Beyond WCAG Compliance: Next Steps in your Website's Commitment to Digital Inclusion

WordPress Accessibility Meetup

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Andrew Mallis CEO mallis@kalamuna.com

Mike McCaffrey

Senior Architect mikem@kalamuna.com



Introductions



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Andrew Mallis (he/him) CEO Mike McCaffrey (he/him) Senior Architect

Agenda

- **01** Introductions
- **02 Principles**
- **03** Site Auditing & Remediation
 - + Automated Scanning Tools
 - + User Testing
 - + Usability/Heuristic Analysis
 - + Remediation & Prioritization
- **04** Design & Development Practices
- **05** Governance
- 06 AI
- **07** In Conclusion & Resources
- **Q&A**

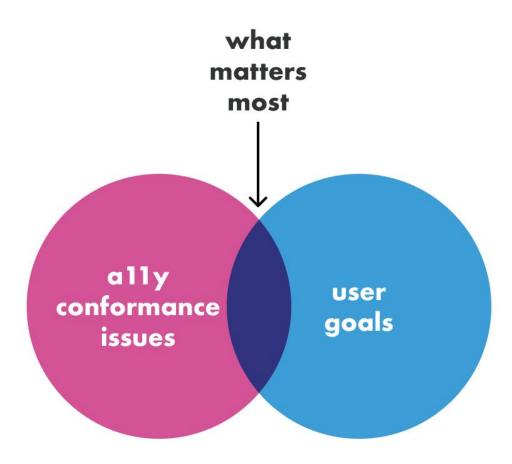
Principles



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Inclusion is an organisational effort and practices in which different groups or individuals having different backgrounds are culturally and socially accepted and welcomed, and equally treated.

Compliance does not guarantee usability



Site Auditing & Remediation



Types of Analysis



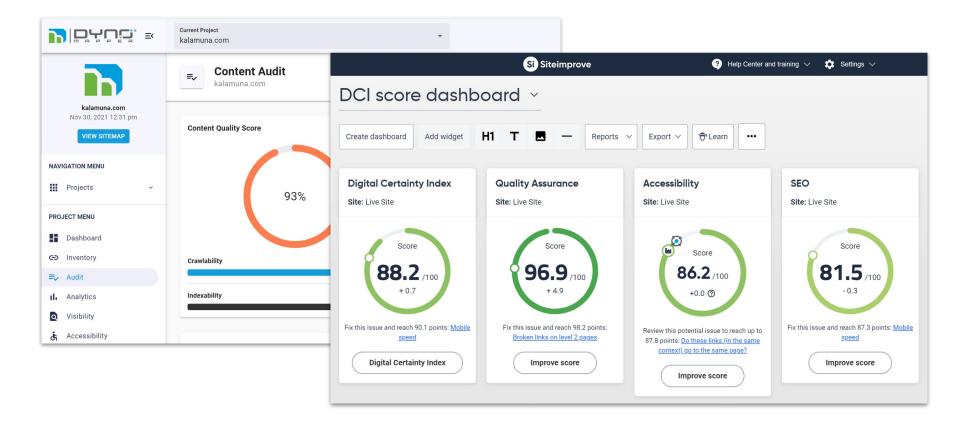
Usability (Heuristic) Analysis

1. Automated Scanning

Page Evaluation Browser Extensions

-	The following apply to the entire	e page:		
web accessibility evaluation tool		Image: Console Sources Network axe DevTools >> ●1 ▲2 ■2 Image: Console Sources Network Image: Console Sources Network axe DevTools >> ●1 ▲2 ■2 Image: Console Sources Network		
Styles: OFF ON		Dev roots Sign up / Sign in start new scan i Overview Guided Tests I		
Summary Details Reference Order Structure Contrast		Test Name SAVE TEST		
 ✓ 9 Errors ✓ 2 X Missing form label 		https://www.kalamuna.com/		
 X Empty form label A Empty button A Empty button A Empty button 		TOTAL ISSUES AUTOMATIC ISSUES. 4 GUIDED ISSUES 0 Critical. 0 Critical. 0 Moderate. 0 Moderate. 0		
 O 1 Contrast Errors 1 X Very low contrast To the second secon		Best Practices: OFF WCAG 2.1 AA		
 Alerts 1 X Suspicious alternative text 	People are at the 💙 of	id attribute value must be unique 2 >		
☑ 2 X Long alternative text	everything we do	Frames must have an accessible name 1 >		
	We design and build websites with purpose. Our team of seasoned experts puts	<svg> elements with an img role must have an alternative text 1 ></svg>		
	technology at the service of great causes and the people who champion them.	d		

Site-wide Scanning Tools



Automated Scanning Cautions

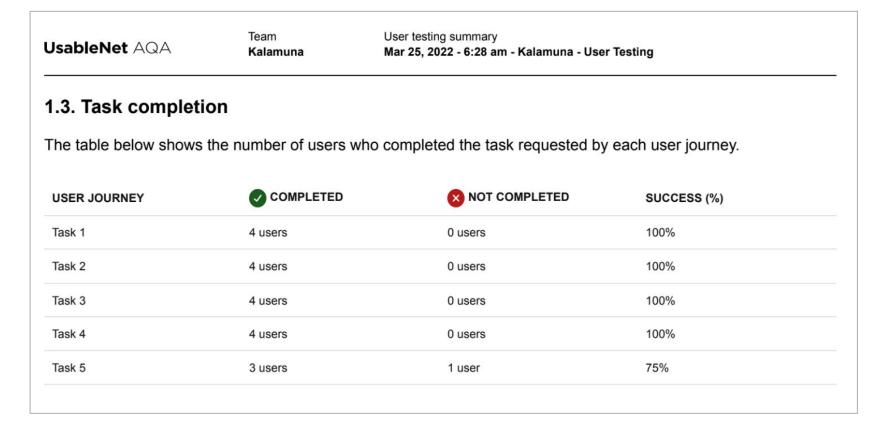
- + A single tool will not find all of the issues
- + Only 30-60% of issues can be identified automatically
- + Time-intensive checklists needed to review remaining criteria
- + Takes a lot of effort to make all the warnings go away
- + Compliance does not ensure usability
- + Don't put too much stock in a score



User Testing Process

- + Determine high priority user stories / journeys
- + Have real-life people try to accomplish those tasks
- + Find users who use accessibility tools or require accessible features on a regular basis
- + Get feedback about how easy or difficult it is to achieve a goal

User Testing Services



Example User Journey

User journey description

User can navigate to the How to Apply page and follow the instructions

Starting URL

https://mysite.org

Instructions

- 1. You have spent some time on the web site, learning fun facts about the company, and now you wish to find out how to apply for yourself and your friends. You go to the How to Apply page where you can find all the info you are looking for. You are interested in "Procedure and Checklist" information.
- 2. Task is considered completed once user reviews page related to the Procedures and Checklist.

User Testing Feedback

1.4. High priority recommendations

USER JOURNEY RECOMMENDATION

Task 2 UsableNet User Tester 3 quote:

- The "Programs" menu element was inconsistent in behavior. There were instances where JAWS would navigate to the "Development Grants" page when the "Programs" menu was entered upon, and there were instances when the keyboard did not interact with the element.
- When doing a search for one of the films on the "Development Grants" page, When selecting by a contributor, while the film that had the contributor was displayed in the results, there were additional films that were displayed that did not have that individual involved. This test was done several times with similar results.

Volunteer Testers

- + Some organizations may try to offload accessibility testing onto their users.
- + Adds additional burden on users who are already having trouble using your site.
- Mission-driven organizations can ask for volunteers who support the goals and want to help.
- + Compensate testers, particularly if you are a for-profit organization.

3. Usability/Heuristic Analysis

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Heuristic evaluation involves having a small set of [expert] evaluators examine the interface and judge its compliance with recognized usability principles (the "heuristics").

- Jakob Nielsen, November 1, 1994

Example Heuristic Worksheet Item

Contrast and size allows text to be read clearly

Review common pages to find different text styles and foreground/background color combinations. Ensure there is enough contrast between foreground and background colors. Identify small text that is less legible, where contrast becomes even more important. Hover over links and buttons to see if those styles provide enough contrast.

Positive findings

+ Body text, links, and menu items are very readable

Urgent issues discovered

+ Page title cannot be read clearly on photo background

Issues discovered

+ Photo caption font size is 10px which can be hard to read for some users

Categories for Heuristic Accessibility Review

- + Visual Perception
- + Mouse Navigation
- + Keyboard Navigation
- + Mobile Navigation
- + Screen Reader Navigation
- + Voice Navigation
- + Robustness
- + Cognitive Considerations

Heuristic Analysis Pros & Cons

Pros

- + Efficient
- + Focused on usability
- Finds issues with features that are compliant but not usable
- Can use automated tools, but does not depend on them

Cons

- + Requires expert knowledge
- Requires multiple reviewers to catch the most issues (2-4)
- + Not comprehensive
- Less focused on legal compliance

Learn to use accessibility tools yourself

- + Tab through a webpage using a keyboard!
- Try a screen reader (NVDA + Windows / VoiceOver + Apple)
- You might not catch every issue, but you can find some obvious ones!

Prioritization & Remediation

Why prioritization is important

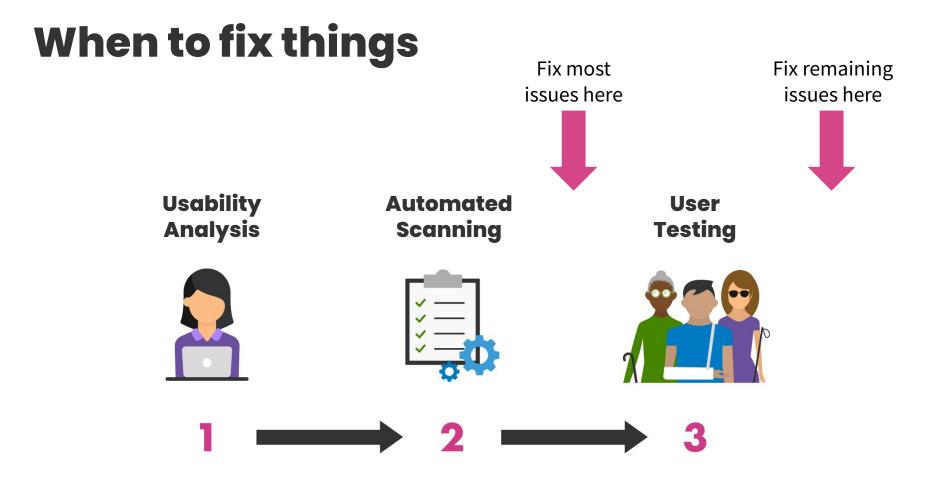
- + Limited time and resources mean you can't fix everything
- There is no end to the accessibility issues/improvements that you can find
- + There may be major roadblocks for some users
- Some user journeys may be more frequent or important than others
- + Quick wins

Prioritizing Issues and Fixes

ID	Issue Type	Issue Name	Issue Description	Effort Estimation (1: Easy, 5: Hard)	Time Estimation (Hours)	Priority (1: high, 5: low)	Task owner		Notes
1	Visual	Light Blue Links	Light Blue links on white background do not meet contrast standards	1	1	5	Kalamuna	-	
5	Visual	Text in Logo	The logo's text is too small to read under readability guidelines	1	1	5	Kalamuna	-	
6	Visual	Footer Text	12px as a base size for footer text may be uncomfortable to read for some users	1	1	5	Kalamuna	*	
9	Visual	Organization Logos	Organization logos on the supporter page should have indication that they are targetable and interactable	2	1.5	5	Kalamuna	-	
28	Screen Reader Navigation	News Headings	The news headings should be more informative than the date of the content	1	1	5	Kalamuna	*	
29	Screen Reader Navigation	News H2s	The news cards headings are H2s despite the section title being an H2	1	1	5	Kalamuna	*	
30	Screen Reader Navigation	News Links	News links lead to the main news page with articles instead of the article itself	2	2	5	Kalamuna	-	
41	Mobile Navigation	Email and Tel Links	The Email and Telephone areas should have interactable links	1	1	5	Kalamuna	-	
3	Visual	White Photo Text	The white text over the main photo is out of contrast on some images	1	1	3	Kalamuna	*	
7	Visual	Orange Hover State	The orange hover state on white is likely too close to contrast guidelines to read for some users	1	1	3	Kalamuna	-	
10	Visual	Partner Headings	On the partners page, the partner heading implies clickability	2	1	3	Kalamuna	-	
13	Visual	Mobile Logo	The mobile logo of the site should retain the name as to not provide a different experience. It also has a relatively low target area.	1	1	3	Kalamuna	*	
14	Visual	How to Apply	The how to Apply button is out of alignment on mobile	1	1	3	Kalamuna	-	
21	Screen Reader Navigation	News Navigation	The news navigation visually hides posts, but screen reader user still must navigate filtered items	4	4	3	Kalamuna	•	
25	Screen Reader Navigation	Film Search Results	Film search results has no response on an empty query.	4	4.5	3	Kalamuna	-	
26	Screen Reader Navigation	News Image Alt Tags	Many news images lack alternative information	1	1	3	Kalamuna + Client	*	Are there any technical issues stopping Client from adding the alt text?
31	Screen Reader Navigation	How to Apply H1s	The how to apply page has multiple H1s	1	0.5	3	Kalamuna + Client	*	
33	Screen Reader Navigation	Rough Cut Retreat Alt Text	The images on the rough cut retreat page lack alternative text	1	1	3	Client	*	
34	Screen Reader Navigation	Picture of a Black Star Film Festival	Some alternative text, like "Picture of a Black Star Film Festival" is repetitive as the assistive technology announces that the source is an image twice. Consider auditing alt text for redundant context	1	0.2	3	Client	*	
36	Screen Reader Navigation	Hero Alt Context	Consider adding credits to the alternative text of the hero images	1	0.25	3	Kalamuna + Client	*	
38	Screen Reader Navigation	No External Link Indication	Screen readers require a little extra context for external links	3	3	3	Kalamuna	•	
39	Mobile Navigation	Link Indication	The mobile nav should signify to the user visually which items are links and which open navigation sections	2	2.5	3	Kalamuna	*	
42	Robustness	Hero Fallback	When the hero image doesn't load, the hero text is unreadable due to being white on white content	1	1	3	Kalamuna	*	Probably just give the image area a black or off-black background

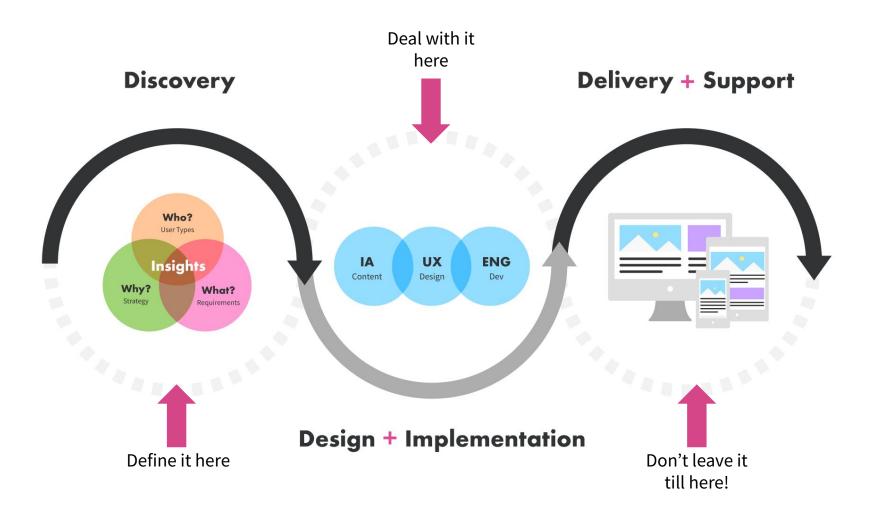
Common high-priority issues

- + Keyboard focus visibility / traps
- + Site navigation
- + "Mobile" navigation does not work on small desktop screens
- + Missing HTML regions for screen reader users
- + Poor heading structure for screenreader users
- + Pop-ups and banners that don't work
- + Text in images



Design & Development Practices



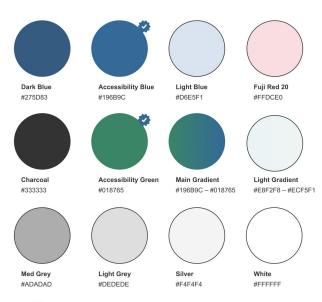


Design Principles

- + Design with usability in mind from the start
- + Define criteria that the site will meet (often WCAG AA)
- + Document & validate design choices
- + Graceful degradation / Progressive enhancement
- + Strategies for motion reduction
- + In-browser prototypes for ultimate testability

Color me accessible

COLOR



(i) Check "Contrast Matrix" page to see contrast ratios and applicable pairings

Adjusted accessibility color

#333333 5.63 9.97 9.83 9.39 11.49 12.63 AA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA Hue Saturation Lightness П Π #275D83 3.14 5.56 5.24 5.48 6.41 7.05 AA AA Hue Saturation Lightness AA Large AA AA AAA #196B9C 4.57 4.31 4.51 5.27 5.79 2.58 AA AA AA Lightness Fail AA Large AA Hue Saturation #018765 2.01 3.56 3.35 3.51 4.10 4.51 Lightness AA Large AA Large AA Large AA Large AA Hue Saturation Fail #ADADAD X AA Hue Saturation Lightness AA Large Fail Fail Fail Fail #FFDCE0 × 9.97 5.56 3.56 AAA AA AA Hue Saturation Lightness AA Large #DEDEDE х 9.39 AAA AA AA Large AA Large Hue Saturation Lightness #D6E5E1 × 9.83 5.48 AA AAA AA AA Large Hue Saturation Lightness #F4F4F4 × 11.49 6.41 5.27 AA AAA AA AA Large Hue Saturation Lightness #FFFFFF х 12.63 7.05 AAA AAA AA AA Hue Saturation Lightness

Design for Developer Needs

- + Hover and active states
- + Keyboard / screen reader focus order
- + Layouts across screen sizes
- + Clear heading levels
- + Visually-hidden headings for sections/menus
- + Icon alt/hidden text
- + All form elements and common html elements

Development Principles

- + HTML5 elements with implicit roles rather than ARIA attributes
- + Leverage <details> elements for expandable elements
- + Pay extra attention to navigation and page structure
- + Computers are not good at ensuring accessibility (overlays / AI)
- + Use code that is proven to be accessible, like Drupal
- + Do not trust common libraries to be accessible

Sustainable Content Editing

- + Define sections for proper heading structure
- + H2 section headings as required fields
 - Checkbox to optionally visually-hide section titles
- + Restrict the WYSIWYG to H3s and below
- + Insert images via the media library
- + Make ALT text required

Governance



Governance Characteristics

Education

- + Create pathways to knowledge that empower everyone (avoid silos)
- + Reinforce peer support

Accountability

- + Buy-in from the top is key
- + Champions
- + Policy that reinforces culture
- + Enshrine accessibility in your content governance processes

Content Governance Tips

- + Emphasize plain language
 - a. Tools like Hemmingway can help you visualize this
 - b. Flesch-Kincaid testing reports on the reading grade level of your content
 - c. 8th grade reading level reaches 80% of Americans
- + Write for inclusivity
- + Gatekeeping for posting inaccessible PDFs
- + Guides and documentation for crafting meaningful ALT text and more
- + Deploy an automated monitoring solution that reports on changes
- + Invest in manual vs automated translation whenever possible

Artificial Intelligence



- + Lacks emotion
- + Missing context
- + DAMs, CMS, Word: systems starting to bake this in



Human:

A fashionable person with styled white hair wearing bright makeup and dark blue clothing walks in front of a brick building.

AI:

A person in a garment.

https://bit.ly/3SWM6kh



Human:

Large pink flowers with green leaves and thorny stems digitally manipulated into the side profile of a statue against a black background.

AI:

A close-up of a flower.

https://bit.ly/3SWM6kh

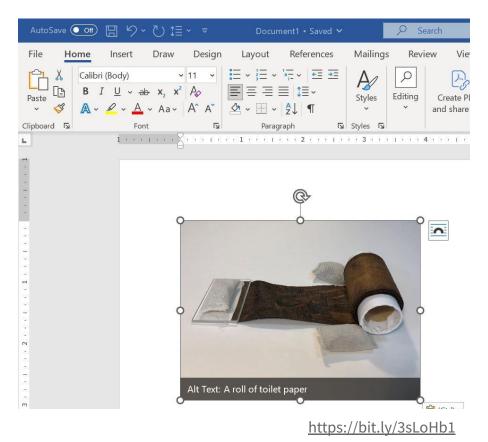


https://bit.ly/40Q1TU9

Human:

Steve Jobs at Macworld 2008 unveiling the new Macbook Air.

AI: Man in front of crowd



Human:

Rare 18th Century Ethiopic scroll presented partially unfurled from its archival storage.

AI: A roll of toilet paper

In Conclusion & Resources



In Conclusion

- + Incorporate accessibility throughout your redesign process
- + No one testing method is better than another; multiple are needed
- + Every automated test is different, but all are verbose
- + Heuristic analysis helps reveal usability-focused issues
- + User testing is ideal with specialized organizations
- + Prioritize and address accessibility issues once found
- + Content governance is foundational
- + AI can't solve all your problems

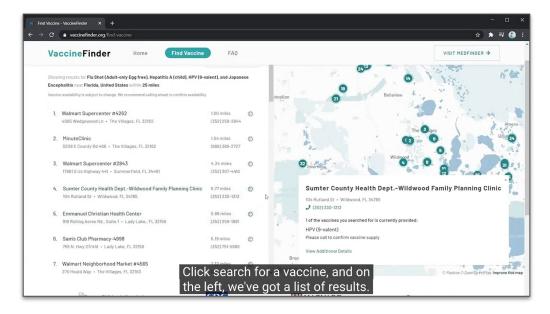
Helpful Resources:

Captioned video demo of how the previous VaccineFinder.org website passes automated tests, but fails screenreader and keyboard navigation

bit.ly/a11y-vfd

(9 minute long, captioned video)





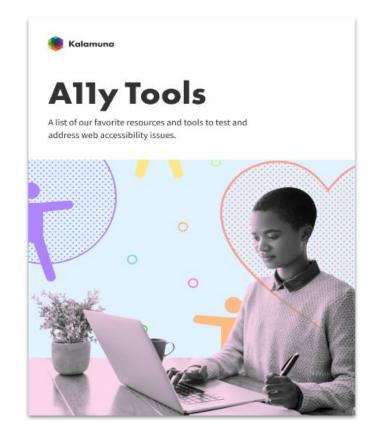
Helpful Resources

PDF of our favorite tools to test and address web accessibility issues

hello.kalamuna.com/a11y-tips

(link to download the PDF)





Helpful Resources

Blog post

kalamuna.com



Free Figma Plugins for Accessibility Design



Crispin Bailey Director of Design & UX



Eugene Park Senior UX/UI Designer

Questions



Connect with us.



info@kalamuna.com

kalamuna.com

@kalamuna

company/kalamuna

in

Thank you :)

