Accessibility Compliance Review

3 hours

Design

Accessibility is essential for legal, ethical, and business reasons. This exercise guides you to systematically evaluate interfaces against WCAG. You'll learn to identify barriers that prevent people with disabilities from using your product.

H HOW TO RUN

1 Preparation — 20 min

Define the review scope (pages, features). Select a WCAG conformance level (A, AA, AAA). Gather testing tools and assistive technologies. Create an issue tracking template.

2 Automated Testing — 30 min

Run automated accessibility scanners (axe, WAVE). Document all flagged issues. Verify any false positives. Note issues needing manual review.

3 Manual Keyboard Testing — 30 min

Navigate the entire interface using only a keyboard. Check focus visibility and order. Test all interactive elements. Document any keyboard traps and issues.

4 Screen Reader Testing — 45 min

Test using VoiceOver (Mac/iOS) or NVDA (Windows). Verify all content is announced correctly. Check form labels and error messages. Test how dynamic content is announced.

5 Visual Review — 30 min

Check color contrast ratios. Test using color blindness simulators. Verify how text resizing behaves. Check motion and animation controls.

6 Synthesis — 25 min

Compile all issues by severity. Map issues to WCAG success criteria. Prioritize remediation efforts. Create a compliance report.

KEY TIP

Focus on these areas: Forms and interactive elements.

O OBJECTIVES

- Apply WCAG guidelines to interface reviews
- Use automated and manual testing effectively
- Test with assistive technologies (screen readers, keyboard)
- Document accessibility issues with remediation guidance
- Prioritize fixes by impact and effort

M MATERIALS

- ☐ Automated scanner (axe, WAVE, Lighthouse)
- ☐ Color contrast checker
- ☐ Screen readers (VoiceOver, NVDA, JAWS)
- ☐ Color blindness simulator
- ☐ WCAG checklist for your target conformance level
- ☐ Issue tracking template
- ☐ Compliance report template

P PARTICIPANTS

2 to 4 people

F FACILITATOR NOTES

REMEMBER

- Navigation and wayfinding.
- Content structure and headings.
- Dynamic content and updates.
- Error handling and recovery.
- Common issues to watch for: Missing alt text.
- Poor color contrast.
- Keyboard traps.
- Missing form labels.
- Non-semantic HTML. It's easy to miss something, so double-check your work!