18:58:52 From Paola Gonzalez — Equalize Digital : Hey everyone, welcome to the meetup! Please remember to toggle your chat settings from talk to "Host and Panelists" to "Everyone."

Feel free to share in the chat where you are from and how you use WordPress 🙂

18:58:56 From Heather Bahr : I'm Heather, from Colorado, and I am a web developer with a client who uses Divi

18:59:58 From Betty Taylor : Hi! Scott from Colorado. We build most of our client's sites, and ours, with Divi.

19:00:17 From Rosalinda Huck to Hosts and panelists : Hello from Chico, California!

19:00:25 From Rob Watson to Hosts and panelists : Rob from Webidextrous.com in Orlando, FL. I also run a meetup: westorlandowp.org.

19:00:36 From Rosalinda Huck : Hello from Chico, California!

19:00:37 From Marcie Thiessen : Hello, I'm here from Central Texas. We are hot, hot, hot and still enjoying sunlight.

19:00:39 From Suzan Rae : I'm Suzie from Mississauga, Canada, building client sites with Divi for the last 8 years.

19:01:00 From Brian Bartlett to Hosts and panelists : Hi! Brian from Ventura, California. I adopted Divi in 2013 and have a lot of sites built in Divi amongst others…

19:01:01 From Diana Silveira : Hi Diana from Florida. Most of my clients and my page are in Divi.

19:01:12 From Shay Magaraci to Hosts and panelists : Hi, I'm Shay. I'm in Va Beach, VA. Build sites using Divi.

19:01:19 From Leandra Ganko : Hello from Durham, NC. I have been building sites in Divi for a few years, Wordpress sites for many more years than that! 🙂

19:01:24 From Megan Larson : Hello from Colorado!

19:01:24 From Joyce Davis : Hi, Joyce Davis. I'm in the San Francisco East Bay Area. A freelance Graphic Designer.

19:01:25 From Lucas Pastis : I am Luke. Graduate Student from San Jose State in Library Science.

19:01:40 From Adrienne Grace : Hi from Anaheim, California! Sunny and warm as usual.

19:01:43 From April Pastis to Hosts and panelists : Hi from Visalia, California. Website developer and host who uses Divi with most of my clients

19:01:45 From Ron Amick to Hosts and panelists : Ron Amick, owner of Lucky Cat Creative, North Hollywood CA. Divi user for ~twelve years.

19:01:54 From Aly Pearcy : Hi Everyone! I'm Alysia from Port Angeles, WA. Been building Divi sites for many years.

19:01:59 From John O'Neill to Hosts and panelists : Hello, I am a professor of graphic design at the University of Minnesota Duluth where I teach UI/UX and accessibility. Our students are required to use Divi in each of our 4 UI/UX design classes.

19:02:14 From Paola Gonzalez — Equalize Digital : Hey everyone, welcome to the meetup! Please remember to toggle your chat settings

from talk to "Host and Panelists" to "Everyone."

Feel free to share in the chat where you are from and how you use WordPress 🙂

19:02:15 From Alice Wershing : Hi from Knoxville TN. Our local Wordpress group is regrouping and I am trying my best to keep accessibility in the forefront as they develop a website for the group. I'll be presenting at the December meeting.
19:02:39 From Ricky Onsman : Hi from Corrimal, Australia.
19:02:44 From Diane Van Etten : Hi, from north Idaho!
19:02:52 From Aubrey Gross : Hi from north central Texas! I've been using Divi for a while now for my personal websites and am now using it for clients.
19:03:01 From Melissa Miller : Hi, I'm an AI assistant helping Melissa Miller take notes for this meeting. Follow along the transcript here: https://otter.ai/u/-_HA_GOesQrGrkrbMpRHLopoXuU?utm_source=va_chat_link_1

You'll also be able to see screenshots of key moments, add highlights, comments, or action items to anything being said, and get an automatic summary after the meeting.
19:03:20 From Alex Howley : Hi, I'm Alex from Fort Worth Texas! Yep, still hot. I help manage a Divi focused meet-up locally and am excited to learn more about how we can keep our client sites accessible
19:03:39 From John O'Neill to Hosts and panelists : Will the recording of this meeting be emailed?
19:03:42 From Rob Watson : Sorry, I didn't have it set to Everyone before. Rob from Webidextrous.com in Orlando, FL. I also run a meetup: westorlandowp.org.
19:03:56 From David Lake : Hello, David from Sacramento here. Developing websites for 20+ years, almost exclusively in WordPress/Divi these days.   Corresponding with Elegant Themes re accessibility concerns drives me batty!
19:03:58 From Jean Werk : Hello from Sydney, Australia. I build sites with Divi and strive to make them as accessible as possible.
19:04:07 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : @John, yes! Amber will say where you can find it during the announcements
19:05:43 From Marcie Thiessen : Hi Alex! I will see you at your next group meeting. LOL
19:06:01 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : Join our Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/wordpress.accessibility
19:07:03 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : Find upcoming events and past recordings: https://equalizedigital.com/meetup

Join our latest to get news and event announcements: https://equalizedigital.com/focus-state/
19:07:08 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : Tune in to our podcast https://accessibilitycraft.com/
19:07:45 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : You can contact me or Amber during the meetup or email us at meetup@equalizedigital.com

19:09:14 From Narada Thomas to Hosts and panelists : I am deaf and I am able to enjoy these sessions thanks to more accurate captions. Thanks to organizers for including them and sponsors for enabling them.
19:09:21 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : Find us on X: https://x.com/EqualizeDigital
19:09:54 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : GoDaddy's Website: https://www.godaddy.com/hosting/wordpress-hosting?isc=wp30&utm_source=equalizedigital_sponsorship&utm_medium=events&utm_campaign=en-us_events_prg_awa_partners_part_open_001

GoDaddy on X: https://x.com/GoDaddy
19:12:07 From Adrienne Grace : YAY! I'm in!

19:12:22 From Scott Taylor : 🍺
19:13:29 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : Register here: https://2024.wpaccessibility.day/
19:16:23 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : These are Renee's slides: https://elevagedigital.com/improving-divi-accessibility-presentation/
19:17:02 From Jean Kelly to Hosts and panelists : Will you email the links in the chat? They're not clickable for me and I can't copy them.
19:17:41 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital to Jean KellyAnd all panelists : They should be clickable. But, yes. We add all the links to the meetup recap
19:18:28 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : https://equalizedigital.com/wordpress-page-builder-accessibility/
19:19:05 From Diane Van Etten : Thank you, Amber, for that link from your site
19:20:58 From Jean Kelly to Hosts and panelists : Paola, thank you the links are working now.
19:27:19 From Paola Gonzalez – Equalize Digital : https://diviplugins.com/downloads/divi-module-builder/
19:28:27 From Alex Howley : It is not, from what I understand
19:29:05 From Diana Silveira : i don't really know – but I was looking at Divi Accessibility this week. It seems like they maintain it but they are not using GitHub right – so the new version doesn't appear in the sidebar.
19:30:41 From Rob Watson : One question I keep running up against is how do you balance accessibility with beautiful design?
19:32:44 From Sherri Goodman : This his great info, wish I could stay. Will have to watch the replay. :-D
19:33:36 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : Whoops…
19:36:33 From Diana Silveira : I have not seen skip to footer before. Is that recommended?
19:37:09 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : That's really handy actually that it can target multiple IDs.
19:37:42 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : Skip to footer is less common but can be helpful in certain situations. Genesis was on of the first themes to add that.
19:38:11 From Diana Silveira : thanks Amber. I can see that.

19:38:12 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : The only skip link that is required is skip to content.
19:38:49 From Megan Larson : I am so comfortable using Divi...I'd hate to look for something else. But after seeing how bad Divi failed the accessibility testing, I've started to be pushed in that direction 😖
19:40:27 From Diana Silveira : Megan, I hear you. I feel like if they put just a little effort into accessibility, they could easily address/fix a lot of issues.
19:41:03 From Aubrey Gross : I hear you, Megan. The fact that they're not even paying attention to accessibility is disheartening, though.
19:41:58 From Diana Silveira : Aubrey, I agree its disheartening.
19:43:13 From Ron Amick : One of the amazing oversights on the part of EG in Divi is the default viewport setting, which would always disallow zooming — kind of a necessity to the many sight-challenged folks. It is a very simple line of code that people have asked them to change (it is possible that they have by now — I have not checked.)
19:44:12 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : Unfortunately when I tested two months ago it was still disabled.
19:44:24 From Diana Silveira : Ron— still an issue.
19:45:04 From Ron Amick : Unbelievable. Duh, ET. Time to wake up dudes!
19:45:16 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : 💯
19:48:55 From Ron Amick : Divi by some estimations is he third most popular theme, after Astra and Hello (Elementor), with 2.2M websites using it. They really need to fix this stuff.
19:48:55 From Rob Watson : How does everyone keep the total cost of ownership (TCO) for a site in control when infusing it with accessibility throughout its whole lifecycle (not just when it's launched)?
19:49:14 From Ron Amick : Builtwith trends survey: https://trends.builtwith.com/framework/wordpress-theme/traffic/Entire-Internet
19:49:17 From Shay Magaraci to Hosts and panelists : Any thoughts on adding UserWay or accessiBe?
19:49:35 From Heather Bahr : It should be built in during development. Labeling things correctly and using the correct tags/elements shouldn't be a huge lift.
19:49:40 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : If you don't mind adding some of these questions in the Q&A, we'll answer them.
19:50:44 From Rob Watson : @ron I firmly believe it's a function of how hard it is to do web design if you're non-technical, and Divi erases many barriers to entry for a lot of people. Unfortunately, the accessibility sacrifice is the price that is paid for that simplicity. Along with code bloat on pages. I say this as a loyal Divi user/provider because it makes my clients so much happier than other builders.
19:52:29 From Joyce Davis : 👍🏻
19:54:20 From Ron Amick : @Rob the biggest issue, as I see it, is the sloppy bloated code that Divi creates, which builders don't typically see — if it was truly clean HTML code, many of the accessibility

issues would automatically be improved.
19:56:39 From Alex Howley : @ron think that's part of the Divi 5 update. They're basically rebuilding the theme from scratch to reduce the bloat
19:58:25 From Diana Silveira : I know they are saying 5 will not start with enhancements but I am hoping its the foundation for getting accessibility going. Its very frustrating right now and there support is not very helpful with accessibility questions.
19:59:45 From Ron Amick : Bravo, Renee Dunn, super presentation. Really valuable info and links!
19:59:45 From Alex Howley : Yeah, props to Renee. I'm gonna test this on our sites when I go to work tomorrow
20:01:21 From Diane Van Etten : This has been absolutely amazing, Renee! Thank you, everyone!!
20:01:43 From Ron Amick : GeneratePress is a great alternative . . . but it is not the same kind of WYSIWYG Page Builder — you have to embrace the default WP block editor. GenerateBlocks helps a great deal to extend the most-used blocks.
20:02:29 From Alex Howley : It's a complete rebuild, from what I heard
20:02:30 From April Pastis : This is a response I got when I asked directly: "

Hi April! 👋

Sorry for the inconvenience! Divi is not fully WCAG compliant. We recommend using this free 3rd party plugin that improves Divi's accessibility: https://github.com/campuspress/divi-accessibility

This article from our blog should also be helpful.

We are aware that Divi is currently not fully WCAG/ADA compliant and it's something we have a bug report open and a full feature in order to fix the accessibility problems. I don't have any ETA at the moment, as a lot of our resources are targeted to Divi 5, which will allow us to release new features and functionality considerably faster, including accessibility.

Hope this helps, we are definitely taking accessibility seriously and have in plan to make our products more accessible, including the areas pointed out in the above testings.
Cristi
Elegant Themes"
20:02:32 From Rob Watson : Yes, Divi 5 is ALL refactoring.
20:02:34 From Megan Larson : I just played around with Kadence today...which feels like a great alternative.
20:02:55 From Rosalinda Huck : Kadence is awesome!
20:03:51 From Heather Bahr : Another vote for Kadence. It's my preferred builder.
20:04:40 From Diana Silveira : Renee- thank for sharing today. this is helpful and I don't feel so alone in my battle to make my divi sites accessible.

20:04:58 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/

20:07:10 From Diana Silveira : they have facebook groups. Not sure if they are listening.

20:07:44 From Diana Silveira : The divi people post within these groups so they are quasi-official.

20:07:46 From Rob Watson : Nick Roach is usually responsive on Facebook groups. By that, I mean he answers. But he doesn't make promises about future features if they're not already on the public roadmap.

20:08:17 From David Lake : ‹Thanks. It just strikes me that as individual developers submitting on their forums, we don't have much weight; but if we could get a big group to lobby them, maybe we could get more traction.

20:08:33 From Diana Silveira : i agree David.

20:08:50 From Rob Watson : Lobbying doesn't work. Voting with dollars does, though. Unfortunately, those of us with LDTs don't have much voting power on that front.

20:09:03 From Rob Watson : *LTDs

20:09:41 From gerson l to Hosts and panelists : When subscribers start leaving, they'll probably put a bit more weight on it.

20:10:01 From David Lake : Right. CA 1757 may change that if it passes.

20:10:18 From David Lake : See https://stopab1757.com/

20:10:38 From Rob Watson : Divi 5 promises to remove the shortcode dependencies.

20:10:43 From Ron Amick : Apparently some 25% of all web users claim at least one disability, whether that is a permanent or temporary issue (like a broken wrist). That is a massive market that should interest all players including ET to do the right thing.

20:11:05 From Jennifer Rogala : Are there themes and page builders that you recommend that do adhere to WCAG?

20:11:15 From FJ Nilsen to Hosts and panelists : That's slowly changing, is it not? Yes, the California law, but I believe EU as well (developer and agency can also be held liable)

20:11:22 From gerson l to Hosts and panelists : kadence

20:12:09 From Rosalinda Huck : @Jennifer Kadence really does score high for A11y. I'd recommend that one.

20:12:31 From Ron Amick : No tool can be 100% WCAG compliant, not when any user can forget to put Alt Text on a new image added, or ignores what the heading levels (h1, h2, h3 etc.) mean . . .

20:12:51 From Ron Amick : Do not use any overlay.

20:13:11 From Ron Amick : https://overlayfactsheet.com/en/

20:13:14 From Paola Gonzalez — Equalize Digital : https://overlayfactsheet.com/en/

20:13:39 From Jennifer Rogala : @Rosalinda Thank you

20:13:40 From FJ Nilsen to Hosts and panelists : Overlays cannot fix many things, heading levels skipped, unusable alternative text, semantic issues with HTML to name a few.

20:13:41 From Ron Amick : (Sorry, @Paola . . . didn't mean to step on

you . . .)
20:14:08 From Paola Gonzalez — Equalize Digital : https://www.lflegal.com/2024/07/accessibe-class-action/
20:14:48 From Paola Gonzalez — Equalize Digital : @Ron, you are fine! I'm not too fast at googling stuff 😅
20:15:32 From Ron Amick : I had it handy, Paola. (Thanks for the links in general.)
20:18:17 From Rosalinda Huck : Very nicely put, Amber!
20:19:45 From Marcie Thiessen : For all the different target audiences, there is going to be a lot of confusion for website owners. IF someone owns a firearm training business, their target audience would not be towards the visually impaired. So, some of the accommodations would be difficult to push to those website owners. I see education would be important, but how do you balance fully accessible if your business inherently eliminates a segment of the populace?
20:20:18 From Bri Norton : We had a great discussion on accessibility and design on an ozewai.org ask the professionals https://youtu.be/cxO9hH_YrDE
20:20:54 From Rob Watson : The problem comes in when content managers create images and text and small designs.
20:22:30 From Alice Wershing to Hosts and panelists : I am trying to help with my church
20:23:55 From Alice Wershing to Hosts and panelists : 'I am trying to help with my church website and that is exactly what has happened. Someone who teaches web design at our local University did the original design and it was testing out with few errors in the first few months, but now there are lots of needs. I am hoping I can help until we hire someone, but I'm not being heard that hiring someone who can code doesn't mean they know accessibility.
20:25:38 From Megan Larson : Many of my clients are clueless and/or don't care about accessibility. I always build the sites with best practices in mind and have to educate on why I did some things the way I did.
20:25:48 From Ron Amick : I do not charge separately for accessibility efforts. Good design and HTML coding addresses 90% of the issues. I do charge for assessments of existing sites and for training users to create content responsibly or otherwise do development.
20:27:54 From Ron Amick : Just tell you clients how large the market is (those with disabilities in these areas: visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, language, learning, and neurological) and do they want to leave all of that market out of their sales targets? Easy to justify cost that way.
20:28:28 From Rob Watson : Not every website sells widgets that make them money. Many are non-profits with razor thin margins and tiny budgets.
20:28:35 From Megan Larson : Absolutely!
20:29:02 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : https://equalizedigital.com/terms-of-service/
20:29:02 From Ron Amick : Designers and developers will soon be liable

along with website owners . . . just saying.
20:29:23 From Amber Hinds, Equalize Digital : https://theadminbar.com/accessibility-weekly/
20:29:24 From Rob Watson : I'm in The Admin Bar!
20:29:39 From Renee Dunn to Hosts and panelists : https://elevagedigital.com/services/website-accessibility-audits/
20:29:50 From Renee Dunn : https://elevagedigital.com/services/website-accessibility-audits/
20:30:08 From Rosalinda Huck : @Ron… it's already possibly tipping in that direction in California… AB 1757
20:30:17 From Ricky Onsman : Great presentation, Renee. I don't use Divi but this was really enlightening!
20:30:17 From Alice Wershing : Always a great group, I learn so much.
20:30:21 From Rob Watson : Very helpful. Thank you!
20:30:22 From Diana Silveira : thank you — this was wonderful.
20:30:28 From Jean Werk : Thank you!
20:30:28 From Aly Pearcy : Thank you!
20:30:29 From Marcie Thiessen : Thank you
20:30:30 From gerson l to Hosts and panelists : Thanks!