Method

# Accessibility audit

A systematic review of a site or application to check whether it meets accessibility guidelines, such as WCAG, and where it fails.



In Spanish
*Auditoría de accesibilidad*

Origin
W3C, WCAG-EM (2014)

Output
A list of the barriers found, each with the guideline it breaks and its severity

## What it's for

It helps find the barriers that keep people with disabilities from using a product, before those barriers reach them.

## Key elements

### A representative sample
Review the most important screens and tasks, not just the home page.

### Tool and person
Automated tools catch part of it; the rest requires manual review, with keyboard and screen reader.

### Each failure, with its guideline
That way you know what to fix, why and what is most urgent.

## How it's done

1 

**Define the scope** and choose a representative sample of screens.

2 

**Review each screen** against the guidelines, with tools and by hand.

3 

**Report what you found** with priorities and proposed fixes.

## Applications in design

### When to use it

Before launching a product and whenever it changes a lot, or when the law requires meeting the guidelines.

### Avoid

Approving a page just because an automated tool found no errors.

### Don't fall for it

Meeting the guidelines doesn't guarantee it's easy to use; also test with people with disabilities.

## Connections

**Builds on**

- WCAG guidelines

**Used by**

- Accessible design

**Related to**

- Usability testing

## Authors and works

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| 2014 | **Eric Velleman and Shadi Abou-Zahra** | Edited the W3C methodology for evaluating websites in five steps: define the scope, explore the site, choose a sample, review it and report. |
| 2023 | **W3C** | WCAG 2.2 are the guidelines each screen is checked against. |

### Sources

**Original sources**


- Velleman, E., & Abou-Zahra, S. (Eds.) (2014). Website Accessibility Conformance Evaluation Methodology (WCAG-EM) 1.0. W3C. View source (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG-EM/)
- W3C (2023). Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2. W3C Recommendation, October 5, 2023. View source (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/)


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