Guerrilla Accessibility

Kevin Lanahan
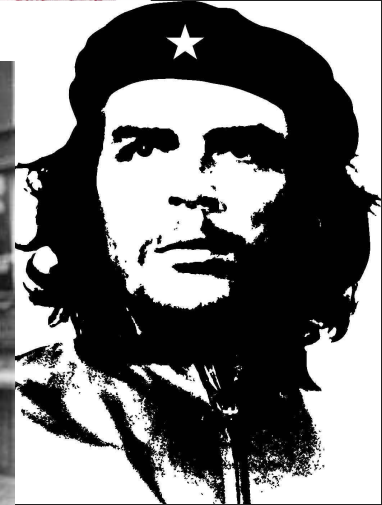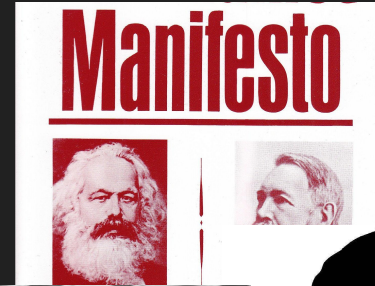MO Department of Conservation

Guerrilla Accessibility

You need two things:

- An ideology
- Guerrillas

About Me

- I started working on government web in 1996
- I embrace standards.
- I have friends and family who are blind, deaf, autistic, color-blind, and paralyzed.
- I can also talk about bicycles and bourbon.

Quick Survey

Everybody has a disability... or will.

Missouri stats

155,300 blind Missourians in 2014

81% age 35 or older

100,000 Missourians are deaf or hard-of-hearing

In 2013, 838,300, or 14%, of Missourians classified themselves as "disabled"

34% of them are employed.

Your sites need to be accessible

- But it's hard.
- I'm not sure how.
- My boss won't let me.
- My developers don't understand.
- It limits my design decisions.

How accessible do I need to be?

Back-end Drupal user interface

- Drupal 7 is sort of accessible.
- Drupal 8 is better.

Is my custom code accessible?

Is my display accessible?

Is my content accessible?

Ideology: This is for <u>everyone</u>.

- We know about accessibility.
- We believe in it.
- We know it makes the internet better.
- We think everyone should do it.
- We need to change hearts and minds.

This is for everyone

Accessible design is good design. Everything we build should be as inclusive, legible and readable as possible. If we have to sacrifice elegance — so be it. We're building for needs, not audiences. We're designing for the whole country, not just the ones who are used to using the web. The people who most need our services are often the people who find them hardest to use. Let's think about those people from the start.

https://www.gov.uk/design-principles

But changing hearts and minds is hard.....

Guerrillas

guer·ril·la

gəˈrilə/

Noun: a member of a small independent group taking part in irregular fighting, typically against larger regular forces.

Adjective: referring to actions or activities performed in an impromptu way, often without authorization.

508 and WCAG 2.0 AA

The usual reasons:

- It's the right thing to do.
- It increases SEO.
- It's the law (if you contract with the state or feds).
- Use WCAG 2.0; That's what 508 will turn into.

508: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

WCAG: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

POUR

- Perceivable
- Operable
- Understandable
- Robust

Perceivable

- Alt-text for all images
- Form elements labeled
- Semantic markup (no naked div tags)
- Tables are for data
- 4.5:1 color contrast
- No pictures of text
- Close-captions for video

Operable

- Navigate by keyboard
- No keyboard traps
- No content flashes more than 3 times/second
- Skip Nav link
- Contextual links
- Meaningful headings

Understandable

- Identify page language <html lang="en">
- Reading level
- Predictable behavior
- Error identification (intuitive form validation)

Robust

- Valid code
- Future-proof

Wave results

Design

- Mark up wireframes with appropriate tags.
- Check color contrast.
- Review the site in dev. Find problems early.
- Build accessibility reviews into the timeline.

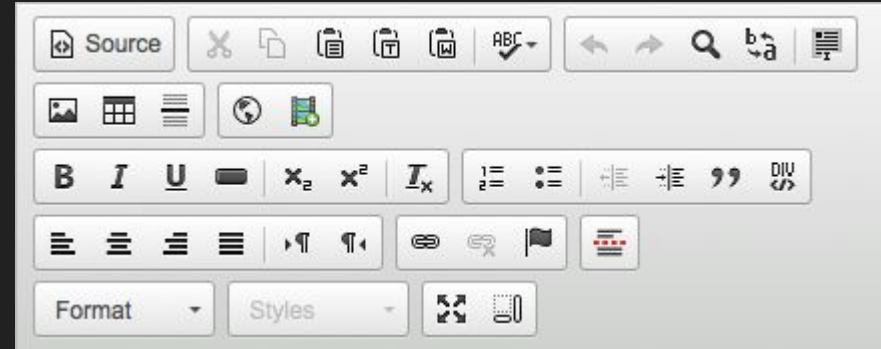# Limit content contributor options

Titles become H1.

Edit CKEditor to restrict options.

Do This

Not That

Chunk Your Content

Break content types up
into small pieces.

Document and Train

- Document content entry
- Document coding standards
- Train the devs/users
- Train them again
- OMG, you just got a bunch of new developers! Train again!

Changing hearts and minds

Empathy initiative:
- Bring in an accessible technology user
- Show how AT works
- Use examples from your agency
- Put a face on accessibility

Meet Gretchen

Empathy Strategy

Three-part presentation:

- How a blind person uses a computer and browser.
- How PDFs are generally awful.
- How participants can make improvements right now.

Tailored to the audience

- Content contributors
- Developers
- App developers

Total nerd credentials

Relevant Examples

- Demonstrate a screen reader
- Demonstrate web pages, PDFs, and Word docs, using examples from our agency
- Give users 4 take-away tips for improving Word accessibility **immediately**.

Resources

HTML validator

- Chrome HTML validator (also available for Firefox)
- Web Developer Toolbar (Firefox, with a Chrome port)

Color Contrast

- http://contrast-finder.tanaguru.com/

Accessibility:

- WAVE toolbar for Chrome

Questions?

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Sources

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