Accessibility
With(out) Priorities

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Disclaimer

This talk is purely a sharing based off my personal experiences and I do not believe this represents the full picture of the situation in my region.

I am also by no means an expert on accessibility but I am trying my best to learn and get better at it.
a11y

accessibility
Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

Accessibility is essential for developers and organizations that want to create high quality websites and web tools, and not exclude people from using their products and services.

https://www.w3.org/WAI/
Why isn't accessibility explicitly taught during the basics of web development?
The 80-20 rule
# Web Accessibility Laws in Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date enacted</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Web only?</th>
<th>WCAG version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities 1990, as amended</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Accessibility law</td>
<td>Public sector, Private sector</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Voluntary Web Accessibility Standard</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>WCAG 2.0 derivative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>Guidelines on Dissemination of Information through Government Websites</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Mandatory policy</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>WCAG 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPD)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Non-discrimination law</td>
<td>Public sector, Private sector</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Guidelines for Indian Government Websites</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Mandatory policy</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>WCAG 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Basic Act on the Formation of an Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Accessibility law</td>
<td>Public sector, Private sector</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Non-discrimination law</td>
<td>Public sector, Private sector</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>WCAG 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Web Accessibility Guidelines 2.0</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Mandatory policy</td>
<td>Public sector</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>WCAG 2.0 derivative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Website Interface Standards (WIS) for the Singapore Government</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>W3C WCAG 1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>A Guideline on ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>W3C WCAG 1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But what can I do?
But what can I do?

Use your own best judgement
Level 1: No one can tell you're doing it
Page titles

Instead of...

<title>Welcome to the home of the fluffiest musicians in the universe the Fluffy Philharmonic</title>

Try doing...

<title>Fluffy Philharmonic home page</title>

<title>Fluffy Philharmonic - Musicians</title>

<title>Musicians - Fluffy Philharmonic</title>

<title>Fluffy Philharmonic | Life at FP</title>

<title>Life at FP | Fluffy Philharmonic</title>
Image text alternatives (alt text)

Every image must have an alt attribute

If the image conveys useful information, then it needs alt text.
If the image is purely decorative, set the alt attribute to empty.

Context is everything

Text should be functional and provide an equivalent user experience, not necessarily describe the image.

Reference: WebAIM alternative text guidelines
Even though Viola the red panda had played the violin for many years, she wasn't exactly passionate about it. But the first time she tried the viola, she finally knew what love was.

Pick the appropriate option:
1. "Image of Viola the red panda"
2. "Viola, the red panda who fell in love with the viola"
3. An empty alt attribute is enough
4. "Viola, the red panda" ✅
Viola, the red panda

Even though Viola the red panda had played the violin for many years, she wasn't exactly passionate about it. But the first time she tried the viola, she finally knew what love was.

Pick the appropriate option:
1. "Viola, the red panda"
2. An empty alt attribute is enough
3. "Image"
4. No alt attribute is required
Use the `lang` attribute

Declare the document language using the `lang` attribute on the `html` element

Indicate if there are language changes with the `lang` attribute on specific elements

```html
<html lang="en">

<p>The fourth animal in the Chinese Zodiac is Rabbit (<span lang="zh">兔子</span>).</p>
```
Spanish
What will you do when the label comes off, And the plastic’s all melted, And the chrome is too soft?

French
What will you do when the label comes off, And the plastic’s all melted, And the chrome is too soft?

German
What will you do when the label comes off, And the plastic’s all melted, And the chrome is too soft?
Use semantic mark-up (1/3)

The `<div>` element is not a magical hammer

Reference: HTML elements reference
Use semantic mark-up (2/3)

Buttons and links have different semantic meaning

Use buttons for actions

Use links for changes in location

CSS lets you style them both however you want

Reference: A Complete Guide to Links and Buttons
# Use semantic mark-up (3/3)

## Keyboard accessibility by default

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interaction</th>
<th>Keystrokes</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navigate to most elements</td>
<td>Tab + Tab - navigate backward</td>
<td>Keyboard focus indicators must be present. Navigation order should be logical and intuitive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link</td>
<td>Enter</td>
<td>Ensure elements with ARIA role=&quot;button&quot; can be activated with both key commands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button</td>
<td>Enter or Spacebar</td>
<td>Checkboxes should be used when one or more option can be selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checkbox</td>
<td>Spacebar - check/unchecked a checkbox</td>
<td>Checkboxes should be used when one or more option can be selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio buttons</td>
<td>↑ / ↓ or ← / → - select an option. Tab - move to the next element.</td>
<td>Radio buttons should be used when only one option from a group can be selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select (dropdown) menu</td>
<td>↑ / ↓ - navigate between menu options Spacebar - expand</td>
<td>You can also filter by typing letters, but this behavior varies by browser. Some will filter as you type, like autocomplete. Others will only sort by first letter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Autocomplete:
- Type to begin filtering
- ↑ / ↓ - navigate to an option
- Enter - select an option

Link: Form elements
Level 2: Get designers/writers involved
Resize text

Don't break zooming

Let users control text size

Reference: Accessibility in browsers: zoom level vs. font size
Write meaningful link text

“Click here” isn't very helpful

Write link text so that it describes the content of the link target

Instead of...

Click here to visit our sticker store.

Try doing...

Visit our sticker store.
Use spacing and proper sectioning

Negative space and proximity can help make relationships between content more apparent.

Ties back to use of semantic mark-up for headings and content.

Content should be easy to scan.
Colour issues (1/2)
Provide enough contrast between text and background

Instead of...
This is a pretty unreadable combination. I mean, sure I'm using the browser default sans-serif, and the content is not particularly interesting, but still. I'm giving everyone the access to read my shitty content and judge for themselves.

Try doing...
Clearly a better combination. It didn't make the content any better, I'm still using the browser default sans-serif, and the content has not improved at all, but still. I'm giving everyone the access to read my shitty content and judge for themselves.
Colour issues (2/2)

Colour alone is not enough to convey information

Instead of...

Required fields are in red

Name

Email

Try doing...

Required fields are in red and marked with an *

Name

*Email
Make interactive elements obvious

Links and buttons should have distinct styles from the rest of the text
Keep them consistent throughout the site

RedViolaPanda is a nonsensical side-project between Hui Jing and Wei

```css
.focus a:hover {
  text-decoration: none;
  color: inherit;
  border-bottom: 0;
}

.focus a:focus {
  outline: 5px auto -webkit-focus-ring-color;
}
```
Form elements must have labels

Placeholder text is not a substitute for labels

Make sure the association between the field and label is clear

Instead of...

Name
Email
Phone

Try doing...

Name
Name
Email
Email
Phone
Phone
Why so hard...?
People I've learned from 😊

Adrian Roselli (@aardrian) 
Léonie Watson (@LeonieWatson) 
Manuel Matuzovic (@mmatuzo) 
Eric Bailey (@ericwbailey)

And many more folks who share their knowledge about accessibility…
More relevant links

- WAI-ARIA Authoring Practices 1.1
- Keyboard Accessibility
- The A11y Project
Thank you

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