



There are many manual checks that only you can perform. This in fact is covered in the section below titled "The Ugly". But don't be disheartened as you may well find in practice your site doesn't fail in these areas.

If you perform the manual checks and also pass the automatic checks with the green ticks then well done you have a truly accessible site based on the priority level guidelines.

You now need to make sure that you have green ticks against the areas of priority chosen. From my experience, once you start thinking and designing with accessibility in mind it becomes almost more work to design a site that isn't accessible. Don't worry for now, but I can assure you that soon the accessible guidelines will become second nature and you will struggle to insert an image without an <ALT> tag. Or use a H2 without using an H1 first.

The thing with accessibility is it all makes perfect sense. Its logical. What's more it is backed by all browsers and search engines so its future proofing your site.

So that was the "Good", and now on to the "Bad"



The Bad

The bad news is the first time you try to make a site fully accessible there may be many changes to make. In lesson 4 we will look at some details of what is likely to fail on your site. We will tackle some common problems and learn some clever tricks to easily find ways to keep the site accessible without losing the design you have created.

The bad news or red failings will decrease as your understanding of accessibility grows. So don't be put off. Everyone goes through the pain barrier.



The Ugly

Well they may not be ugly. In fact normally they become good news. Basically the manual checks are probably just fine on your site. But do read through them, they can be ugly if your site is full of unconventional attachments and JavaScript's etc. These yellow caution areas on your site occur as it is impossible for an automated check to take place.



Below are the common checks that you need to be aware of

Language changes

This is an unlikely candidate, but if you are using multi-language this should be correctly tagged.

Readable HTML

If style sheets are ignored or unsupported; ensure that pages are still readable and usable.

Screen Flicker

Make sure that the page does not cause the screen to flicker rapidly.

As mentioned before, unless your site is unusual, most of the manual checks will be irrelevant to your site, and therefore though the report initially looks like an essay, most of the line references can easily be approved.

So that concludes the “potentially ugly” section of the report.

At this point we will now consider some basic good practices for your site

If you have many failings, rather than tackle all the detail at this point, let's get as many of these cleared up with some basic tips that are a good practice no matter what level of accessibility you wish to meet. Follow these steps and you will find it will load a large percentage of common mistakes on your report.

Once you have followed these next steps, a rescanning of the page will no doubt cut down the clutter, and hopefully make a slightly easier report to read.

In chapter 4 we will learn how to follow some basic steps on making any site at any level accessible. So join me in the following chapter.

That wraps up chapter 3 – The accessible Good, Bad and Ugly.

Next instalment is called:

You reap what you sow

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