

Project Plan

To meet new GOC standards



A collection of information for improving the quality of the information for the Canadian public that they can have access to the web in Canada that is equal for all.

10/27/2022

Contents

Accessibility Responsibility Breakdown	2
Abstract.....	2
Introduction	2
The principles.....	3
• Perceivable.....	3
• Operable	3
• Understandable	3
• Robust.....	3
The four guiding principles of WCAG say that web content must be Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust (POUR) in order to be accessible to people with disabilities.	3
Perceivable	4
Web accessibility by roles	6
Project management	6
Analysis	6
Architecture	7
Interaction Design / Usability.....	7
Graphic Design.....	7
Search Engine Optimization	7
HTML/CSS Prototyping.....	7
Front-end Development	7
Back-end Development.....	7
Quality Control.....	7

TC Project Plan

Accessibility Responsibility Breakdown

Abstract

Web accessibility, taken into consideration at the end of the production chain, leads to processing too late, issues that should have been dealt with before, without the appropriate means or resources to do so. Understanding how critical this is is a crucial part of the web accessibility process. Who, then, gets to be responsible for which accessibility requirements, and when in a web production? This project looks at WCAG 2.0 Success Criteria by roles (e.g., graphics designer, interaction designer, back-end developer, etc.) so web accessibility becomes all about being able to plan the right intervention, by the right person, at the right time within the web development lifecycle.

Introduction

Accessibility is not simply an extra requirement that can be added to the web development lifecycle. In order to show significant conformance results, accessibility must be incorporated in each existing link of the web production chain. The only way to successfully accomplish accessibility is to be able to plan it from the very start, and that means assigning responsibility to the various stakeholders and share the tasks in order to produce accessible content.

Accessibility standards for people with disabilities, aging populations and mobile web users require changing many habits within the organizations who are seeking to incorporate them into their web development practices. The recommendations found in WCAG 2.0 often challenge practices that are usually considered appropriate, proven and optimal by the organization that has put them into place.

The willingness to integrate web accessibility requirements within a production team's roadmap often results in sudden habit changes, which may seriously jeopardize the profitability of any web site production. How then, can an organization achieve web accessibility while on a budget?

Although the principles applied in web accessibility practice are not difficult to implement for the most part, the risk of making certain costly mistakes is very high. The purpose of this project is to break down the 61 Success Criteria found in WCAG 2.0 into different smaller checklists, so each stakeholder in a web development lifecycle could then take integrate into his or her daily practice.

For the purpose of this project, we are proposing a typical web production chain consisting of the following stakeholders:

TC Project Plan

The principles

- Perceivable
- Operable
- Understandable
- Robust

The four guiding principles of WCAG say that web content must be Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust (POUR) in order to be accessible to people with disabilities.

Perceivable – Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive.

This means that users must be able to perceive the information being presented (it can't be invisible to all of their senses)

Operable – User interface components and navigation must be operable.

This means that users must be able to operate the interface (the interface cannot require interaction that a user cannot perform)

Understandable – Information and the operation of user interface must be understandable.

This means that users must be able to understand the information as well as the operation of the user interface (the content or operation cannot be beyond their understanding)

Robust – Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies.

TC Project Plan

Perceivable

For content to be perceivable it must be possible to perceive it through multiple senses. While there are a variety of ways to provide alternatives perceivable through alternate senses (e.g., audio descriptions for visual content for those who are blind, or sign language interpretation of audio content for those who are Deaf), text alternatives are generally the best choice.

Text can be converted into a variety of forms. It can be read aloud by screen reading software or converted to braille for those who are blind. It can be translated into other languages for those reading in a second language or it can be magnified without losing its sharp appearance for those with low vision. Its colour can be changed easily to make it more readable for those who are colour blind or need high contrast.

TC Project Plan

Web Development Role	WCAG 2.0-2.1			Total Success Criteria
	Level A	Level AA	Level AAA	
Project Management	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Analysis	2	2	5	9
Architecture	2	3	4	9
Interaction Design/Usability	15	7	14	36
Graphics Design	12	9	11	32
Content Strategy	11	3	7	21
Search Engine Optimization	13	6	9	28
HTML/CSS Prototyping	12	7	6	25
Front-end Development	25	13	22	60

TC Project Plan

Back-end Development	15	7	10	32
Quality Control	25	13	23	61

Obviously, not every web production chain has access to all those resources and some times, the same people will cumulate more than one responsibility. In some cases, there are even more stakeholders taking part in the project. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Rather, this is meant as customizable guidelines intended to help organization develop checklists that will fit nicely with their own reality.

Web accessibility by roles

Project management

For the purposes of this project, the project management role includes the tasks normally associated with production planning and the various related monitoring activities. While the project manager (PM) does not really have any implication when it comes to implementing the different Success Criteria from WCG 2.0, he or she plays a vital role in making sure every stakeholder understands what their role is when it comes to web accessibility.

More specifically, in a web accessibility context, the project manager's responsibilities consist of ensuring optimization of the production chain by:

- Integrating the concept of transversality, which is inherent in web accessibility
- Planning accessibility at each step of the web development lifecycle
- Allocating the relevant web accessibility responsibilities to every stakeholders
- Ensuring the technical and functional criteria are being met at every milestone
- Understanding the difference between accessible content and conforming content
- Being aware of the tools' accessibility limitations and working around them
- Assessing the impact of technology platforms on the overall project

Analysis

The analysis function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with analysis of the project's strategic orientations, analysis of the options for technology platforms, or functional analysis of Web interfaces.

TC Project Plan

Architecture

The architecture function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with the architecture of the information (Web content) and the architecture of the data.

Interaction Design / Usability

The interaction design / usability function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with the planning of web interfaces, content changes, interactivity and other interface-related contents of the pages.

Graphic Design

The graphics design function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with the graphic design of interfaces, the related graphic declinations, the specific design of navigation elements, context changes and other

Search Engine Optimization

The search engine optimization function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with providing text equivalents for non-text contents and making contents on a web page more easily indexable by search engines.

HTML/CSS Prototyping

The HTML/CSS prototyping function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with the production of all web site master templates (HTML and CSS).

Front-end Development

The front-end development function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with the development of contribution tools, HTML and CSS integration, and the programming of proposed scripts and applications on the Web site.

Back-end Development

The back-end development function covers tasks and related quality control normally associated with the development of server-side programming and database management.

Quality Control

The quality control function covers tasks normally associated with general validations at the very end of the project, before launching.

TC Project Plan