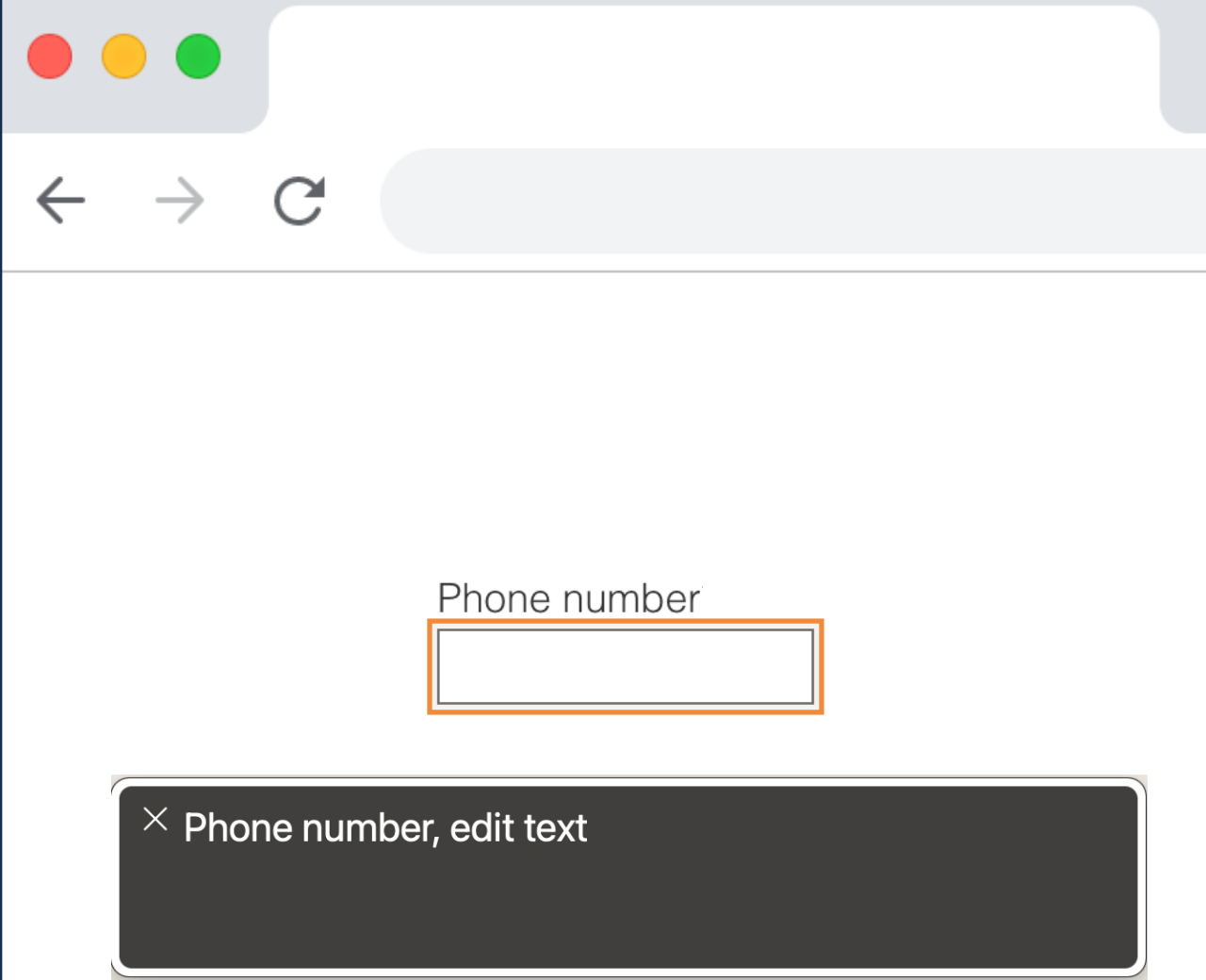
```
<label>Phone number</label>  
<input type="phone"/>
```







```
<label for="phone">Phone number</label>  
<input id="phone" type="phone"/>
```





```
<label for="phone">Phone number*</label>  
<input id="phone" type="phone"/>
```

A screenshot of a web browser window. The browser has a single tab with a grey title bar containing three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green). The address bar is empty. The main content area is white and contains a form. At the top of the form is a light grey rectangular box with the text '\*Fill the required fields'. Below this is the label 'Phone number\*' in a dark grey font. Underneath the label is a white rectangular input field with a thin grey border. At the bottom of the form is a dark grey rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin white border. Inside this box, on the left, is a white 'X' icon followed by the text 'Phone number\*, edit text' in a white font.



```
<label for="phone">  
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>  
</label>  
<input type="phone" id="phone"/>
```

A mockup of a web browser window. The browser has a single tab with a white address bar. The page content includes a light gray box with the text "\*Fill the required fields". Below this is the label "Phone number\*" followed by a white text input field with a thin gray border. At the bottom of the browser window, a dark gray error message box is displayed, containing a white "X" icon and the text "Phone number, edit text".

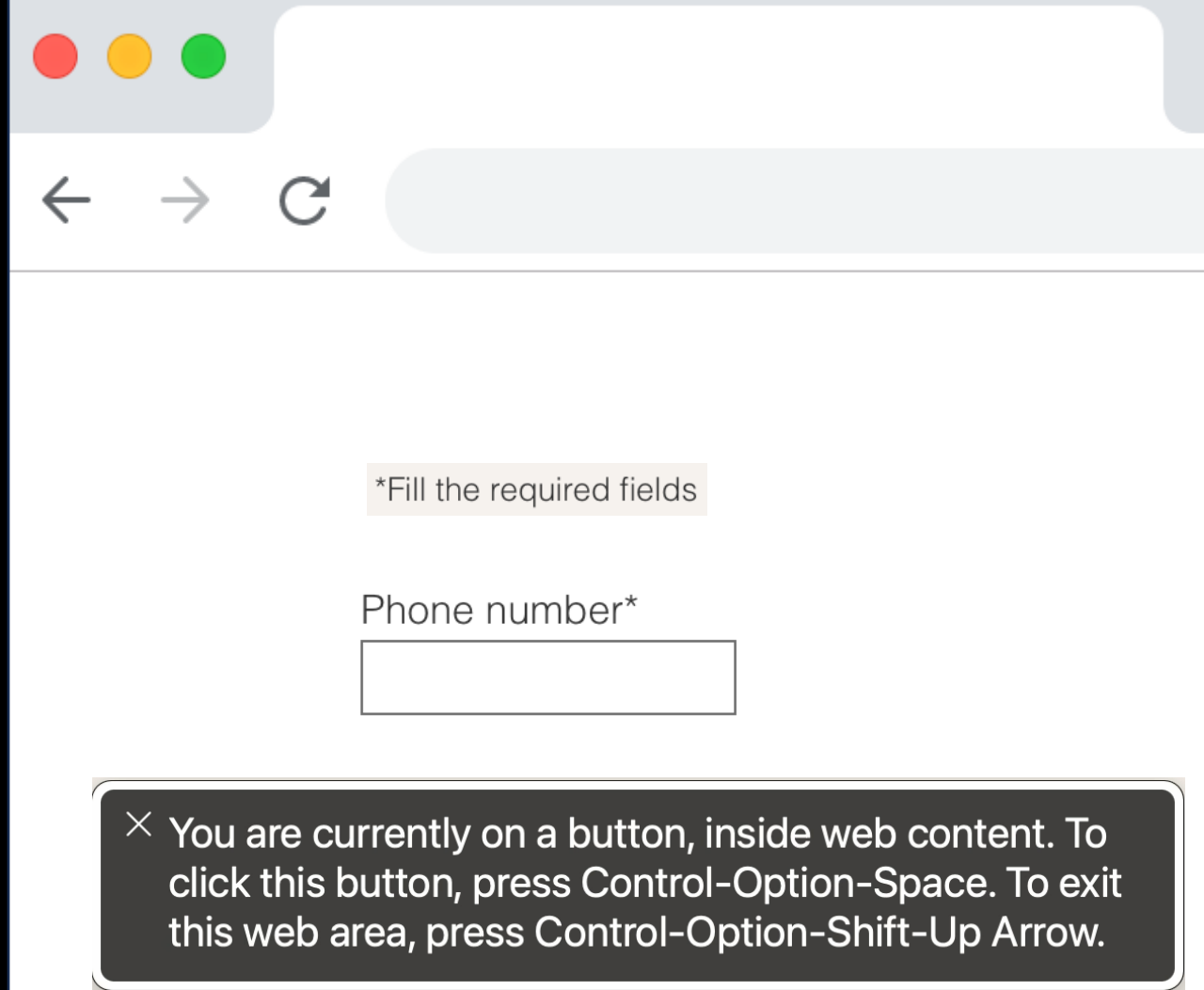
\*Fill the required fields

Phone number\*

× Phone number, edit text



```
<label for="phone">  
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>  
</label>  
<input type="phone" id="phone" aria-required="true"/>
```







```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
/>

<p>Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```



Phone number\*

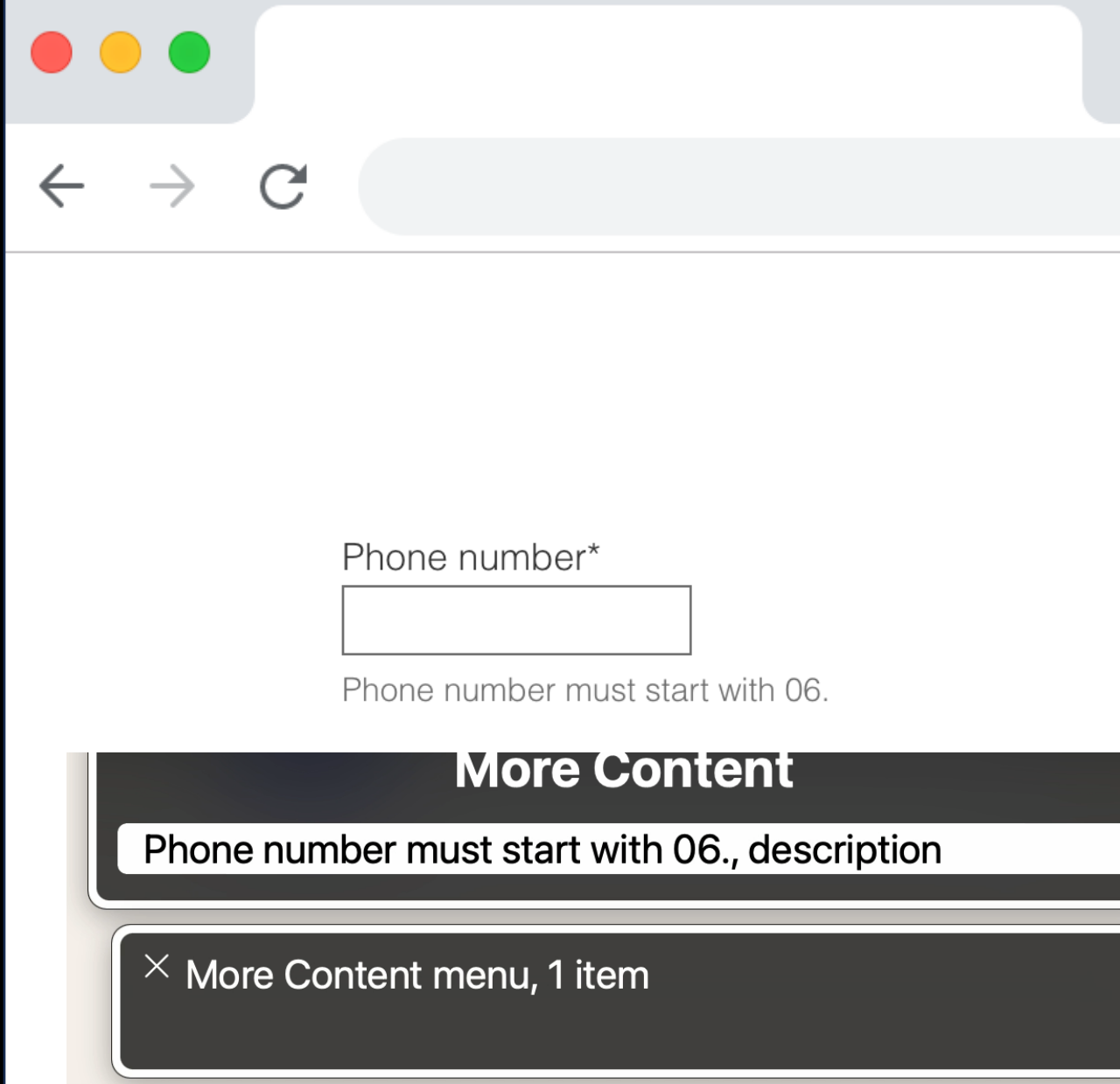
Phone number must start with 06.

× You are currently on a button, inside web content. To click this button, press Control-Option-Space. To exit this web area, press Control-Option-Shift-Up Arrow.



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint"
/>

<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```

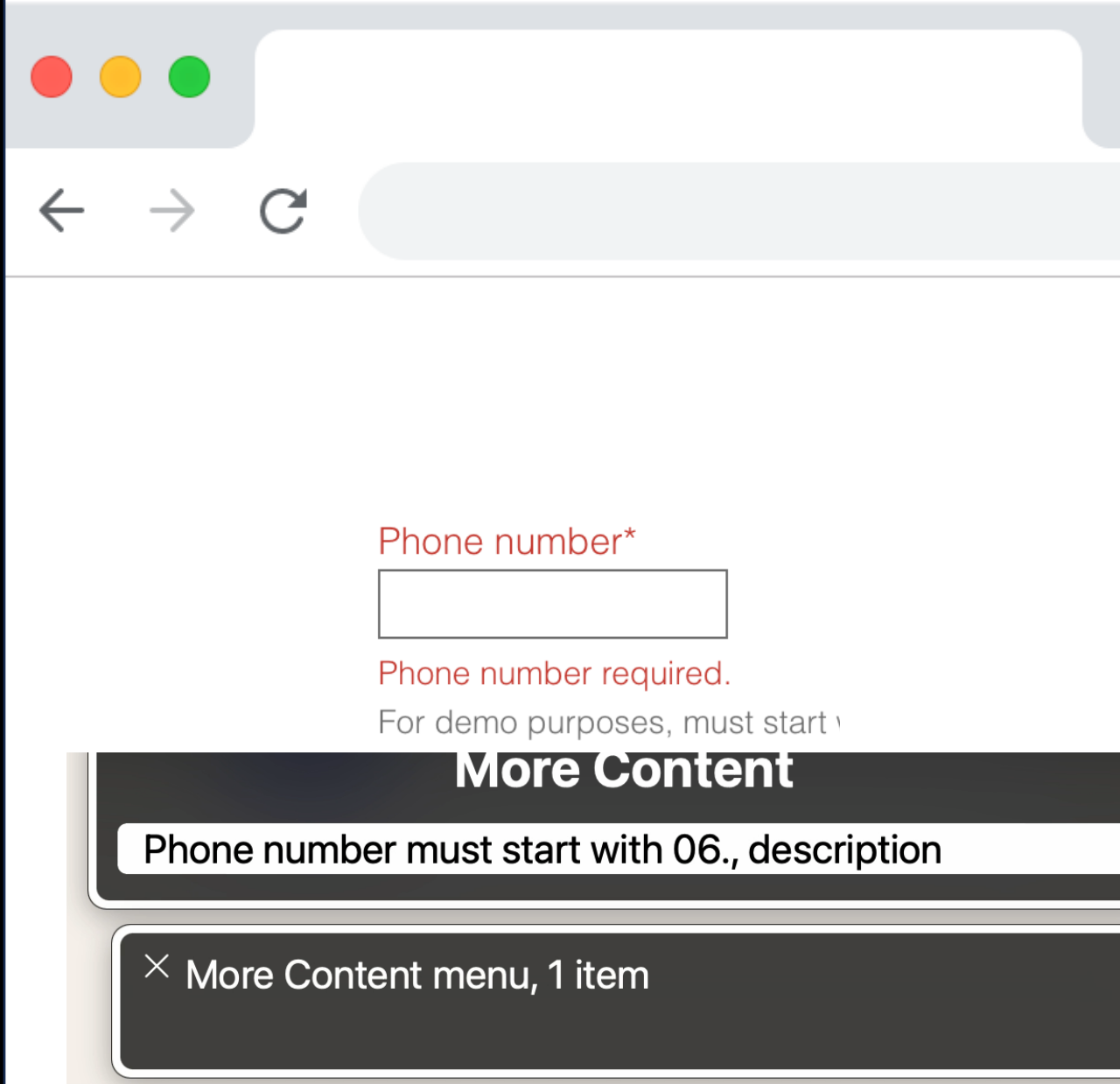




```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint"
/>

<p>Phone number required.</p>

<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```





```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-invalid="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint"
/>

<p>Phone number required.</p>

<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```

Phone number\*

Phone number required.

For demo purposes, must start with 06.

× Phone number, required invalid data, edit text



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-invalid="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint phoneError"
/>

<p id="phoneError">Phone number required.</p>

<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```

Phone number\*

Phone number required.  
For demo purposes, must start with 06.

Save

× Phone number, required invalid data, edit text

# Moment of validation

Please don't disable the save button!

# OnSubmit

Email\*

Phone number\*

For demo purposes, must start with 06.

Save



## Moment of validation

# OnBlur

Email\*

Phone number\*

For demo purposes, must start with 06.

Save

## Moment of validation

# OnChange

Email\*

Phone number\*

For demo purposes, must start with 06.

Save



# OnBlur + OnSubmit

- User gets notified while filling in the form
- User gets summary of error after submit
- Best of both worlds
- Best for medium/large forms



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-invalid="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint phoneError"
/>

<p id="phoneError" aria-live="assertive">
  Phone number required.
</p>

<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```

Browser window showing a form with two input fields:

- Email\*
- Phone number\*

For demo purposes, must start with 06

✕ Email, required, edit text email

# Let's automate!



Vitest



Testing-library



Guidepup  
VoiceOver automation

# The testing-library principles

**“your test should resemble how users interact with your code as much as possible.”**



# Query elements

---

**Queries Accessible to Everyone** Queries that reflect the experience of visual/mouse users as well as those that use assistive technology.

- 1. getByRole:** This can be used to query every element that is exposed in the accessibility tree. With the name option you can filter the returned elements by their accessible name.
- 2. getByLabelText:** method is really good for form fields.
- 3. getByPlaceholderText**
- 4. getByText**
- 5. getByDisplayValue**

# User events

```
userEvent.click(submitButton);
```

```
userEvent.type(phoneInput, '1234567890');
```

```
userEvent.tab();
```

# Custom matchers

- Custom matchers

- toBeDisabled
- toBeEnabled
- toBeEmptyDOMElement
- toBeInTheDocument
- toBeInvalid
- toBeRequired
- toBeValid
- toBeVisible
- toContainElement
- toContainHTML
- toHaveAccessibleDescription
- toHaveAccessibleErrorMessage
- toHaveAccessibleName
- toHaveAttribute
- toHaveClass
- toHaveFocus
- toHaveFormValues

```

1  // AboutView.spec.ts
2  import { describe, it, expect } from 'vitest';
3  import { type RenderOptions, render, screen } from '@testing-library/vue';
4  import i18n from '@plugins/i18n';
5  import '@testing-library/jest-dom/vitest';
6  import userEvent from '@testing-library/user-event';
7  import { axe } from 'vitest-axe';
8  import { virtual } from '@guidepup/virtual-screen-reader';
9
10 import AboutView from './AboutView.vue';
11
12   CodiumAI: Options | Test this function
13   function setup(options?: RenderOptions) {
14     const utils = render(AboutView, {
15       props: {
16         ...options?.props,
17       },
18       global: {
19         plugins: [i18n],
20       },
21     });
22
23     const emailInput = screen.getByRole('textbox', { name: 'Email' });
24     const phoneInput = screen.getByRole('textbox', { name: 'Phone number' });
25     const submitButton = screen.getByRole('button', { name: 'Save' });
26
27     return {
28       emailInput,
29       phoneInput,
30       submitButton,
31       ...utils,
32     };
33   }

```





```
<label for="phone">Phone number</label>  
<input id="phone" type="phone"/>
```

```
it('has email and phone number with correct labels', async () => {  
  const { emailInput, phoneInput } = setup();  
  
  expect(emailInput).toHaveAccessibleName('Email');  
  expect(phoneInput).not.toHaveAccessibleName('Email*');  
  expect(phoneInput).toHaveAccessibleName('Phone number');  
  expect(phoneInput).not.toHaveAccessibleName('Phone number*');  
});
```



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input type="phone" id="phone"/>
```

```
it('has email and phone number with correct labels', async () => {
  const { emailInput, phoneInput } = setup();

  expect(emailInput).toHaveAccessibleName('Email');
  expect(phoneInput).not.toHaveAccessibleName('Email*');
  expect(phoneInput).toHaveAccessibleName('Phone number');
  expect(phoneInput).not.toHaveAccessibleName('Phone number*');
});
```



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input type="phone" id="phone" aria-required="true"/>
```

```
it('has email and phone number as required form elements', async () => {
  const { emailInput, phoneInput } = setup();

  expect(emailInput).toBeRequired();
  expect(phoneInput).toBeRequired();
});
```



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint"
/>
```

```
<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```

```
it('has a accessible hint for the phone number input', async () => {
  const { phoneInput } = setup();

  expect(phoneInput).toHaveAccessibleDescription(
    expect.stringMatching('Hint: Phone number must start with 06.'),
  );
});
```



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-invalid="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint phoneError"
/>

<p id="phoneError">Phone number required.</p>
```

```
<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```

```
it('shows an error message when phone number is not filled in', async () => {
  const { phoneInput } = setup();

  await userEvent.click(phoneInput);
  await userEvent.tab();

  expect(phoneInput).toBeInvalid();
  expect(phoneInput).toHaveAccessibleDescription(
    expect.stringMatching('Error: Phone number is required.'),
  );
});
```



```
<label for="phone">
  Phone number<span aria-hidden="true">*</span>
</label>
<input
  type="phone"
  id="phone"
  aria-required="true"
  aria-invalid="true"
  aria-describedby="phoneHint phoneError"
/>
```

```
<p id="phoneError" aria-live="assertive">
  Phone number required.
</p>
```

```
<p id="phoneHint">Phone number must start with 06.</p>
```



VoiceOver Automation  
With Guidepup



```
it('Speaks the empty form state correct with voiceover', async () => {  
  const { container } = setup();  
  
  // Start the Virtual Screen Reader.  
  await virtual.start({ container: container.parentNode });  
  
  // Navigate your environment with the virtual screen reader just as your users would  
  while ((await virtual.lastSpokenPhrase()) !== 'end of form') {  
    await virtual.next();  
  }  
  
  // Assert on what your users would really see and hear when using screen readers  
  expect(await virtual.spokenPhraseLog()).toEqual([  
    'document',  
    'heading, Contact page, level 1',  
    'Fill the required fields',  
    'form',  
    'Email',  
    'textbox, Email, not invalid, required',  
    'Phone number',  
    'textbox, Phone number, Hint: Phone number must start with 06., not invalid, required',  
    'Hint: Phone number must start with 06.',  
    'button, Save',  
    'end of form',  
  ]);  
  
  // Stop your virtual screen reader instance  
  await virtual.clearSpokenPhraseLog();  
  await virtual.stop();  
});
```

```
it('Speaks the assertive error messages correct with voiceover', async () => {
  const { emailInput, phoneInput, submitButton, container } = setup();

  // Start the Virtual Screen Reader.
  await virtual.start({ container: container.parentNode });

  // Use the app as an user would
  await userEvent.click(emailInput);
  await userEvent.type(emailInput, 'test');
  await userEvent.tab();

  await userEvent.click(phoneInput);
  await userEvent.type(phoneInput, '1234567890');
  await userEvent.tab();

  await userEvent.click(submitButton);

  // Assert on what your users would really see and hear when using screen readers
  expect(await virtual.spokenPhraseLog()).toEqual([
    'document',
    'textbox, Email, not invalid, required',
    'textbox, Phone number, Hint: Phone number must start with 06., not invalid, required',
    'assertive: Error: Email must contain @ and . symbols.',
    'button, Save',
    'assertive: Error: Phone number must start with 06.',
    'assertive: Error: Failed to save because 2 fields are invalid.',
  ]);

  // Stop your virtual screen reader instance
  await virtual.clearSpokenPhraseLog();
  await virtual.stop();
});
```

# Wrapping up

---

- **why:** working on accessibility has a lot of benefits.
- **for:** To connect labels to inputs.
- **aria-hidden:** To hide elements to the screen reader.
- **aria-required:** To mark a field as required.
- **aria-invalid:** To mark the field as invalid.
- **aria-describedby:** To connect the description and error message to the input.
- **aria-live:** To announce dynamic error messages.
- We automatically tested all these accessibility improvements with Testing-library and Guidepup

# Questions?

## Let's connect!

- [www.timdamen.io](http://www.timdamen.io)
- LinkedIn:

