

How to be an A11y

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FOCUS

Focus refers to which part of the browser is currently accepting user input. A common technique for visally-impaired users is to tab through focusable elements on a page, rather than using a mouse.

SEMANTICS

Semantics broadly refers to meaning. Specific HTML tags are considered semantic because they provide meaningful context to the browser and assistive technology.

DESIGN

Design is an integral matter of accessibility and can be used as a tool for accommodating visual, motor, and cognitive impairments.

ARIA

When native HTML elements don't do the trick, WAI-ARIA provides accessible alternatives, such as `<aria-label>` and `<aria-labelledby>`.

FUNCTION

Things like ARIA tags will provide contextual information for an element, but they won't provide functionality, which is why function is an important consideration for users that rely on alternative input.

The web, in itself, is an entire world. It connects individuals whom otherwise would never meet. It grants access to the wealth of human knowledge. It allows for individual freedoms and expressions that many people aren't afforded in the physical world. But in order for the web to work the way it was intended, there cannot be barriers for individuals to access it. Designers and developers must work diligently to ensure the digital experience is an accessible one, but the web is still new and so too is our ability to accommodate. Even senior web developers struggle to understand and implement accessibility practices that keep up with other, emerging technologies.

What is this project about?

Constant research must be done to understand the needs of internet-users as they relate to the technologies we have available. But the battle doesn't stop there. It is our job to educate and advocate, and that's a task that never ends. *How to be an A11y* is a single gesture, among many, to fulfill the internet's ultimate power: access for everyone.

How can I learn more?

To learn generally about accessibility on the web, check out MDN Web Docs, Google Accessibility, WebAIM, W3C, or any other of the plethora of resources that exist and grow every day.

More importantly, be cognizant of how you engage with the web. How would you post a Tweet if you were visually impaired? How do you know when you've received an email if you were hard-of-hearing? How do you search up a piece of information if you didn't have access to a standard keyboard?

Think critically. Challenge your own assumptions. And advocate for others.



See the project site