

Manual Testing and Web Accessibility: What You Need to Know



Guide

Manual testing allows for real, trained professionals to evaluate your website's level of accessibility using a combination of keyboard-only interactions, assistive computer technologies, and web browser plug-ins. While automated testing catches many of the WCAG 2.1 criteria, manual testers find errors that software can't.

What Does the Manual Testing Process Look Like?

1. Get Acquainted

Your Siteimprove Manual Tester, or auditor, will spend some time getting to know you and your team and, most importantly, your website, during a discovery call. During the call, your Manual Tester will confirm the URLs to be tested and map out a process timeline and will serve as your go-to resource and contact throughout the manual testing process.

2. Website Evaluation

Your manual tester will perform over 67 checks per page, scanning for non-compliance with the WCAG 2.1 criteria.

They'll test for things like:

- The presence of page titles. Manual testers make sure the page title is unique, meaningful, and concise. Page titles are what is visible in tabs or bookmarks and should be appropriate to the page content and/or task.
- The "Skip navigation" option. Manual tests ensure that the option to skip repeated navigational elements is present.

- HTML5 and WAI-ARIA elements. These aren't required, but are a best practice. Manual testers can check to make sure they are being used correctly
- Keep in mind that these are just a few of the elements your Siteimprove Manual Tester will check for.

3. Website Review

After 30 days, your manual testing results will be ready. Your Manual Tester will provide you with a copy of the audit results and go through them with you on the scheduled delivery date outlined on your first discovery call.

Accessibility is a Process, Not a Project

Including manual testing as part of your accessibility efforts and processes allows for a more balanced and comprehensive approach to compliance.

It's important to think of web accessibility not as a one-time project, but as an integral process for your overall business and organizational strategy.

Learn more about Siteimprove's
manual testing services

Contact

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