

Accessibility audit

A systematic review of a site or application to check whether it meets accessibility guidelines, such as WCAG, and where it fails.

In Spanish

Auditoría de accesibilidad

Origin

W3C, WCAG-EM (2014)

Output

A list of the barriers found, each with the guideline it breaks and its severity



What it's for

It helps find the barriers that keep people with disabilities from using a product, before those barriers reach them.

Key elements

A representative sample

Review the most important screens and tasks, not just the home page.

Tool and person

Automated tools catch part of it; the rest requires manual review, with keyboard and screen reader.

Each failure, with its guideline

That way you know what to fix, why and what is most urgent.

How it's done

1



Define the scope and choose a representative sample of screens.

2



Review each screen against the guidelines, with tools and by hand.

3



Report what you found with priorities and proposed fixes.

Applications in design

 **When to use it**
Before launching a product and whenever it changes a lot, or when the law requires meeting the guidelines.

 **Avoid**
Approving a page just because an automated tool found no errors.

 **Don't fall for it**
Meeting the guidelines doesn't guarantee it's easy to use; also test with people with disabilities.

Connections

Builds on

 WCAG guidelines

Related to

 Accessible design

 Usability testing

Authors and works

2014	Eric Velleman and Shadi Abou-Zahra	Edited the W3C methodology for evaluating websites in five steps: define the scope, explore the site, choose a sample, review it and report.
2023	W3C	WCAG 2.2 are the guidelines each screen is checked against.

Sources

Original sources

- Velleman, E., & Abou-Zahra, S. (Eds.) (2014). Website Accessibility Conformance Evaluation Methodology (WCAG-EM) 1.0. W3C. [View source \(https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG-EM/\)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG-EM/)
- W3C (2023). Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2. W3C Recommendation, October 5, 2023. [View source \(https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/\)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/)

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