
Certificate in Accessibility Consulting

Web Accessibility

Web Accessibility refers to the practice of making websites and web applications usable by people with disabilities. It ensures that individuals with visual, auditory, motor, cognitive, or other disabilities can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with the web content effectively.

Disabilities can vary greatly and may include visual impairments, hearing impairments, motor disabilities, cognitive disabilities, and other conditions that affect how individuals access and interact with digital content. It is essential to consider the diverse needs of people with disabilities when designing and developing accessible websites.

Accessible Design is the process of creating websites and web applications that are usable by individuals with disabilities. It involves following best practices, guidelines, and standards to ensure that all users, regardless of ability, can access and interact with the content.

WCAG, or the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, are a set of internationally recognized standards for web accessibility. Developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), WCAG provides guidelines for making web content more accessible to people with disabilities.

Perceivable means that web content must be presented in a way that can be perceived by all users, including those with visual impairments. This includes providing text alternatives for non-text content, such as images and videos, and ensuring that content can be presented in different ways without losing meaning.

Operable means that users must be able to navigate and interact with web content effectively. This includes providing keyboard navigability, allowing users enough time to read and use content, and avoiding content that may cause seizures or other physical reactions.

Understandable means that web content must be presented in a way that is clear and easy to understand. This includes using plain language, providing clear instructions, and ensuring that users can predict how the interface will behave.

Robust means that web content must be compatible with a wide range of assistive technologies and devices. This includes using semantic HTML, providing proper labeling for form elements, and ensuring that content is accessible across different platforms and devices.

Assistive Technologies are tools and devices that help individuals with disabilities access and interact with digital content. Examples include screen readers for individuals with visual impairments, speech recognition software for individuals with motor disabilities, and braille displays for individuals with hearing impairments.

Screen Readers are software programs that convert text on a screen into speech or braille output for individuals with visual impairments. Screen readers read aloud the content on a webpage, allowing users to

navigate and interact with the content using keyboard commands.

Alt Text is a text alternative that describes the content of an image or graphic. Alt text is used by screen readers to convey the meaning of images to users who cannot see them. It is essential to provide descriptive alt text for all images on a website to ensure accessibility for individuals with visual impairments.

Keyboard Navigation is the ability to navigate a website using only the keyboard, without the need for a mouse. Keyboard navigation is essential for individuals with motor disabilities who may have difficulty using a mouse. Websites should be designed to be fully navigable using keyboard commands.

Color Contrast refers to the difference in brightness between text and background colors on a webpage. Good color contrast is essential for individuals with visual impairments to read and understand content. Websites should ensure that text has sufficient contrast with the background to be easily readable.

Focus Indicators are visual cues that indicate which element on a webpage is currently in focus. Focus indicators are essential for users who navigate websites using a keyboard, as they help users understand where they are on the page. Websites should provide clear and visible focus indicators to enhance usability for all users.

Accessible Forms are web forms that are designed to be usable by individuals with disabilities. This includes providing proper labeling for form fields, using clear instructions, and ensuring that forms can be navigated and completed using a keyboard. Accessible forms are essential for users with motor and cognitive disabilities.

Accessible Multimedia refers to audio and video content that is designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. This includes providing captions for videos, transcripts for audio content, and audio descriptions for individuals with visual impairments. Accessible multimedia ensures that all users can access and understand multimedia content.

Responsive Design is an approach to web design that ensures a website is accessible and usable across different devices and screen sizes. Responsive design is essential for individuals with disabilities who may use assistive technologies on various devices. Websites should be designed to adapt to different screen sizes and device capabilities.

Accessible Tables are tables on a webpage that are designed to be usable by individuals with disabilities. This includes providing proper table headers, marking up data cells correctly, and ensuring that tables can be navigated and understood by screen readers. Accessible tables are essential for users with visual and cognitive disabilities.

ARIA, or Accessible Rich Internet Applications, is a set of attributes that can be added to HTML elements to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities. ARIA provides additional information to assistive technologies, making web content more accessible and usable. It is essential to use ARIA attributes correctly to improve accessibility for all users.

Text Resize refers to the ability for users to adjust the size of text on a webpage to meet their preferences.

Text resize functionality is essential for individuals with low vision who may need larger text sizes to read content comfortably. Websites should allow users to resize text without breaking the layout or functionality of the page.

Accessible Navigation is the design of website navigation menus and links to be usable by individuals with disabilities. This includes providing clear and consistent navigation, using descriptive link text, and ensuring that users can easily navigate through the website using assistive technologies. Accessible navigation is essential for all users to find and access content on a website.

Accessibility Testing is the process of evaluating a website or web application to ensure that it meets web accessibility standards. Accessibility testing involves using assistive technologies, manual testing, and automated testing tools to identify and fix accessibility issues. It is essential to test websites regularly to ensure ongoing accessibility compliance.

Colorblindness is a condition where individuals have difficulty distinguishing between certain colors. Websites should ensure that color is not the only means of conveying information to accommodate users with colorblindness. Providing text labels, patterns, or symbols in addition to color can improve accessibility for individuals with color vision deficiencies.

Accessible Images are images on a webpage that are designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. This includes providing descriptive alt text, captions, and text equivalents for complex images. Accessible images ensure that all users can understand and engage with visual content on a website.

Progressive Enhancement is a web design approach that starts with a basic, accessible version of a website and then adds more advanced features for users with modern browsers. Progressive enhancement ensures that all users can access and interact with the core content of a website, regardless of their device or browser capabilities.

Accessible Documents are digital documents, such as PDFs, Word documents, and spreadsheets, that are designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. This includes providing proper headings, alternative text for images, and accessible tables within the document. Accessible documents ensure that all users can access and understand the information presented.

Usability Testing is the process of evaluating a website or web application to ensure that it is easy to use and navigate for all users. Usability testing involves observing users as they interact with the website, gathering feedback, and identifying areas for improvement. Usability testing is essential for optimizing the user experience and accessibility of a website.

Mobile Accessibility refers to the practice of making websites and web applications accessible on mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. Mobile accessibility involves designing responsive layouts, optimizing touch interactions, and ensuring that content is accessible on smaller screens. Mobile accessibility is essential for users who access the web on a variety of devices.

Accessible Fonts are fonts used on a website that are designed to be readable by individuals with disabilities. This includes choosing fonts that are clear, legible, and easy to read at different sizes. Accessible

fonts ensure that all users can access and understand text content on a website, regardless of their visual abilities.

Accessibility Compliance refers to the adherence to web accessibility standards and guidelines. Websites and web applications should comply with accessibility standards, such as WCAG, to ensure that all users, including those with disabilities, can access and interact with the content effectively. Accessibility compliance is essential for creating inclusive and usable digital experiences.

Text-to-Speech is a technology that converts text on a screen into speech output for individuals with visual impairments. Text-to-speech software reads aloud the content of a webpage, allowing users to listen to the text instead of reading it visually. Text-to-speech is a valuable tool for individuals who have difficulty reading text on a screen.

Accessible Videos are videos on a webpage that are designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. This includes providing closed captions, transcripts, audio descriptions, and sign language interpretations for videos. Accessible videos ensure that all users can access and understand video content, regardless of their abilities.

Readability refers to how easily text can be read and understood by users. Websites should use clear and simple language, proper formatting, and appropriate font sizes to improve readability for all users. Good readability is essential for individuals with cognitive disabilities, low literacy levels, or other challenges that affect reading comprehension.

Accessible Links are hyperlinks on a webpage that are designed to be usable by individuals with disabilities. This includes using descriptive link text, providing context for links, and ensuring that links are distinguishable from surrounding text. Accessible links help users navigate through a website efficiently and understand the purpose of each link.

Accessibility Guidelines are recommendations and best practices for creating accessible websites and web applications. Guidelines, such as WCAG, provide specific criteria and techniques for ensuring that web content is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Following accessibility guidelines helps designers and developers create inclusive and user-friendly digital experiences.

Text Alternatives are descriptions or alternatives for non-text content, such as images, videos, and audio files. Text alternatives, such as alt text, captions, and transcripts, provide information about the content for individuals who cannot perceive it visually or auditorily. Text alternatives are essential for making digital content accessible to users with disabilities.

Accessible Audio refers to audio content on a webpage that is designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. This includes providing transcripts, captions, and audio descriptions for audio files. Accessible audio ensures that all users can access and understand audio content, regardless of their abilities.

Accessible Widgets are interactive elements on a webpage that are designed to be usable by individuals with disabilities. This includes providing proper labels, instructions, and keyboard accessibility for widgets. Accessible widgets enhance the user experience for all users, including those with motor and cognitive

disabilities.

Accessibility Standards are established guidelines and requirements for creating accessible websites and web applications. Standards, such as WCAG, outline specific criteria and success criteria for ensuring web content is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Following accessibility standards is essential for achieving compliance and creating inclusive digital experiences.

Inclusive Design is the practice of designing products and services that are accessible and usable by all individuals, regardless of ability. Inclusive design considers the diverse needs and preferences of users to create products that are accessible, usable, and enjoyable for everyone. Inclusive design is essential for promoting diversity and equality in digital experiences.