

# Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 (last call draft)

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# Setting the scene...

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## WCAG 1.0

- Current stable version
- Recommendation 1999
- HTML centric

## WCAG 2.0

- Working Draft:
  - Last Call version 27 April 2006
  - Over 900 comments have been received
- Schedule:
  - Call for Implementations  
collect implementation experience
  - Call for Review of a Proposed Recommendation  
seek endorsement from W3C member organisations
  - Publication of Recommendation

# WCAG 2.0 draft

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- Technology independent
  - WCAG 2.0 does not require or prohibit any particular technology
- Documents:
  - Introduction
  - Conformance
  - Principles, guidelines and success criteria
  - How to Meet / Understanding WCAG 2.0
  - Techniques

Terminology  
can be harder  
to understand

# Conformance

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- Baseline: *technology assumptions*

Definition of Baseline:

“set of technologies assumed to be supported by, and enabled in, user agents”

- Technologies, not user agents
- Assumptions, supported and enabled

# Conformance

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- Baseline: *who sets the baseline?*

“Baselines may be set by authors, companies, customers and governmental bodies.”

... not WCAG 2.0, WG, WAI

Legal considerations and concerns?

- Meeting with HREOC

# Conformance

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- Baseline: *technology assumptions*

A baseline may be XHTML 1.0 (Strict).

Other technologies may be used -  
but all content and functionality must be  
available using only the technologies specified  
in the baseline.

Technologies outside the baseline may be  
CSS + Javascript.

Concept of “relied upon” and “used”...

# The Guidelines

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## Principles

### 1. Perceivable

Content must be perceivable.

### 2. Operable

Interface components in the content must be operable.

### 3. Understandable

Content and controls must be understandable.

### 4. Robust

Content should be robust enough to work with current and future user agents (including assistive technologies).

# Perceivable

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Content must be perceivable:

- Text alternatives for non-text content
- Separation of information and structure from presentation
- Distinguishable foreground information from its background

# Operable

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Interface components must be operable:

- Functionality is keyboard operable
- User control of time limits
- Photosensitive seizure avoidance
- Find content, orientate within it and navigate through it
- Error avoidance and correction

# Understandable

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Content and controls must be understandable:

- Understandable and readable text content
- Predictable placement and functionality of content

# Robust

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Robust content for current and future user agents:

- Compatibility with current and future user agents
- Content is accessible or provide an accessible alternative

## Accessibility and Usability

“the guidelines do not include standard usability recommendations except where they have specific impact on accessibility.”

For example:

“If an input error is detected, the error is identified and described to the user in text ”

## Accessibility and Usability

### The Principles:

“..lay the foundation for **ANYONE** to access and use content..”

# Summary

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## WCAG 2.0

- Last call stage – possible reissue?
- Compared to WCAG 1.0, some:
  - Improvements
  - Thinning
  - Opportunities missed
  
  - New concepts and terminology

# WCAG 2.0 draft

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Thank you!

Questions?

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