

What about an update of the WCAG Techniques for PDF?

Outline for the presentation at OctoberPDFest online 2020

Presenter: Markus Erle, AbleDocs

Date: 21.10.2020, 17:00 (40 minutes)

See also: <https://www.pdfa.org/presentation/what-about-an-update-of-the-wcag-techniques-for-pdf/>

Current status of the WCAG Techniques for PDF

- There is a growing demand for practical guidance for creating WCAG compliant PDF documents
- Where is a big lack of practical knowledge about how a WCAG compliant accessible PDF should look like
- Only a few aspects of Document Accessibility are covered
- The Techniques are not written Software independently
- The available PDF Techniques are partially deprecated or described for outdated applications / software
- There is a confusion about PDF/UA requirements versus WCAG requirements
- It is hard to find good example files for any given requirement

The world kept turning... It is time for an update

The Working Group

A Working Group of the PDF Association led by Duff Johnson started in December 2018 in Edinburgh with working out atomic examples for updated WCAG Techniques for PDF. PDF accessibility experts from all over the world and from different companies started to define, discuss and create failing and passing examples.

Since October 2020 I have taken the chair.

Basic Concept

- Mapping between PDF/UA requirements and WCAG guidelines
- Atomic Fail & Success examples: every file exemplifies only one single requirement that is met or not met
- Worked out software independently
- Do not claim to be complete
- Techniques are not mandatory (only implementation recommendations)
- Each software provider shows himself how users can implement the relevant technique with the respective software

Working Group Results

Presenting some of the atomic example files with explaining the background.

The following areas are covered:

- Page / column / line breaks
- Paragraphs
- Headings

- Lists
- TOC
- Links
- Footnote
- Tables
- Header/Footer

How to check PDFs for WCAG compliance?

- Free WCAG Checking Tool for PDF: PAC 4 (just released)
- Free PDF accessibility in depth evaluation tool: axesPDF (the demo version)

How a description of the support of these Techniques could look like

Example: use of the Footnote Technique

Next steps

Invitation to participate at this working group – Next call: Date to be determined

The Techniques should regularly be updated and expanded with updated standards (new versions of WCAG)

Q&A (10 minutes)