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AUDIT

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ADA

Building an action plan to advance accessibility at your organization

Featured speaker: Gina Bhawalkar, Principal Analyst, Forrester

ARIA

WCAG

Dzień dobry Czes

Please introduce yourself in the chat!

- Your name
- Where you're calling in from today

Today we will cover:

The digital accessibility landscape

How to advance your organization's maturity

Share and learn from your peers

Discussion

Your action plan & next steps

(25 minutes)
(45 minutes)
(30 minutes)
(10 minutes)
(10 minutes)

Digital Accessibility Landscape

Trends Challenges Maturity model for standing up an accessibility program

How many websites are still inaccessible in 2021?

According to WebAIM's annual analysis of the top 1,000,000 website homepages:

97.4%

Of homepages had detectable accessibility failures

(April 2021)

98.1%

Of homepages had detectable accessibility failures

(February 2020)

What was the most commonly detected issue?

Low contrast text.



Encouraging trends

More companies report they're prioritizing digital accessibility for the CX benefits, not only compliance-focused reasons

What is the primary driver of your organization's commitment to accessibility?

In 2019

36%

"fear of a lawsuit or a desire to be compliant with accessibility standards"

41%

"to create better experiences for all customers"

In 2020





You told us:

What is the primary driver of your organization's commitment to accessibility?



Why is this encouraging?

Compliance-focused approach



- Bolted on at the end
- Narrow focus on development and testing phases only
- Results in compliant experiences

Approaching as a CX or DE&I imperative



- Accessibility is a focus in design
- Tool for innovation
- Results in great user experiences (not compliance alone)

In the absence of top-down commitment, employees are still doing the work. You told us:

Which of the following statements best describes your organization's efforts around digital accessibility?



"We don't have a top-down mandate BUT we are creating some important projects around accessibility from the UX team."

- Survey respondent

During the pandemic, many consumers turned to digital services for the first time, shining a light on the importance of accessibility

Which of the following financial activities have you done for the first time during the COVID-19 pandemic?



Source: Consumer Technographics COVID-19 Survey (Wave 2), 2020 (May 8-15) Country: US | Base: 452 Online adults

Common challenges

Here's what you told us:

What challenges do you face creating accessible digital experiences at your company?



A model for advancing your maturity

Three levels of maturity

Initiating

Accessibility work is adhoc, not documented, or driven by grassroots efforts.

1

Establishing

Your organization has committed to accessibility and is focused on establishing its policy, processes, training, and key partnerships.

2

Scaling

Repeatable practices are in place and the focus is on scaling and continuing to uplevel the practice.



How to advance accessibility at your organization

Key actions for companies at each stage of maturity

"Inclusion happens when we all take active steps to remove barriers"

Haben Girma



A Memoir HABEN GIRMA Let's chart your path to digital accessibility maturity



Key actions to take at each level of maturity

Initiating

- Create and sell the business case
- Lay the foundation by building awareness
- Evaluate existing experiences using free tools

Establishing

- Define your accessibility policy
- Build accessibility into each phase of product development
- Expand education and training

Scaling

- Ramp up practices for testing and monitoring experiences
- Incorporate into procurement
- Recruit people with disabilities as partners in your design process

Level 1: Initiating

Create and sell the business case Lay the foundation by building awareness Evaluate existing experiences using free tools

Action #1: Create and sell the business case



When creating a business case for accessibility:

- Elevate the benefits that align to your company's strategic priorities
- Speak directly to the priorities and motivations of executives you need to convince
- Appeal to both the head (numbers) and the heart (impact to customers and employees)
- Arguments focused on compliance and risk are effective but don't make that the *only* lever you pull.

How to align accessibility to common priorities

Strategic priorities	Accessibility helps us
Competitive differentiation	Access new markets of customers including people with disabilities (1 billion globally), their friends and family, and the aging population.
Mitigate risk	Avoid legal troubles and not be the next company hit with a digital accessibility lawsuit (there were 3500+ in 2020).
Improve CX	Improve experiences for all customers through the "curb cut effect."
Reduce costs	Avoid the high cost of remediating experiences and addressing accessibility complaints and lawsuits
Attract and retain employees	Attract employees who want to work for companies whose values and actions align with their own.
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Prove we're serious about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by reflecting it in the products we put into the world.

Examples

Humana

Humana's digital accessibility lead "used age as the doorway to inclusion", because:

- Seniors are an important customer segment to the company, as a healthcare provider.
- She found people related to it. Most people have witnessed a friend, relative, or colleague struggle with an inaccessible product.



Capital One drew connections to its corporate values of "excellence" and "doing the right thing."

Show executives how accessibility impacts more people than they may think.



Assumed population with physical and cognitive disabilities









Everyone else +3 Billion

"curb cut effect"

Friends and family: +2.4 Billion

Aging population: + **700 million** People with disabilities:

1 billion



Check out the action plan we'll send after this webinar for a list of studies and data points you can work into your business case!

Action #2: Lay the foundation by building awareness


It's important to tailor your message to your audience



Executives

Focus on the business risk and the upside or prioritizing accessibility.



Teams

Drive home the "why", who accessibility helps, and how people of different abilities use digital experiences.

Example of "driving home the why"



Jessie Hausler, Director of Product Accessibility focuses on how, in making one of its flagship products accessible to service agents with disabilities, the company can "increase employment opportunities for one of the largest communities of unemployed people."

This ties into employees' desire for a sense of purpose in their work.

Do an "accessibility essentials" roadshow

This is about getting the word out. Many companies start with informal lunch and learn presentations. In your presentation, cover:

- Why accessibility is important for your company - pull from your business case!
- Video clips of people with disabilities using and commenting on your product
- Examples of accessible & inaccessible experiences
- Things employees can start doing right now to improve accessibility
- Stories of customers and employees who have been shut out

Example: Adobe



Motivated designers by inviting creatives with disabilities to share their stories at the company's worldwide design summits.

They discussed both challenges posed by Adobe products and challenges like using web conference tools or finding a job.

Embed reminders into your environment

For example, these posters from the UK Home Office explain the do's and don'ts of designing for different types of disabilities.



Source: Home Office UK

Start asking more questions

Be the person who asks the tough questions that prompt teams to discuss how their decisions impact customers with disabilities.

In your next design critique:

- How will this design "sound" when read by a screen reader?
- Is this type large enough for an older adult to read? If not, will it scale correctly?
- Will that term be understood by a non-native English speaker?
- Have you tested the contrast ratio for these color choices?
- Will that link name make sense when read without surrounding text?
- Will those bright contrasting colors cause anxiety for users with sensory issues?



Your action plan will include links to free resources to use or adapt when creating your "accessibility essentials" education!

Action #3: Evaluate existing experiences using free tools



Focus on "top tasks" for an important product

- 1. Select tasks that are important to customers and important to the business.
- 2. Use free tools to scan pages critical to completing those tasks.
- Pull example issues into your business case and "accessibility essentials" education, explaining who that issue impacts and why.
- 4. Consider doing this for your competitors experiences too!

TASKS A how-to guide

GERRY MCGOVERN

Example: axe DevTools browser extension



Example: CCA contrast analyser tool



Other free tools:

- Wave
- Google Lighthouse
- Stark plug-in
- Contrast for macOS
- Color Oracle colorblindness simulator



See your action plan for links to these tools!

To summarize, if you are at the "initiating" level:

- \checkmark Create and sell the business case
- \checkmark Lay the foundation by building awareness
- ✓ Evaluate existing experiences using free tools

Level 2: Establishing

Define your accessibility policy Build accessibility into each phase of product design and development Expand education with role-based training and integration into new-hire onboarding

Action #1: Define your accessibility policy



Key elements of your accessibility policy

- What standards are you committed to meeting?
- What does it mean to create an accessible experience?
- What digital experiences are covered under the policy?
- What is your plan for how to get there? (priorities, target dates, responsible parties)

Capital One Credit Cards Checking & Savings Auto Loans Business Commercial Learn & Grow

Q, ⑦ @ _ Sign In

Create an accessibility statement summarizing your goals and intent

- Summary points from your policy your commitment and what you are doing to meet it
- Clear path for visitors to provide feedback on your experiences





Chat Now

Chat with us to help with your accessibility-related requests and other servicing needs.



Give us a call.

If you would like to request an ADA accommodation or provide ADA feedback or comments our phone agents are available to assist and accept Relay Calls. For assistance with these ADA requests and feedback please contact us at <u>Call 1-(833) 997-1234</u>

Our Commitment

We're committed to making our products and services accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. We follow the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and use the Accessible Rich Internet Applications (ARIA) specification.

Capital One is passionate about enabling Financial Independence for all. If you need an accommodation or request for auxiliary aides or services, please contact us via the channels above. We will consider all requests.

Source: https://www.capitalone.com/about/accessibility-commitment/ © 2020 Forrester. Reproduction Prohibited.

Action #2: Build accessibility into each phase of product design and development



"You need to create an engine that builds things to be accessible, to the standard, every time."

Mark Penicook, Digital Accessibility Director at Capital One

When we asked you about your company's activities:

Only 22%

of you are integrating accessibility into each stage of product design and development in any capacity

Take advantage of open source resources

IBM's Equal Access toolkit provides a great blueprint for accessibility. Use as a starting point but adapt to your organization's ways of working.



Example: Aetna





Accessibility work starts in design.

- Follow the principles of inclusive design
- Include people with disabilities in design research
- Annotate designs with accessibility guidance for developers

Recognize exclusion

Designing for inclusivity not only opens up our products and services to more people, it also reflects how people really are. All humans grow and adapt to the world around them and we want our designs to reflect that.

Solve for one, extend to many

Everyone has abilities, and limits to those abilities. Designing for people with permanent disabilities actually results in designs that benefit people universally. Constraints are a beautiful thing.

Learn from diversity

Human beings are the real experts in adapting to diversity. Inclusive design puts people in the center from the very start of the process, and those fresh, diverse perspectives are the key to true insight.







Examples:



29 UX accessibility consultants work with designers and researchers in the company's agile teams to integrate accessibility best practices as early as possible.



When partnering with NASA on a new website design, Blink included people with disabilities from the start, in discovery research. This led to insights like the need to simplify navigation menus and create an intuitive keyboard navigation path.

Source: Forrester report "Q&A: Getting Started With Digital Accessibility"

Build accessibility into your design system

Reflect in all key elements of your design system including:

- Design principles •
- Components
- Foundations
- Guidelines

Clarity Design S	vstem	Q
	ystem	
Get Started	~	Accessible applications start here
Introduction		
Designing		
Developing		
Support Policies		
Updating		
Foundation	>	
Core Components	>	
Angular Components	>	We've integrated accessibility into the design and
Releases	>	development of the Clarity assets. Accessibility is a priority
Return to Current Site [기		and we work closely with a dedicated accessibility team following the WCAG 2.1 AA guidelines. Use Clarity to leverage all the built-in accessibility features and follow ou accessibility guidelines to make your application not only compliant but loved by users of all abilities.

View our VPAT

Take inspiration from the many design systems that prioritize accessibility



Many more examples at: https://designsystemsrepo.com/



Your action plan will include links to open source resources that will help jumpstart your work at this stage! Action #3: Expand education with role-based training and integration into new-hire onboarding



Run role-based training that participants can apply immediately

Partner with accessibility firms to deliver training to designers, developers, testers, and content authors that covers:

- Techniques to meet the guidelines relevant to their role
- How to test their work

Guideline 2.1 Keyboard Accessible

Make all functionality available from a keyboard.

Success Criterion 2.1.1 Keyboard

(Level A)

<u> Jnderstanding Keyboard</u> <u>How to Meet Keyboard</u>

All <u>functionality</u> of the content is operable through a <u>keyboard interface</u> without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes, except where the underlying function requires input that depends on the path of the user's movement and not just the endpoints.

NOTE

This exception relates to the underlying function, not the input technique. For example, if using handwriting to enter text, the input technique (handwriting) requires path-dependent input but the underlying function (text input) does not.

NOTE

This does not forbid and should not discourage providing mouse input or other input methods in addition to keyboard operation.

Success Criterion 2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap

(Level A)

<u>Understanding No Keyboard Trap</u> How to Meet No Keyboard Trap

If keyboard focus can be moved to a component of the page using a <u>keyboard interface</u>, then focus can be moved away from that component using only a keyboard interface, and, if it requires more than unmodified arrow or tab keys or other standard exit methods, the user is advised of the method for moving focus away.

NOTE

Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See <u>Conformance Requirement 5</u>: Non-Interference.

Example: Fidelity's "accessibility fest"

Fidelity

Brought together 600 designers and developers from its Workplace Investing business for a twoday event:

- Day one focused on understanding the opportunities and benefits of prioritizing accessibility, with talks from Fidelity executives, subject matter experts, and clients.
- Day two focused on implementation, with teams working together to audit their products, fix problems on the spot where possible, and document other problems (over 700) in their backlogs for future remediation.

Create job aids to help with application of training

Example checklist for a UX design role

- Check your color contrast (Suggested tools: <u>Stark; Colorsafe; Colour</u> <u>Contrast Analyser</u>)
- Do not rely on color alone to convey information. Check for color blindness accessibility with tools like <u>NoCoffee</u>.
- Position related elements (e.g., form label and field) near one another.
- Create simple and consistent layouts.

- Give customers enough time to complete a task
- Create large touch targets and sufficient space between elements.
- Specify heading structure and tab order of elements on your design mockups.
- Evaluate your decisions through inclusive design lenses or <u>accessibility personas</u>

Begin to instill an accessibility mindset during employee onboarding



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Examples:





The Wells Fargo Advisors accessibility team sends a welcome email to new designers. It includes videos from recent usability test sessions, like a customer navigating the site with a screen reader. They include links to internal resources on accessibility.

eBay's accessibility team runs a segment on why accessibility is important to the company as part of new-hire training. They also have two modules within the company's required compliance training.

Source: Forrester reports "Q&A: Establishing Your Organization's Accessibility Practice" and "The Inclusive Design Imperative" © 2020 Forrester. Reproduction Prohibited.

To summarize, if you are "Establishing":

- ✓ Define your accessibility policy
- ✓ Build accessibility into each phase of product design and development
- ✓ Expand education with role-based training and integration into new-hire onboarding

Level 3: Scaling

Ramp up practices for testing, monitoring, and measuring success Incorporate accessibility into the procurement process Recruit people with disabilities as partners in your design process Action #1: Ramp up practices for testing, monitoring, and measuring success


Take a comprehensive approach to accessibility testing



Automated

Run automated tests to check for accessibility violations



Manual

Train testers to evaluate the things that cannot be automated



Usability

Conduct usability testing with people with disabilities to uncover UX issues.

Enterprise accessibility testing platforms help here

Catch issues upstream





Designers should test their designs for color contrast, no use of color alone, and clear link names. Developers should run their code through an accessibility checker (e.g., Accessibility Insights) before checking it in.

Example: U.S. Bank

Usbank

Two years into its digital accessibility journey, U.S. Bank's accessibility team rolled out Deque's automated testing tools to 190 digital product teams across the organization. This helped them scale accessibility and reduce the number of defects making it into production.

Were able to demonstrate a 67% reduction in defects during automated testing when accessibility is addressed during design.

Source: Forrester report "Q&A: Establishing Your Organization's Accessibility Practice"

Action #2: Incorporate accessibility into the procurement process



Build accessibility into new contracts and renewals

- What level of conformance you will hold vendors accountable to
- That you're entitled to verify conformance
- What remedies your company will require if the delivered solution doesn't meet the requirements



Ask vendors probing questions

- Integrate new questions into vendor questionnaires to help you understand how mature the vendor is about accessibility.
- Consider asking vendors to demo their product with a screen reader.

What kinds of accessibility testing have you done on your product?

How is accessibility reflected in your product roadmap?

How are you including people with disabilities in the development of your product?

Example: Capital One



The accessibility team is often engaged by procurement to test a vendor's product using manual testing and a screen reader.

The team then reports back the results, in some cases speaking with the vendor's engineering team to help them understand how to prioritize accessibility in their products.

Source: Forrester report "Q&A: Establishing Your Organization's Accessibility Practice"

Action #3: Recruit people with disabilities as partners in your design process





Mismatch How Inclusion Shapes Design

Kat Holmes foreword by John Maeda



"Inclusion has to involve people who have experienced exclusion."

Kat Holmes

Expand who you recruit for design research

- Make ability a key trait you intentionally recruit a range of.
- Tap into your employee base.
- Partner with organizations that serve communities of people with disabilities.
- Organizations like Knowbility and Fable have panels products teams can tap into for product research.







INTESA M SNNPAOLO

Formed partnerships with nonprofit organizations Fondazione Asphi Onlus and the Italian Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted (UICI).

Engaged members to provide feedback on current experiences and participate in workshops to hear the firm's strategy and then suggest improvements.

To summarize, if you are "Scaling":

- Ramp up practices for testing, monitoring, and measuring success
- Incorporate accessibility into the procurement process
- Recruit people with disabilities as partners in your design process

Share and learn from your peers

3 minutes

Individual reflection

Jot down **three ideas** for how you might advance accessibility at your organization.

An idea may be as simple as capturing a conversation you need to have!

Small group discussion

When you arrive in your room:



- Figure out who in your group has the most pets – they will go first!
- 2. Everyone gets 1 minute to share an idea they jotted down. After you share, you get to pick the next person to go.
- 3. Not sure what to share? Use one of these and fill in the blank!

"I need to talk to _____ about _____"

"I'm going to create _____"

"I will partner with _____ to ____"

Using Zoom breakouts

- 1. Reference your assignment in the shared Google Sheet.
- If you didn't fill out the survey, self-select your room.
 Choose a breakout with less than 20 people.
- 3. Join the breakout.
- 4. Jump to another if for some reason you think you're in the wrong spot or not enough people are in yours.
- 5. You'll be prompted to join the main room when our 20 minutes is expired.

Joining Zoom breakouts

Find the "Breakout Rooms" button in the zoom toolbar.



Join a breakout:

- Windows: click join
- Mac: Focus on Attendee Number listed after Room Name, click Join when link appears.

Leave a breakout:

- Wait for the prompt or
- Find the "Leave Room" button in the zoom toolbar.





Large group debrief

Tell us in the chat:

What's one cool idea you took away from your small group discussion?

Your action plan and next steps

On Monday, you will receive your action plan



- Recap of the key actions for your organization's current maturity level
- ✓ Resources for further learning related to each action
- ✓ Links to additional Forrester research
- ✓ Ideas shared during our large group debrief

Global Accessibility Awareness Day is on May 20th!

A few ideas:

- Gather colleagues and watch the recording of today's webinar or discuss your action plan
- Incorporate points from today's webinar into your planned GAAD events
- Commit to having a conversation with *one* colleague who is new to accessibility
- Send out an email with some key facts about accessibility
- Elevate recent accessibility "wins"



Thank You.

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