What's Changed in WCAG 2.2

Level A and Level AA Quick Reference Guide

Overview

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), created by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) are the internationally accepted standard for incorporating accessibility into digital assets, including websites, applications, and other software. The newest version of the WCAG, version 2.2, became an official recommendation on October 5th, 2023.

Since the WCAG is a living document and gets updated periodically, WCAG 2.2 is slightly different than the older WCAG 2.1. Most of these differences come in the form of additional success criteria; however, there is also one success criterion that was removed.

This document lists all Level A and Level AA changes in WCAG 2.2. While there are 3 additional Level AAA success criteria that have been added to WCAG 2.2, Level AAA is not currently (as of the publishing of this document) a requirement to meet most compliance standards in countries around the world. All information in this quick reference guide directly references the W3C's WCAG 2.2 document, **which you can view in detail at this link**.

Removed Success Criteria

- 4.1.1: Parsing (Level A)

Added Success Criteria

- 2.4.11: Focus Not Obscured (Level AA)
- 2.5.7: Dragging Movements (Level AA)
- 2.5.8: Target Size (Level AA)
- 3.2.6: Consistent Help (Level A)
- 3.3.7: Redundant Entry (Level A)
- 3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Level AA)

The following sections list the success criteria changes, including each success criterion's exact verbiage and a failure example of each issue. All examples are directly from the **W3C's What's New in WCAG 2.2 page**.

What's Been Removed

Only one success criterion was removed with the update from WCAG 2.1 to version 2.2 – 4.1.1: Parsing.

4.1.1: Parsing

Success Criteria 4.1.1 Parsing has been removed and has not been replaced by another one. This criterion dealt with following appropriate HTML standards and requirements.

The W3C specifically states, "With today's technology, accessibility issues that would have failed 4.1.1 will fail other criteria, such as **Info and Relationships (SC 1.3.1)** or **Name, Role, Value (SC 4.1.2)**. Therefore 4.1.1 is no longer needed for accessibility."

New Additions

There are 6 new success criteria in the WCAG 2.2 that fall under Level A and Level AA requirements.

2.4.11: Focus Not Obscured (Level AA)

When a user interface component receives keyboard focus, the component is not entirely hidden due to the author-created content.

Example of a 2.4.11 failure:

"This page has a big banner that's always across the bottom (a sticky footer). When I move focus to items, some are hidden behind the banner, and I can't see them."

2.5.7: Dragging Movements (Level AA)

All functionality that uses a dragging movement for operation can be achieved by a single pointer without dragging, unless dragging is essential or the functionality is determined by the user agent and not modified by the author.

Example of a 2.5.7 failure:

"I cannot hold down the mouse button and drag it accurately enough to move the items in this list."

2.5.8: Target Size (Level AA)

The size of the target for pointer inputs is at least 24 by 24 CSS pixels, with exceptions for Spacing, Equivalence, Inline, User Agent Control, and Essential.

Example of a 2.5.8 failure:

"The buttons are so close, I hit 'Cancel' when going for 'Submit.' Then I have to start all over again."

3.2.6: Consistent Help (Level A)

If a web page contains any of the following help mechanisms, and those mechanisms are repeated on multiple web pages or within a set of web pages, they occur in the same relative order to other page content, unless a change is initiated by the user:

- Human contact details,
- Human contact mechanism,
- Self-help option, or
- A fully automated contact mechanism.

Example of a 3.2.6 failure:

"Whenever I use the online app to schedule my medical appointments, I can't remember what to do at each step. I've seen a Chat option in some places but can't find it now."

3.3.7: Redundant Entry (Level A)

Information previously entered by or provided to the user that is required to be entered again in the same process is either auto-populated or available for the user to select, except when:

- Re-entering the information is essential,
- The information is required to ensure the security of the content, or
- Previously entered information is no longer valid.

Example of a 3.3.7 failure:

"Whenever I use the online app to schedule my medical appointments, I have to re-type some information that I entered in a previous step."

3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Level AA)

A cognitive function test (such as remembering a password or solving a puzzle) is not required for any step in an authentication process unless that step provides at least one of the following:

- **Alternative:** Another authentication method that does not rely on a cognitive function test.
- **Mechanism:** A mechanism is available to assist the user in completing the cognitive function test.
- **Object Recognition:** The cognitive function test is to recognize objects.
- **Personal Content:** The cognitive function test is to identify non-text content the user provided to the website.

Example of a 3.3.8 failure:

"I can never remember my password, it's really hard to get into this app."

WCAG 2.2 Certification

Ensure your websites and software platforms conform to WCAG 2.2!

Certification includes:

- Multi-Audit, Human Led Process
- Detailed Reporting
- Ongoing Compliance Management
- Unlimited Technical Support
- Independent Certification
- Training and Education
- Litigation Support

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References

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