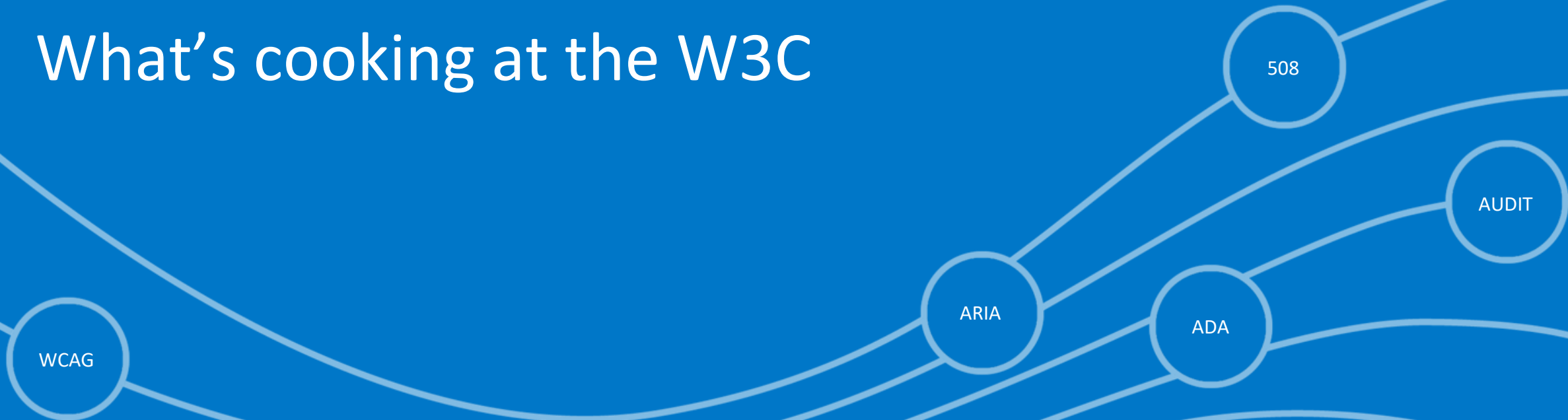




# WCAG 2.2 and 3.0 Update

## What's cooking at the W3C



# The WCAG 2.2 and 3.0 Update

- WCAG 2.2
  - New criteria
  - Hot topics
  - Rules for WCAG (ACT)
- WCAG 3.0
  - New structure
  - Speculation
- Questions & wrap-up

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- Project Manager WCAG 3, W3C
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- Member of W3C's AGWG since 2017
- Deque's Advisory Committee Representative to the W3C



# **A VERY Brief History of...**

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

# A Timeline of WCAG Development

## **WCAG 1.0**

- 1997 - 1999

## **WCAG 2.0**

- 2001 - 2008: WCAG 2.0
- 2017 - 2018: WCAG 2.1
- 2020 - 2023: WCAG 2.2

## **WCAG 3.0**

- 2016: Research begins
- 2021: Three Working Drafts
- 2023: Fourth Working Draft (soon!)



# What's New In WCAG 2.2 - UPDATE

It's Oh So Close!!!

# WCAG 2.2 - In Brief

- WCAG is in “Candidate Recommendation” stage
  - Use at your own risk - It could change
  - Provide feedback: <https://github.com/w3c/wcag/issues>
- Projected to become a full Recommendation in Spring 2023
- 9 New Success Criterion (SC): 2 A, 5 AA, 2 AAA
- 1 Success Criterion moving from AA to A: 2.4.7 Focus Visible
- 1 Success Criterion being removed: 4.1.1 Parsing



# **New Success Criteria**

Improving Cognitive Accessibility

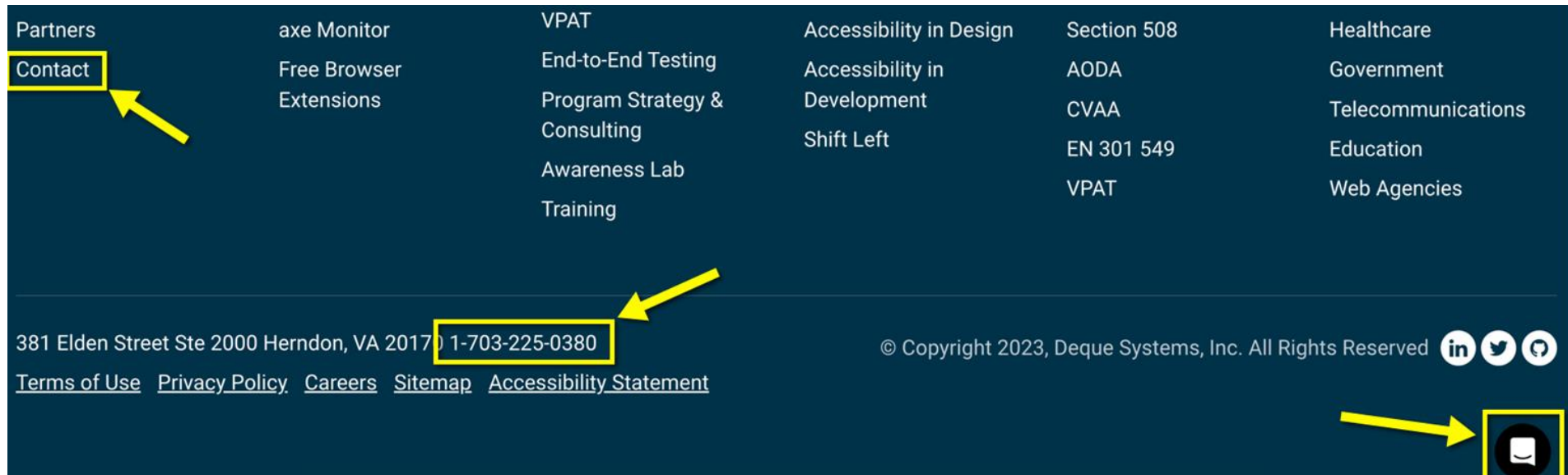
## 3.2.6 Consistent Help - A

**Persona Quote:** “Help! I can’t find how to get help on this web site!”

**Summary:** WHEN a help feature appears on multiple pages, it is provided in a consistent location.

**How it helps:** Helps people locate help mechanisms provided by a website.

# 3.2.6 Consistent Help - Examples



## 3.3.7 Redundant Entry - A

**Persona Quote:** “Don’t make me enter don’t make me enter, the same info twice the same info twice.”

**Summary:** Do not require people to enter (ex: type in) the same information more than once during a process.

**How it helps:** Helps people with cognitive disabilities minimize mistakes and successfully complete a **multi-step process** by not requiring information entered in one step to be entered again in a later step.

# 3.3.7 Redundant Entry - Example

## Shipping Address

First name	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>
Street Address 1	<input type="text"/>
Street Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
Postal Code	<input type="text"/>

## Billing Address

same as Shipping Address



First name	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>
Street Address 1	<input type="text"/>
Street Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
Postal Code	<input type="text"/>

## 3.3.8 & 3.3.9 Accessible Authentication (AA & AAA)

**Persona Quote:** “I have dyslexia. Typing 2nd factor authentication codes by hand is very hard or impossible for me. When I can copy the code sent to my mobile device and paste it, or better yet just tap the code on my mobile device, I can successfully log in!”

**Summary:** There must be an authentication method that does not require tasks such as: memorizing a password, transcribing codes or words, or solving a puzzle.

**How it helps:** Helps people with cognitive disabilities to not be blocked from authenticating because the authentication method relies exclusively on “cognitive function tests”.

## 3.3.8 & 3.3.9 Accessible Authentication - Examples

### Two step verification

To keep your account safer, a notification has been sent to your phone.

Tap **Yes** on the notification to continue.

Username or email address

Password

[Forgot password?](#)



# **New Success Criteria**

Improving Mobility Accessibility

## 2.5.7 Dragging Movements - AA

**Persona Quote:** “Errrrrgh! I can’t do this drag and drop! I need another way to do this!!!”

**Summary:** Drag and drop movements cannot be the only way an action can be achieved using a single pointer (such as a mouse or a finger touch).

**How it helps:** Helps people with mobility disabilities who struggle with performing precise dragging motions by ensuring that functions done by a dragging action have an alternative single-point option to perform the same function.

## 2.5.7 Dragging Movements - Example



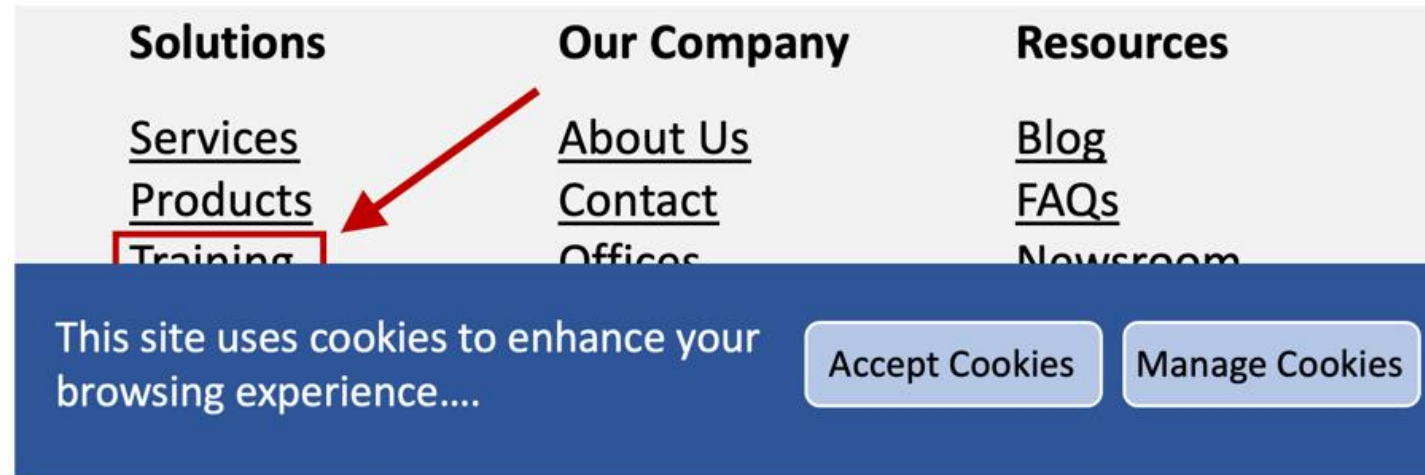
## 2.4.12 & 2.4.13 Focus not Obscured (AA & AAA)

**Persona Quote:** “Hey, stop hiding my keyboard focus!”

**Summary:** When navigating by keyboard, the focused element must not be (completely) covered by other content.

**How it helps:** Helps people who rely on a keyboard to navigate a web page by ensuring focusable elements are not (completely) covered by other content.

## 2.4.12 & 2.4.13 Focus not Obscured - Example



The image shows a screenshot of a website's navigation menu. The menu is organized into three columns: "Solutions", "Our Company", and "Resources". Under "Solutions", there are links for "Services", "Products", and "Training". Under "Our Company", there are links for "About Us", "Contact", and "Offices". Under "Resources", there are links for "Blog", "FAQs", and "Newsroom". A red arrow points to the "Training" link, which is highlighted with a red rectangular border. Below the navigation menu, there is a dark blue banner with white text that reads "This site uses cookies to enhance your browsing experience....". To the right of this text are two buttons: "Accept Cookies" and "Manage Cookies".

Solutions	Our Company	Resources
<a href="#">Services</a>	<a href="#">About Us</a>	<a href="#">Blog</a>
<a href="#">Products</a>	<a href="#">Contact</a>	<a href="#">FAQs</a>
<a href="#">Training</a>	<a href="#">Offices</a>	<a href="#">Newsroom</a>

This site uses cookies to enhance your browsing experience....

Accept Cookies Manage Cookies

## 2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) - AA

**Persona Quote:** “I need buttons big enough so that I can press the right one!”

**Summary:** Controls must have a minimum size or target offset of 24x24 CSS px with exceptions that include: links inline with non-link text and controls whose size is determined by the browser.

**How it helps:** Helps people with mobility disabilities activate controls without accidentally activating an adjacent control by defining a minimum control size or minimum spacing between controls.

## 2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) - Examples



<b>Solutions</b>	<b>Our Company</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<a href="#"><u>Services</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>About Us</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Blog</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Products</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Contact</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>FAQs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Training</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Offices</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Newsroom</u></a>

123 Elm Street, Suite 200 Anywhere, MO 98765 987-555-1234

24 px



<b>Company</b>
<a href="#">Company Overview</a>
<a href="#">Our Customers</a>
<a href="#">Partners</a>
<a href="#">Our Team</a>
<a href="#">Careers</a>
<a href="#">Contact</a>
<a href="#">Accessibility Statement</a>



24 px

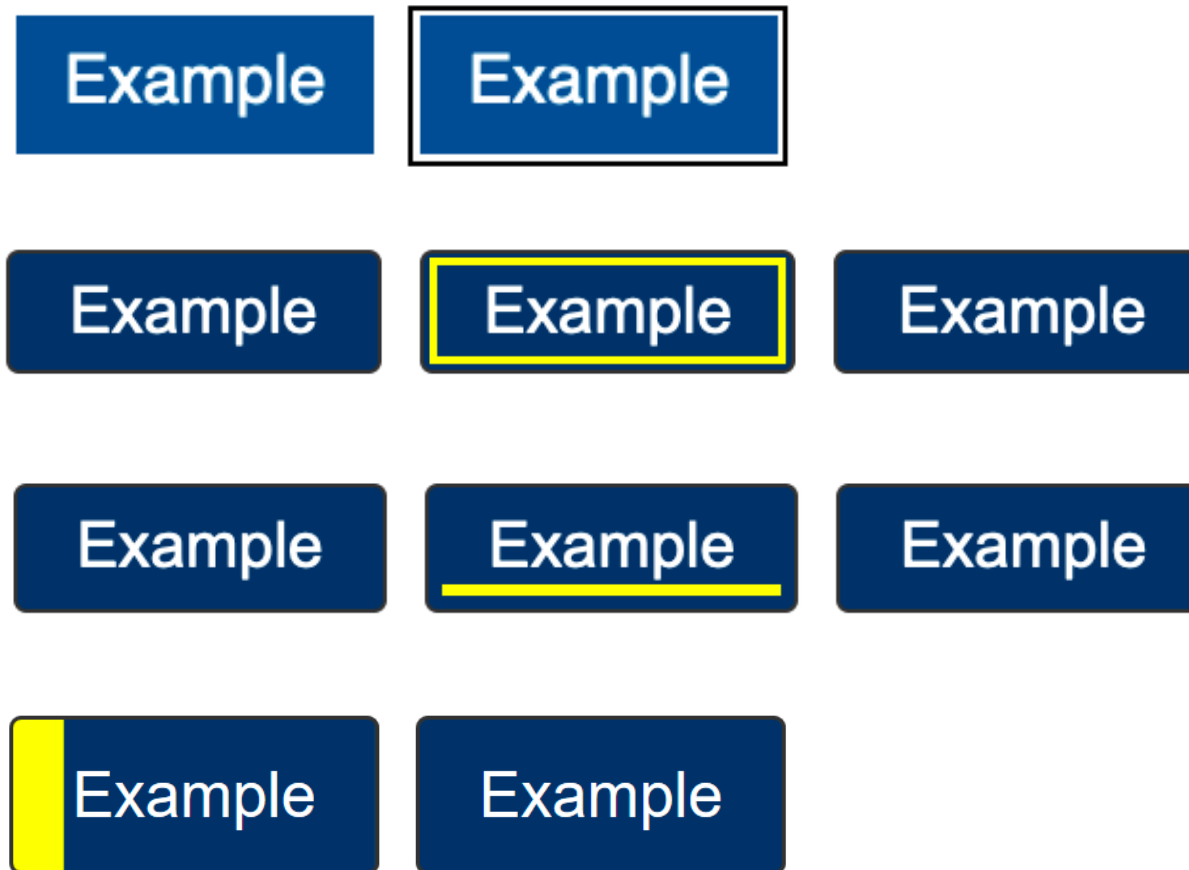
## 2.4.11 Focus Appearance - AA

**Persona Quote:** “Where in the world is my keyboard focused?”

**Summary:** When an element has keyboard focus, the focus indicator must meet minimum criteria for: size, contrast with the unfocused state, and contrast with the adjacent colors.

**How it helps:** Helps people who rely on a keyboard to navigate a web page clearly identify where the focus is by providing a visible focus indicator with good contrast and size.

## 2.4.11 Focus Appearance - Examples



# WCAG 2.2 - Things to Think About

- **Disclaimer** - opinions to follow!
- **WCAG 2.X is Complex**
  - Few sites meet WCAG 2.0
  - >500 open issues in the WCAG Github for 2.0 and 2.1
- **WCAG 2.2 Hot Topics**
  - 2.4.11 Focus Appearance - at risk due to complexity
  - 2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) - testability of target offset
  - Dropping 4.1.1 Parsing - effect on WCAG 2.0 and 2.1



# ACT Rules

Rules for consistent WCAG & ARIA testing

# Accessibility Conformance Testing (ACT)

- Consistency between test tools & methodologies
- Transparency about test tools & methodologies
- Standardized accessibility test cases
- Minimise interpretation differences

# WCAG 2 Structure

**Principles (POUR)**

**Guidelines**

**Success Criteria**

Normative

---

Informative

**Techniques** (for authors)

**ACT Rules** (for testers)

New

# ACT in Test Tools & Methodologies

## Who tests consistently with ACT Rules?

- **Manual:** e.g. Trusted Tester
- **Semi-automated:** e.g. Axe DevTools IGT
- **Automated:** e.g. axe-core
- **Linters:** e.g. Ember-template-lint

9 Implementations available today

More coming soon

Implementation	Standards	Consistent Rules
Alfa 0.57.2	WCAG 2.1, all levels WAI-ARIA 1.2	20 Rules 11 Proposed Rules
Axe-core 4.6.0	WCAG 2.1, all levels WAI-ARIA 1.2	22 Rules 14 Proposed Rules
Equal Access Accessibility Checker 3.1.42-rc.0	WCAG 2.1 Level A, AA WAI-ARIA 1.2	16 Rules 7 Proposed Rules
QualWeb 3.0.0	WCAG 2.1, all levels WAI-ARIA 1.2	20 Rules 11 Proposed Rules
SortSite 6.45	WCAG 2.1, all levels WAI-ARIA 1.2	22 Rules 14 Proposed Rules

# More about ACT Rules

- **List of all ACT Rules**

[w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/act/rules/](https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/act/rules/)

- **About ACT Rules**

[w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/act/rules/about/](https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/act/rules/about/)

- **ACT Rules Implementation in Test Tools and Methodologies**

[w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/act/implementations/](https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/act/implementations/)

- **W3C Rules for Accessibility - axe-con 2021**

[tinyurl.com/axecon2021-act](https://tinyurl.com/axecon2021-act)



# WCAG Version 3.0

W3C Accessibility Guidelines, the 2023 update

# Goals Of WCAG 3.0

- Easier to learn and understand guidelines
- Broader support for disability needs
- Keep up with new technologies
- Better reflect real-world accessibility

# Structure Of WCAG 3.0

<b>WCAG 2.x</b>	<b>WCAG 3.0</b>
Principles	<i>Removed</i>
Guidelines	Guidelines
Success criteria	Outcomes
Techniques / ACT Rules	Methods
Non-interference requirements	Critical issues
Level A, AA, AAA	<b>Bronze, Silver, Gold</b>

# WCAG 3.0 Section Status Levels

New since 2022, each section in the WCAG 3 draft has a status level, informing reviewers where different things are and how to review:

- **Placeholder**: Temporary content, hidden by default
- **Exploratory**: Very early work, hidden by default.
- **Developing**: Promising work, details still need to be worked out
- **Refining**: Largely agreed on, more public feedback needed
- **Mature**: Expected to be finalized

# WCAG 3.0 Conformance Options

*Exploratory*

W3C is considering multiple options for conformance and scoring:

- Separate testable outcomes and qualitative outcomes
- Levels may be different for different types products
- Solution for measuring progress towards achieving a level

The next public draft will include multiple conformance options for review.

# Example Outcomes: Headings

*Exploratory*

**Guideline:** Use sections, headings, and sub-headings to organize content.

- 1. Outcome:** Organizes content into logical blocks with headings relevant to the subsequent content. This makes locating and navigating information easier and faster
- 2. Outcome:** Uses visually distinct headings so sighted readers can determine the structure.
- 3. Outcome:** Provides semantic structure that conveys the hierarchy to help explore and navigate the content.



# Assertions & Procedures

Testing the untestable

# Equitable Accessibility Standards

- WCAG 2 works for easy-to-define user needs
  - Support alternative formats (alt text, captions, semantics)
  - Available input methods (keyboard, mouse, touch)
  - Color contrast
- Not everyone's needs are easy to define:
  - “understandable” language
  - “clear” interfaces
  - “sufficient” help features

WCAG never guaranteed accessibility, but it can be better.

# Accessibility Procedures

*Exploratory*

Well documented steps known to help improve the accessibility.

*Examples:*

- Accessibility maturity model
- Accessibility-focused usability testing
- Follow plain language authoring practices
- Applying audio description guidelines

# Assertions

*Exploratory*

A published claim that certain procedures were followed in the development and maintenance of the content.

Assertions may include:

- Person or organisation accountable
- Description of the procedure
- Scope of the procedure performed
- Method of contact

# Procedures & Assertions Benefits

*Exploratory*

- Address users needs that are challenging to define
- Provide flexibility on how outcomes are achieved
- Creates transparency about accessibility efforts

Procedures will not replace “traditional” testing.

# Procedures & Assertions Questions

*Exploratory*

- What makes a good procedure
- Who can write procedures
- How much process documentation is required
- Where does this fit with outcomes & conformance levels



# What's next for WCAG 3.0

# Timeline for WCAG 3.0

- **2023 - 2025:** Finalize foundational work
  - Improve scoring & metrics  
More encouraging, less all-or-nothing conformance
  - How to handle mixed responsibilities  
Platforms, user generated, browsers, CMS, third-party login / payment
  - How to make WCAG 3 future proof  
Machine learning, VR / AR technologies, etc.
- **2025 - 2027:** *To be determined*

# Challenges in WCAG 3.0

- Complete rewriting means we're on WCAG 2.2 for years to come
- Accelerating technologies could make things quickly obsolete
- Ensuring accessible, inclusive & global collaboration
- No major funding

# Future of WCAG 2

- WCAG 2.X will have a loooooong life to come
  - WCAG 3.0 is years away from Recommendation
  - WCAG 3.0 will not replace WCAG 2.X immediately
- AGWG Task Force for WCAG 2.X maintenance
  - After WCAG 2.2 is complete
  - Address >600 open Github issues on WCAG 2.X

# Getting Involved

Read the latest draft:

[w3.org/TR/wcag-3.0/](https://www.w3.org/TR/wcag-3.0/)

Leave a review, or join the conversation:

[github.com/w3c/silver/issues](https://github.com/w3c/silver/issues)

Become a member:

[w3.org/community/silver](https://www.w3.org/community/silver)

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