Demystifying Accessibility Testing

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Why accessibility testing seems hard

Invisible
Hidden
Misunderstood
Usability and accessibility

Twins separated at birth
Elections are more than voting systems

Elections information
Online voter registration
Polling place lookup
Sample ballots
Ballot tracking
And…
The POUR Principles

Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust
# Accessibility testing in layers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Testing mode</th>
<th>What it tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceivable</td>
<td>Inspection</td>
<td>Basic accessibility errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robust</td>
<td>Code review</td>
<td>Use of code standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Semantic structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operable</td>
<td>Check AT</td>
<td>Interaction using keyboard, screen reader, other AT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expert review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operable/Understandable</td>
<td>Usability testing</td>
<td>Use by real people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inspection
Check for basic accessibility errors

Quick checks that are perceivable without special technology

- Image "alt" text
- Text size and contrast
- Captions and transcripts
- Meaningful links and buttons
- Easy access to content (skip links)
- Keyboard navigation
Code review

Check for accessible coding

Look for robust code that meets standards.

- Forms coding
- Semantic markup for content structure
- Reading order with a keyboard
- Coded to W3C standards
- Appropriate use of ARIA and HTML5 elements
Use
Check with assistive technology

Check that it is operable and understandable with assistive technology. Use the technology with

- Screen readers: NVDA, VoiceOver or JAWS
- Magnifiers: Browser magnification and ZoomText
- Keyboard: Emulators, dual switches
Expert review
Check with voters with disabilities

Test operable and understandable with people who use assistive technology

- Does it work with their own AT?
- Are there good cues for navigation and orientation through the task?
- Can they complete all basic tasks, from the start to finish?
Summing up

Test in layers
- Inspection
- Code inspection
- Use with assistive technology
- Expert review
- Usability testing

Test entire tasks
- Can they be completed from start to finish

Test every template
- For informational sites, test every feature or template
Designing accessible election websites and applications

1. Make sure information about accessible voting is easy to find
2. Code forms so they are accessible
3. Allow users to change text size and appearance
4. Structure the content with headings
5. Write specific, meaningful links
6. Make it easy to jump to the main content on the page
7. Provide alternative descriptions for images, audio, and video
8. Keep alternative formats together, so voters can choose
9. Make sure everything works with a keyboard
10. Test the site with voters with disabilities

Coming soon
Illegitimi non carborundum*  
* Change is hard
Get in touch!

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