

2.0 AA / 2.1 AA / 2.2 AA

WCAG

Checklist

Kris Rivenburgh

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In Memory of Graham

Graham was an unexpected hospice adoption. Originally the plan was for him to be a foster but it was discovered that he was terminally ill with an expectation that he only had 1–2 months to live. Graham amazingly lived 10 months despite having stage 4 kidney disease, prostate cancer, severe arthritis, and other ailments.

Graham had lived most of his life in a cage but he was determined as I've ever seen any dog to have fun. He loved to rumble and wreak havoc. In the picture above, he was caught reveling in a turned over box of clothes that were to be donated.

Another time I caught him chewing on the dishwasher soap compartment for absolutely no reason. There was also a towel that hung off a kitchen island rack that he made of a tradition of yanking down to the ground, again with no reason other than he felt like it.

He destroyed some stuff but only in the cutest of ways and never my shoes or clothes. I would have adopted Graham 10/10 times. He was one of the greatest dogs with the best personalities; he really and truly just loved to live life and it was written all over his face. I really do believe that's how he ended up living so long despite terminal illness and his age (he was a senior when adopted).

There are too many amazing senior dogs in shelters and rescues. One big plus to adopting a senior – or a hospice senior – is you're not signing up for a lifetime of commitment but you know you'll make that dog extremely happy and provide the best last part of their life for them.

What is WCAG?

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) is a set of technical standards to ensure that digital assets (e.g., websites, apps) are accessible to persons with disabilities.

WCAG is authored by the **Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)** under the W3C.

- **Version 2.0 (2008)**. This classic version is a strong baseline in accessibility.
- **Version 2.1 (2018)**. Expanded the success criteria to address mobile accessibility, cognitive and learning disabilities, and visual and auditory needs.
- **Version 2.2 (2023)**. Updated to include new criteria for addressing emerging accessibility challenges and technologies.
- **Conformance Levels:** A, AA, AAA

Level AA is required for legal compliance across the world.

To be fully WCAG conformant, your digital asset must meet all success criteria under a given version and conformance level.

- **2.0 AA**. 38 success criteria.
- **2.1 AA**. 12 new criteria.
- **2.2 AA**. 6 new criteria.

Each level is cumulative: **2.1 AA** conformance will satisfy **2.0 AA**.

About This Checklist

This checklist has a brief summary of all **55 criteria** across **all WCAG versions**.

To fully understand each criterion:

- Read the [W3C source documentation](#)
- Read my [WCAG 2.1 AA Guide](#)
- Watch my [WCAG course](#)

Think of my checklist as a cheatsheet you can study while cramming the night before an exam. The cheatsheet will help you score points on the most important concepts, but you might miss key specifics.

If there are any new accessibility guidelines, this document will be updated and re-uploaded to accessible.org/wcag.

WCAG 2.0: Alternatives

Non-Text Content (1.1.1)

Provide text alternatives for all non-text content (e.g., images, maps, art, photos, infographics, graphs).

Developer, Content Editor

Audio-Only and Video-Only (Prerecorded) (1.2.1)

Provide text transcripts of audio-only or video-only content.

Content Editor

Captions (Prerecorded) (1.2.2)

For all pre-recorded videos with audio content, provide synchronized captions that transcribe both dialogue and important sounds.

Content Editor

Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (1.2.3)

Provide a text transcript or audio description for prerecorded videos that conveys visual information not available through audio.

Content Editor

Captions (Live) (1.2.4)

Provide captions for formal, live video broadcasts.

Content Editor

Audio Description (Prerecorded) (1.2.5)

Provide audio descriptions for all prerecorded videos.

Content Editor

WCAG 2.0: Presentation

Info and Relationships (1.3.1)

Ensure information, relationships, and structure conveyed through visual or audible presentation are available programmatically or through text.

Developer, Content Editor

Meaningful Sequence (1.3.2)

Preserve the logical sequence of content in the code (programmatically).

Developer

Sensory Characteristics (1.3.3)

Write instructions that don't rely solely on shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound.

Content Editor

Use of Color (1.4.1)

Color is not the only visual way of conveying information.

Designer, Content Editor

Audio Control (1.4.2)

Users must have a way to pause, stop, or mute any audio that automatically plays for more than 3 seconds.

Developer

Contrast (Minimum) (1.4.3)

Text or images of text should stand out against a background by meeting a color contrast ratio of 4.5:1. For large text, the ratio is 3:1.

Designer

Resize Text (1.4.4)

All text can be resized up to 200% without negatively affecting the ability to read content or use functions.

Designer

Images of Text (1.4.5)

Unless images of text are necessary for presentation, use actual text.

Designer, Content Editor

WCAG 2.0: User Control

Keyboard (2.1.1)

All functionality must be operable by keyboard only.

Developer

No Keyboard Trap (2.1.2)

Users must be able to use a keyboard to navigate to and from all parts of a website.

Developer

Timing Adjustable (2.2.1)

Let users extend, adjust, or disable time limits.

Developer

Pause, Stop, Hide (2.2.2)

Let users pause, stop, or hide any content that is moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating.

Designer, Developer, Content Editor

Three Flashes or Below Threshold (2.3.1)

Nothing on a page flashes more than 3x per second.

Designer, Content Editor

Bypass Blocks (2.4.1)

Provide a skip link or other means for users to bypass repetitive blocks of content and skip directly to the main content.

Developer, Designer

WCAG 2.0: Understandable

Page Titled (2.4.2)

Each page has a unique and descriptive title that lets the user know the topic or purpose.

Content Editor

Focus Order (2.4.3)

Users can tab through your website with a keyboard in a logical order that preserves the meaning of the content.

Developer

Link Purpose (in Context) (2.4.4)

Users should know the purpose or destination of a link from the link text alone or using the link's context.

Content Editor

Multiple Ways (2.4.5)

Provide more than one way to find pages within your website.

Designer

Headings and Labels (2.4.6)

Use headings and labels that are clear and descriptive of topic or purpose.

Content Editor

Focus Visible (2.4.7)

Interactive elements (e.g., links, buttons, form fields) must have a visible focus indicator when they receive focus.

Developer, Designer

Language of Page (3.1.1)

Set a default language in the code for each page.

Developer

Language of Parts (3.1.2)

When the language of a page changes, the new language should be set in the code.

Content Editor

WCAG 2.0: Predictability

On Focus (3.2.1)

When elements receive focus, no change of context occurs (e.g., form automatically submits).

Developer, Designer

On Input (3.2.2)

User input doesn't automatically trigger a change of context.

Developer

Consistent Navigation (3.2.3)

Repeated navigational elements are consistently placed in the same order.

Developer, Designer

Consistent Identification (3.2.4)

Elements with the same functionality should have consistent labels, names, and text alternatives.

Developer, Designer

Error Identification (3.3.1)

When a user makes an automatically detectable input error, identify the error and describe it in text.

Developer, Designer

Labels or Instructions (3.3.2)

Labels and instructions should be clear and descriptive so that users know what input is expected and how to interact with forms and other elements.

Developer, Designer

Error Suggestion (3.3.3)

Provide suggestions (e.g., expected format) on how to fix errors.

Developer

Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (3.3.4)

For pages that involve legal commitments or financial transactions, there is a way to undo, correct, or confirm submissions.

Developer

Parsing (Obsolete and Removed) (4.1.1)

Make sure your code is free of errors (e.g., start and end tags are in place). This criterion has been officially removed in WCAG 2.2.

Developer

Name, Role, Value (4.1.2)

For all user interface components (like forms, links, and script-generated items), make sure their name, role, state, properties, and/or value can be identified programmatically. Users should also be able to update the state and value when applicable.

Developer

WCAG 2.1 AA

2.1 AA includes all previous criteria plus the following criteria.

Orientation (1.3.4)

Content should display at any orientation (e.g., landscape, portrait).

Developer

Identify Input Purpose (1.3.5)

Indicate the purpose of form fields programmatically so they are easier to complete.

Developer

Reflow (1.4.10)

Users must be able to increase the size of content up to 400% without needing to scroll horizontally.

Designer

Non-Text Contrast (1.4.11)

All meaningful non-text content (e.g., icons) should have a minimum 3:1 color contrast ratio against adjacent/background colors.

Designer

Text Spacing (1.4.12)

Users can adjust the text spacing (e.g., line height, letter spacing, word spacing) without causing a loss of content or functionality.

Designer, Developer

Content on Hover or Focus (1.4.13)

Users can keep or dismiss additional content that appears on hover or focus (e.g., tooltips, pop-ups, submenus).

Designer, Developer

Character Keyboard Shortcuts (2.1.4)

Users should be able to disable or remap keyboard shortcuts that involve a single key press.

Developer

Pointer Gestures (2.5.1)

Users should be able to perform all actions with a single touch or tap on the screen. Avoid requiring complex gestures that involve drawing paths or using multiple points of contact.

Developer

Pointer Cancellation (2.5.2)

Users should be able to cancel or undo actions from accidental clicks or touches. For any single-point interaction, ensure that the action either doesn't start immediately, can be canceled or undone, or can be reversed by releasing the point of contact.

Developer

Label in Name (2.5.3)

Visual labels should align with programmatic labels.

Developer

Motion Actuation (2.5.4)

Actions triggered by motion, such as tilting or shaking, can also be performed using other methods, like buttons or keyboard commands. Also, provide users the option to turn off motion activation.

Developer

Status Messages (4.1.3)

Make status messages programmatically determinable so that assistive technology users are alerted without losing focus.

Developer

WCAG 2.2 AA

2.2 AA includes all previous criteria plus the following criteria.

Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (2.4.11)

When an element receives focus, the focus / focused element is not entirely hidden or blocked.

Designer

Dragging Movements (2.5.7)

For any function that requires dragging, provide an alternative that allows users to accomplish the same task with a single-point action, such as a click or touch. This success criterion is not concerned with keyboard navigability but, rather, the ability for someone to use a single point to accomplish the same ability to drag something.

Developer

Target Size (Minimum) (2.5.8)

Make the target size for interactive elements at least 24 by 24 CSS pixels.

Designer

Consistent Help (3.2.6)

Whenever you have options for help (e.g., support link, contact information, chatbot, etc.) that are repeated on multiple pages of your website, those options should remain consistent and predictable in their order and placement on those pages so users can easily locate help.

Designer, Developer

Redundant Entry (3.3.7)

Information that has already been entered by the user and is required again, in the same session, is either auto-populated or selectable except when re-entering the information is essential or previously entered information is no longer valid.

Developer

Accessible Authentication (3.3.8)

Users should not need to log in by remembering a password or completing a cognitive test unless one of these conditions is met: an alternative authentication method is available, there is help for the cognitive test, the test involves recognizing objects, or identifying user-provided non-text content.

Developer

Next Step

WCAG Course

Would you like to save 20+ hours with WCAG and implementation?

My [WCAG Course](#) contains video explanations of success criteria across all WCAG versions. It also includes:

- Code examples
- Excel spreadsheet checklists
- Accessibility workflows based on team roles
- WCAG in Chunks cheatsheet

ADA Compliance Course

Are you worried about an ADA website lawsuit?

Make it much, much less likely you're sued over website accessibility.

My [ADA Compliance Course](#) tells you the most urgent issues (and how to fix them right now).

Other Resources

You can also check out [The ADA Book on YouTube](#) or [Accessible.org](#). If you have any questions, email me: kris@accessible.org