Testing process

Simply Accessible recommendations

simply accessible.

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Accessibility testing should be integrated into the existing design, development, and QA workflows at your organization. For this reason, we need to review what steps to take as an organization and in what order each should be adopted.

Ground Zero: Source level validation

- o Your teams should create and utilize standardized design and code patterns to minimize rework.
- o All designs should be tested for colour contrast and usability.
- o All content should be tested for readability, consistency, and appropriate text equivalents.
- o All development should be W3C valid and thoroughly tested with the use of a keyboard only.

Step 1: Foundational accessibility testing

Teams should then test for accessibility issues that are detectable with automated tools. As a start, we recommend the following browser toolbars, extensions, and tools:

- • Keyboard
- • Chrome Web Developer extension
- • Snook Colour Contrast Checker
- • NoSquint Firefox Add-on
- • Squint extension in Chrome
- • Enabling High Contrast Mode in Windows
- • Flying focus extension in Chrome
- • Tenon
- • Quail

Items to validate during foundational accessibility testing include:

- o Headings are present on the page in a logical sequence.
- o Images contain alternate text.
- o Form elements are programmatically labeled, with any error messaging included within the applicable label.
- o Code is valid and follows HTML specifications.

Step 2: Intermediate accessibility testing

Once these processes are in place and consistent, your teams should feel comfortable in integrating assistive technology testing into their QA workflow:

New design patterns should be tested with a series of tools, techniques, browsers, and assistive technologies. We recommend the following combinations:

- ZoomText or other screen magnification software
- JAWS with Internet Explorer
- NVDA with Firefox
- VoiceOver with Safari

As a best practice, we typically recommend testing with the current version of assistive technology along with two previous versions. This may take time to set up a process like that at your organization.

Step 3: Comprehensive accessibility testing

After the foundational and intermediate testing processes have been integrated into the QA workflow, we recommend adopting the following activities for long-term success:

- Test design patterns with Dragon NaturallySpeaking, voice recognition software for users who rely on voice commands to navigate web pages.
- Build usability testing into the web project life cycle, incorporating users with disabilities as participants during various phases:
  - Users with cognitive issues during low-fidelity wireframes
  - Users with low vision during visual comps and high-fidelity wireframes
  - Users with mobility challenges and keyboard-only users during HTML prototypes (after accessibility testing has been conducted)

You should integrate accessibility testing and best practices into your existing workflow. It's likely that current browser testing at your organization is informed by web traffic statistics. With a few exceptions, it's generally a good practice to model those same web traffic statistics in determining which browser versions to test on for accessibility.

- Foundational accessibility testing should utilize the same browsers that your site visitors use.
- Intermediate accessibility testing should do the same, with the screen reader/browser combinations as noted earlier.