

Model

WCAG guidelines

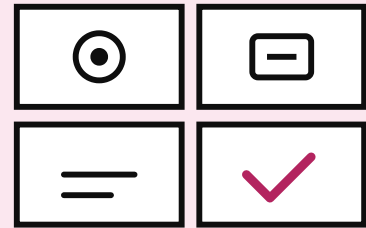
The W3C guidelines for making digital content accessible, organized into four principles, with testable criteria at three levels: A, AA and AAA.

In Spanish

Pautas WCAG

Origin

W3C (since 1999); current version 2.2 (2023)



What problem it addresses

It gives a shared, testable way to decide whether a website or app is accessible, instead of leaving it to intuition.

Components

Perceivable

Information can be perceived through more than one sense: alt text for images, captions, good contrast.

Operable

Everything can be used in different ways, such as with the keyboard, and with enough time.

Understandable

Text is understandable and the interface behaves predictably.

Robust

It works across browsers and assistive technologies, such as screen readers.

How it works

1



Four principles state what content must achieve.

2



Each guideline has concrete criteria that can be tested.

3



Each criterion has a level: A, AA or AAA.

Applications in design

 **Use it like this**
Set level AA as the target and check it on every screen, not only at the end.

 **Avoid**
Relying only on automated checkers: many barriers only show up when testing with a keyboard or a screen reader.

 **Don't fall for it**
Meeting the guidelines does not guarantee it is easy to use: also test it with people with disabilities.

Connections

Used in

 Accessibility audit

 Accessible design

 Form design

 UI design

 Web design

Related to

 Universal design

 Nielsen's usability heuristics

 Usability

Authors and works

2023

W3C, Web Accessibility Initiative

Published version 2.2 of the guidelines as a W3C Recommendation.

Sources

Original sources

- 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/)
- W3C (1999). Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0. W3C Recommendation, May 5, 1999. [View source \(https://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/\)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/)

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