

Accessibility

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Plan for today

Web accessibility challenges

Demo: screen reader use and navigation

Demo: Accessibility examples

Both positive and negative...

Summary of takeaways from demo

Access challenges

Many are not unique to web

Fonts, colors, styling

Low contrast colors, small text size, hard to read fonts

E.g. [contrast checker](#)

Animation, movement

E.g. text that scrolls by quickly

Spacing and layout

E.g. right-aligned text can be easy to miss

Access challenges

Some are more specific

Navigation challenges

Assume use of mouse

Overridden keyboard shortcuts

Element labeling and identification

E.g. everything is a div

Some UX (menus, toolbars) don't have HTML elements

Takeaways

Use semantic elements

Meaning aids navigation, searching

Use CSS to suppress default styles

Label elements clearly

Images: use `alt` text

Form controls: use `<label>`

When setting colors/fonts/etc. in CSS, ensure there is a text description

E.g. don't just mark same text red or green

For general elements, use `aria-label`

But this is a bit of a "hammer;" prefer more specific techniques

Takeaways

Ensure DOM element ordering makes sense

E.g. don't put footer as first child of body

Beware when using absolute/relative position, Flexbox `reverse`, etc.

Manage the user focus

Use `.focus()` to move focus programmatically

Draw attention to new/changed content, dialogs, etc.

Set `tabindex="-1"` to make elements focusable via JS

Restrict focus to subset of elements

E.g. when elements aren't interactable (dialogs)

See code on lectures page for example

Takeaways

Be careful of keyboard and mouse events

Provide alternatives to drag/hover

Be careful about overriding standard keyboard shortcuts and behavior

ARIA

ARIA defines HTML attributes used by assistive tech

Should still prefer more general techniques (e.g. semantic elements)

But provides more flexibility

Examples of ARIA roles

Allows you to decouple HTML from assistive tech behavior

Often requires a fair amount of JS to work correctly