



Syracuse University Libraries

Web Accessibility Testing Anyone Can Perform: Keyboard Access

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Web accessibility is **important**.

If you disagree... you're **WRONG!**

Some accessibility requires expert knowledge

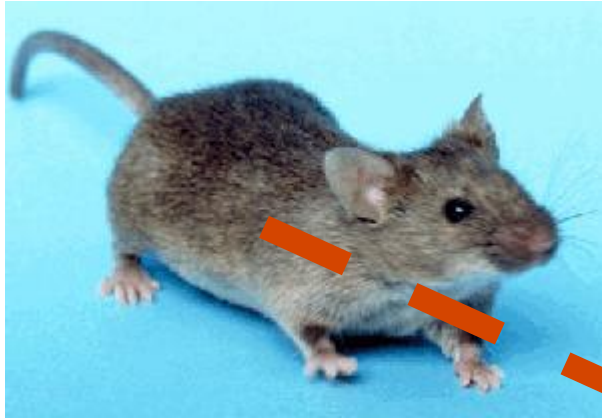
ARIA markup

Writing good ALT text

Knowing how to use a screen reader

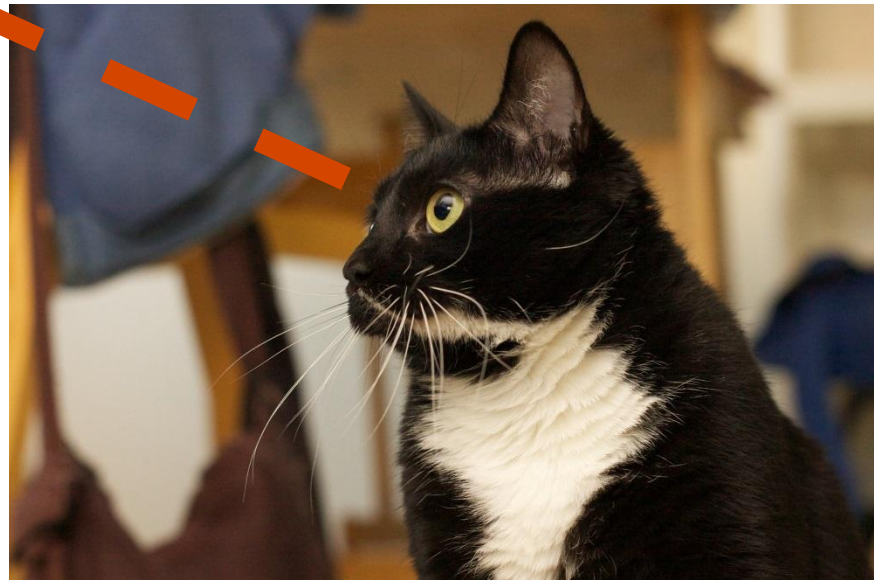
Here's a simple but critical accessibility test that **any web user** can do (not just developers).

Consider your mouse, touchpad, etc.



Imagine it's a
real mouse...

... and you have
a cat nearby



In other words...



YOUR MOUSE IS NO MORE!

Without the mouse, try to use the site **using the keyboard**.

Tab	Move to next link, button, or form field
Shift + Tab	Move to previous link, button, etc.
Enter	Trigger current link or button
Space	Trigger interactive element (dropdown menus, buttons, checkboxes, etc.)
Up / Down	Navigate menus, choose radio buttons, adjust number inputs
Right / Left	Navigate menus, adjust sliders, etc.
Escape	Close menu or modal

Ask yourself:

Is it the **same experience** as using a mouse?

Can you **navigate to everything** on the page?

Can you **manipulate everything**?

Do you always **know where you are**?

Any **hidden elements** you can tab to?

Can you **see** those hidden elements?

Is the **pattern of navigation** smooth or chaotic?

This is **keyboard accessibility.**

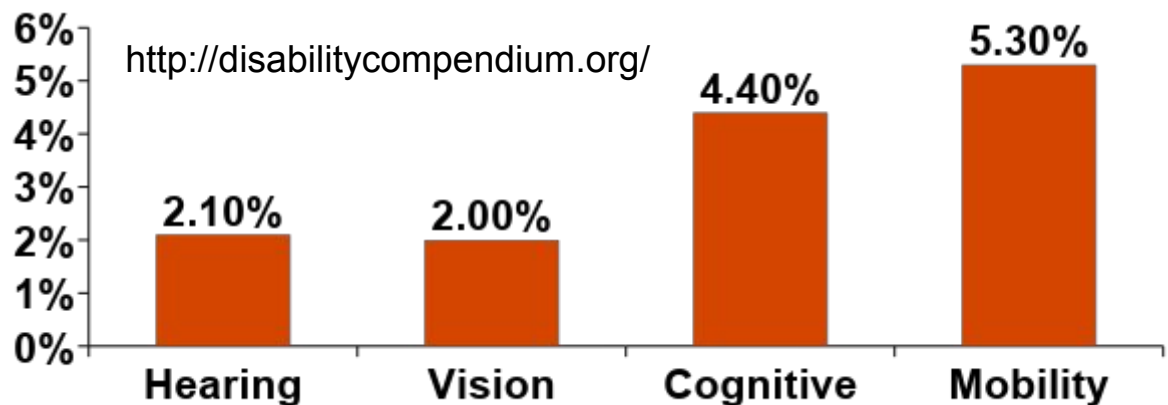
Why Keyboard Accessibility Matters

When we think about web accessibility, we tend to focus on blind and low-vision users.

Physical impairments that impact mobility (fine and gross motor control) are more common:

Arthritis, Paralysis, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, ALS, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, etc.

**Prevalence of Types
of Disabilities Ages
18-64 in the US (2013)**



More Benefits of Keyboard Accessibility

Blind users and mice do not get along.

(no... blind people are not cats)

A keyboard accessible page will cooperate better with screen readers!

And there are even weird folks who like to mix it up between mouse and keyboard interactions.

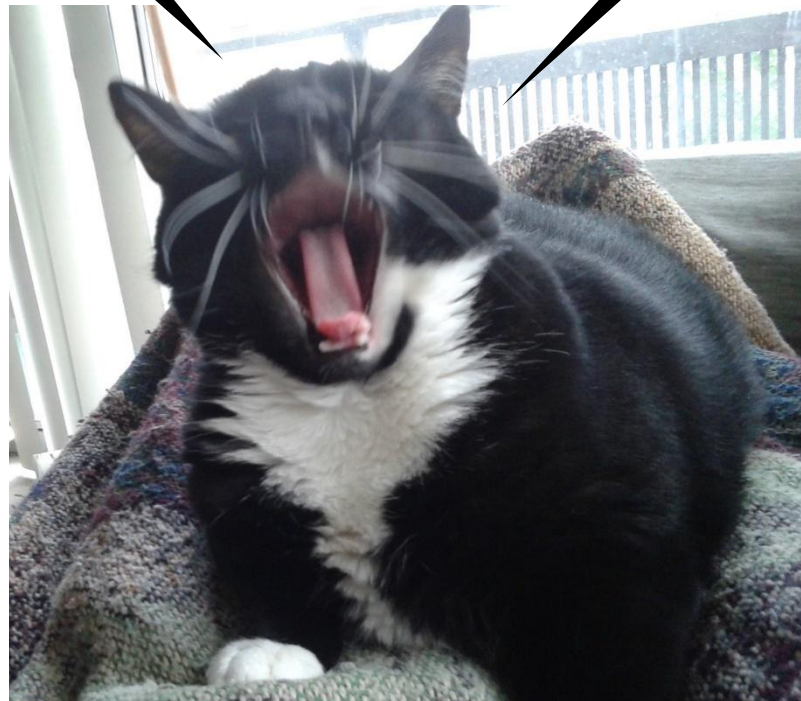
(I am weird)

Keyboard accessibility is
awesome...

...but it can be even more
AWESOME!!!

MORE!?

AWESOME?



A Challenge to You (and Vendors)

Imagine your local IT Services or a vendor offers up a new website and shows off its swanky new features...

1. Ask them “Is it accessible?”
2. No matter their answer, run a quick keyboard navigation check right then and there.
3. Hold them to meeting this basic tenet of accessibility.
4. Change the world.

Imagine hordes of librarians putting developers and vendors on the spot to provide accessible sites. **GLORIOUS!!**

But what if they ask how to fix it?

The answers are out there and here!

Web Accessibility Resources

WebAIM:

<https://webaim.org/techniques/keyboard/>

University of Washington Accessibility Guides:

<http://uw.edu/accessibility/checklist/keyboard/>

The #NoMouse Challenge:

<http://nomouse.org/>

W3C ARIA Best Practices:

https://www.w3.org/TR/wai-aria-practices/#aria_ex

The Technical Details

Arrange HTML in the desired reading order

Use **tabindex** to control navigation order

Hidden elements (i.e. skip links) should appear when they gain focus

Use the **:focus** selector to indicate keyboard focus

All interactive elements (tooltips, dropdowns, modals) should **respond to focus and key events**

Use semantic elements like `<a>` and `<button>` and just ***say NO to the onclick attribute.***

Be careful when rolling out your own GUI widgets!!

To Summarize

A Simple Accessibility Test for All Users:

1. Try navigating your site with only the keyboard
2. Report and / or fix any problems
3. Accessibility and Usability for the win!

So remember...

NO MICE!!!



Contact Information

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