



## The easiest way to making Triple A accessible sites – Day2

### Chapter 2: How do I know my accessible rating?

Ok, in chapter 1 we saw the importance of making your site accessible. We also saw the various levels of rating the accessibility of a site. But the reason your reading this is to no doubt answer the question, what about my site?

#### Is my site accessible, Yes or No?

As with so many questions in life, there never seems to be an answer, especially a yes or no answer.

Well here is the exception.

Where to find the Yes / No answer

This is a really helpful free resource from Watchfire

Open up a browser window and bookmark: <http://webxact.watchfire.com/>

Go on do it

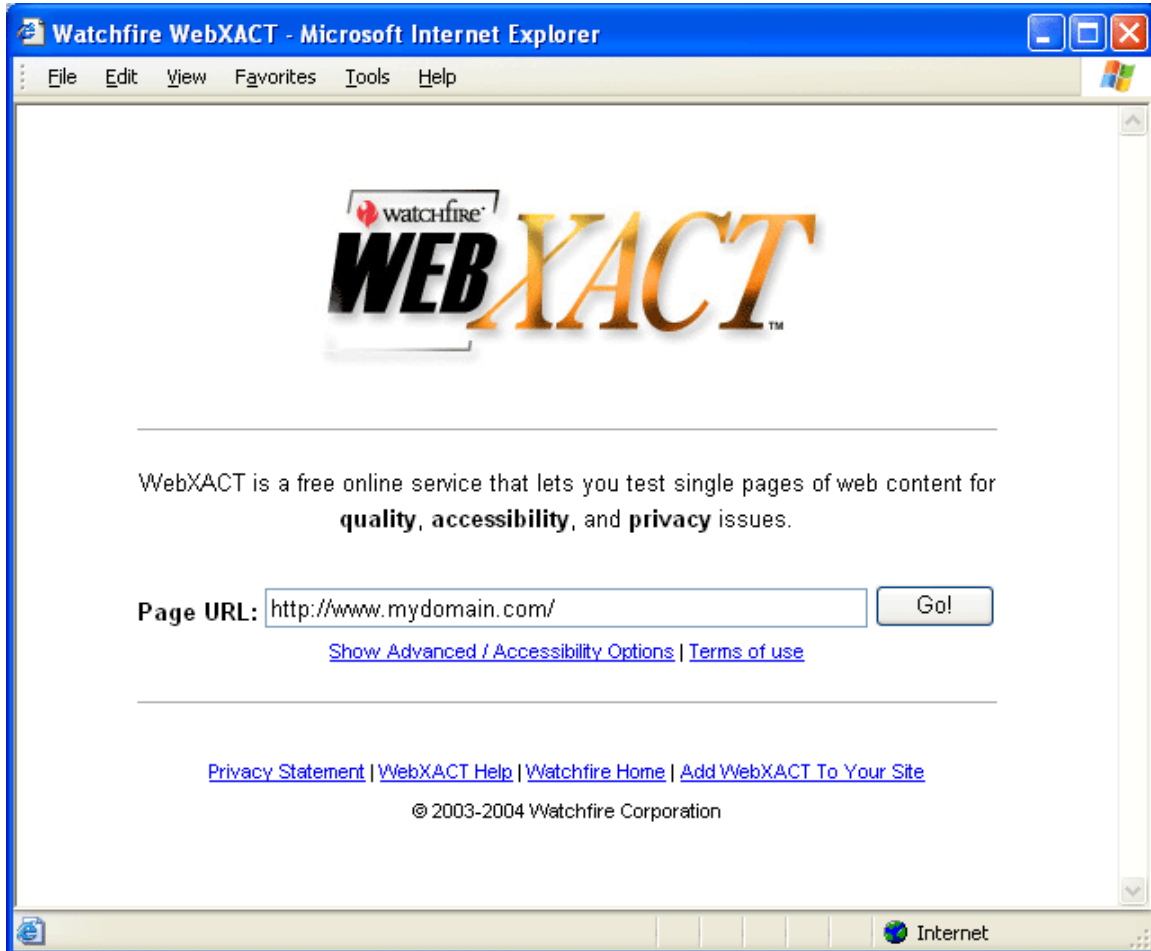
You won't regret it, in fact you'll only wish you did it when I said, its so firmly bookmarked in my favourites that its one of the few bookmarks I have capatalised to enable me to see it as quickly as possible.

Now once its open...

... type in the address of your home page in the "Page URL" box  
e.g. **www.mydomain.com**

Or even the exact htm file eg [www.mydomain.com/index.htm](http://www.mydomain.com/index.htm)

You should now have a window something like this...









Then Click the go button, so far so good.

The Watchfire robot will analyse the page, check links and check accessibility  
Once the scan has finished, you will get a result page including the link integrity and quality of the page. Put this to the side for now, because we promised you a simple yes or no answer.




Below is the results and don't be too disheartened.








This is a No – Your site is not accessible





Accessibility	
Guideline	Status
W3C WCAG P1	 
W3C WCAG P2	 
W3C WCAG P3	 

This is a Yes – Your site is accessible, assuming a few manual checks are met. Well done

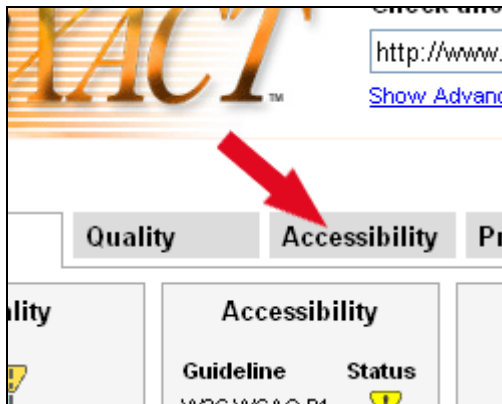
Accessibility	
Guideline	Status
W3C WCAG P1	
W3C WCAG P2	
W3C WCAG P3	

This is a Yes and No – Your site is not fully accessible, but meets some levels of accessibility

Accessibility	
Guideline	Status
W3C WCAG P1	
W3C WCAG P2	 
W3C WCAG P3	 

Accessibility	
Guideline	Status
W3C WCAG P1	
W3C WCAG P2	
W3C WCAG P3	 

Click the “accessibility” tab



We now get to the heart of the matter.

You will probably look at a sea of documentation that makes you think, “I wish I had never started this”. Well don’t be put off. Most of what you see is manual checks to perform. Of which you manually need to be made aware of and likely don’t infringe them in the first place.

So today you have answered the question that a thousand politicians never answer. A simple “yes or no”. You now know if you have an accessible site. Likely it’s a no. After a few more chapters you will find you will struggle to develop sites that aren’t, it becomes second nature after a while.

In chapter 3 we will sort out the wood for the trees. We will boil down to the real substance. We will look at common failings on nearly everyone’s site, and move one step closer to giving you a AAA accessible site.

That wraps up chapter 2 – How do I know my accessible rating?

Next instalment is called:

**The accessible Good, Bad and Ugly?**

All the best,  
Zane Clements  
Zanet Accessible Web Design  
<http://www.zanet.co.uk>