Web accessibility is not an option

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What is the problem?

Have you ever considered your life without the web?

And all the small opportunities that it brought to you?

It is unlikely that you have, is it not?

Still, the web played a big part in your life and shaped you.

And today, you may not see any issue with the web.

Still, these issues exist and are very real to many people.

Because we design websites for non-disabled people.

And we do it at the expense of people with disabilities.

So, let me tell you a few things about web accessibility.

What do you mean by web accessibility?

It is the inclusive practice of removing barriers for people with disabilities.

So, it ensures that everyone has equal access to information and functionality.

No matter their level of disability.

What do you mean by disability?

It is the consequence of an impairment.

An impairment is present from birth or acquired later.

An impairment is progressive or non-progressive.

An impairment may be visual, hearing, motor or cognitive.

If visual, it may be blindness, low vision or color-blindness.

If hearing, it may be deafness or hard-of-hearing.

If motor, it may be limited dexterity or loss of limbs.

If cognitive, it may be learning issues or memory loss.

So, how do you do web accessibility?

Provide appropriate alternative text to non-text content.

```
<!-- bad -->
<img src="xavier.jpg">
```

```
<!-- bad -->
<img src="xavier.jpg"
     alt="Image of Xavier">
```

```
<!-- good -->
<img src="xavier.jpg"
     alt="Xavier">
```

```
<!-- good -->
<img src="xavier.jpg"
     alt="Xavier giving a talk">
```

Provide appropriate document structure with semantic tags.

```
<body>
  <header>some header</header>
  <nav>some navigation</nav>
  <main>
    <article>some article</article>
  </main>
  <footer>some footer</footer>
</body>
```

```
<article>
  <h1>some title</h1>
  <h2>some subtitle</h2>
  <p>some paragraph</p>
  <ul>some list</ul>
  <h2>some other subtitle</h2>
  <p>some other paragraph</p>
</article>
```

Provide appropriate column headers for data tables.

```
<table>
  <thead>
    <tr>
      <th>some header</th>
      <th>some other header</th>
    </tr>
  </thead>
  ...
</table>
```

Provide appropriate validation and error recovery to forms.

```
<form method="post">
  <label for="name">Name</label>
  <input type="text" name="name"
         id="name" required>
  ...
  <button type="submit">
    Submit your proposal
  </button>
</form>
```

Provide appropriate link description to links on the page.

```
<!-- bad -->
<a href="/articles/">
  Click here
</a>
```

```
<!-- good -->
<a href="/articles/">
  Articles
</a>
```

```
<!-- good -->
<a href="/articles/">
  See all articles
</a>
```

Caption and provide transcripts for audio and video media.

“Just watch this talk from PyCon if you need an example.”

Ensure accessibility of PDF files and other non-HTML content.

“Just implement the same guidelines as for the web.”

Allow users to skip repetitive elements on the page.

```
<body>
  <a href="#content">
    Skip to main content
  </a>
  <header>some header</header>
  <nav>some navigation</nav>
  <main id="content">
    <article>some article</article>
  </main>
  <footer>some footer</footer>
</body>
```

```
<body>
  <a href="#content">
    Skip to main content
  </a>
  <header>some header</header>
  <nav>some navigation</nav>
  <main id="content">
    <article>some article</article>
  </main>
  <footer>some footer</footer>
</body>
```

Do not rely on color alone to convey information.

```
<!-- bad -->
<span class="label green"></span>
```

```
<!-- good -->
<span class="label green">
  some label
</span>
```

Make sure content is clearly written and easy to read.

“Write explicit, clear, simple and positive sentences.”

“And use clear fonts, relative units and strong contrasts.”

“And seriously, avoid blinking text or moving it at all.”

Make browser-side JavaScript code accessible.

“Just avoid device-dependent event handlers.”

Design to standards to avoid hacks and inaccessible pages.

“Avoid inline styles, deprecated tags and missing attributes.”

Where do we go from there, then?

Document yourself about impairment and disability.

Talk with people with disabilities and listen to them.

Read guidelines like WCAG, ATAG, UUAG and ARIA.

Try accessibility tools on your computer or your smartphone.

Validate your web applications with WAVE.

Audit your pages with Chrome Accessibility Developer Tools.

Finally, provide your skills to accessibility organizations.

So, in conclusion?

Web accessibility is not an option.

And so are we.

So, let us get to work because there is a lot to catch up on.

Thank you!

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