

Introduction to Accessibility

Tools, tips and tricks

By Bev Walter





Accessibility is Inclusivity

It means all people can do what they need to do, in a similar amount of time and effort as someone that does not have special requirements.

Equity, Everybody, Any where, Community, Diversity, Universality, Usability, and Inclusion are all ACCESSIBILITY words.





Misconceptions

1 It's difficult and complicated

2 It requires technical knowledge

3 It's expensive

4 It doesn't **REALLY** matter



Inclusion

Technology doesn't make access difficult. People do. Talk you your users and be open to the learning that will bring.

Identify as disabled at some time

25%

Minority groups collectively make up over

1/2 NZ

Who are you willing to exclude

???



Main principles

1 Perceivable.
That a user can see what they need to on a page.

3 Understandable.
That a user understands
the page and what they

need to do/achieve on it.

2 Operable.
That a user can use the page as intended.

4 Robust.

That your page doesn't break - especially for those using assistive tech.

Guidelines

These come from W3C or World Wide Web Consortium

Previously we were working to World Content Accessibility Guide 2.1

Updated in June 2021 to the current WCAG guide 2.2 - introducing 9 new recommendations

Next year we expect WCAG 3







Printed documents, and presentations

- Plain English and readability
- Size of text
- Formatting and grouping
- Imagery and representation
- Sound transitions



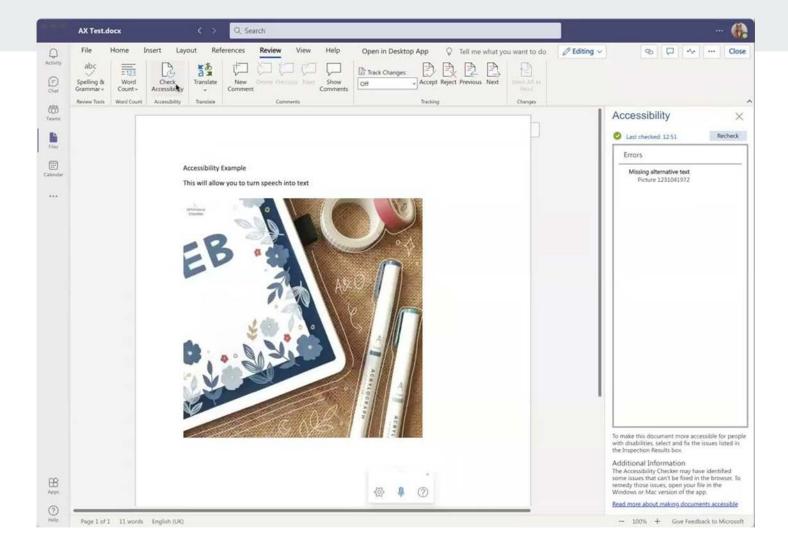


Microsoft suite

- Word Accessibility tools
- Powerpoint
 Guides on how to create
 better presentations at the
 British dyslexia association
 (www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)





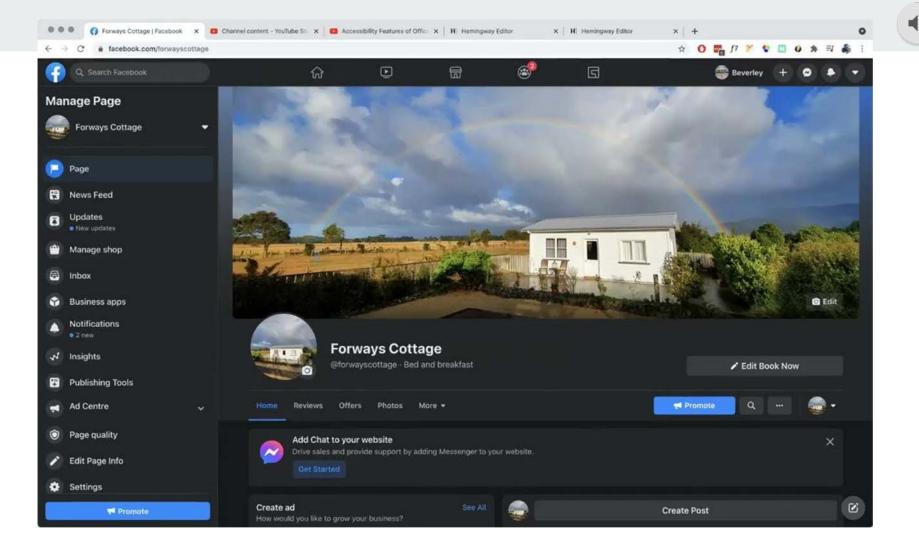




Social media

- Facebook
- Youtube
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Tiktok







Quick digital checks

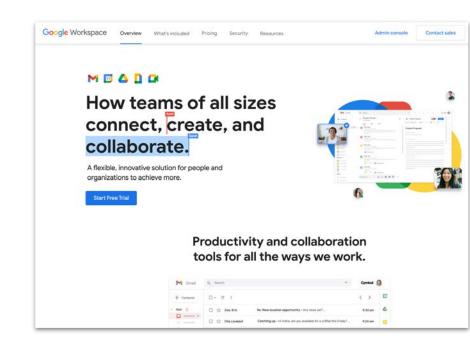
- Unplug your mouse and tab
- Zoom in to 400%
- Turn images off in your browser
- Use a contrast checker
- More easy checks at www.w3.org/WAI/testevaluate/preliminary/



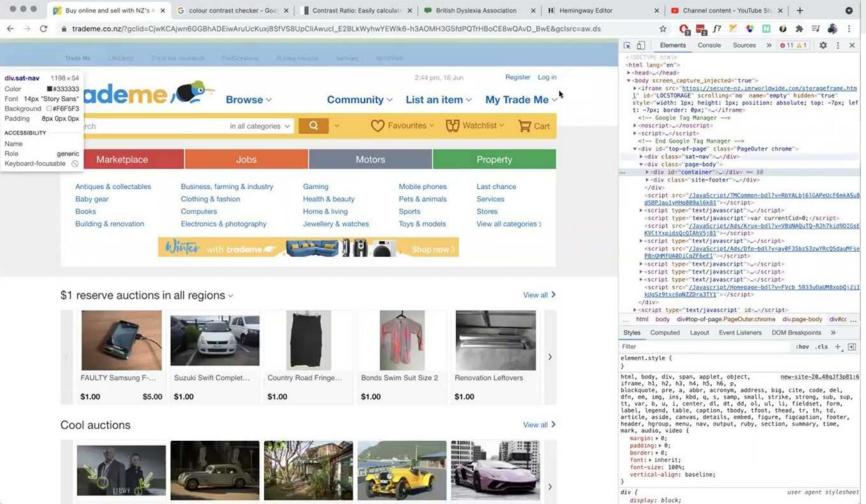


Google applications

- Google Apps
 Are preferred by the
 Neurodiverse community
- Chrome & Developer Tools
 It has built Accessibility
 checkers and automated
 testing with Lighthouse







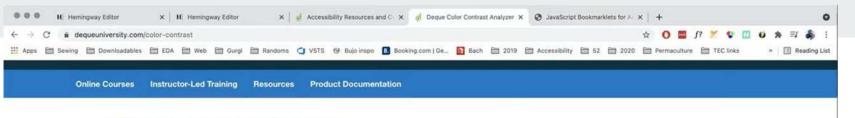


Additional help

- Hemingway app
- Deque university
- Axe automated checker
- Bookmarklets
- Your voice. Talk about it!

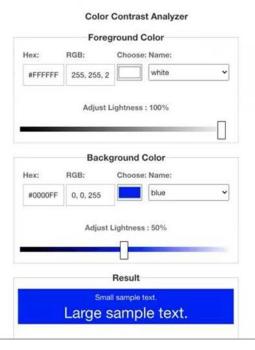


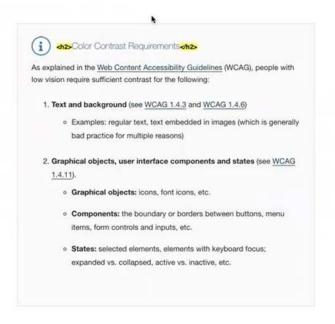




Deque Color Contrast Analyzer

Free online tool for evaluating color contrast according to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).





Proposed solution

Many accessibility guides out there are too prescriptive - making it seem like a checklist, too aspirational - painting a utopian picture that doesn't drive action, or too charity-driven - driving the point that people with disabilities are to be pitied.

Inaccessible products are broken products. The first step to fix them is to give a damn.

Actions



1 Talk about it

2 Stay curious





3 Baby steps

