DAVID CAHALANE

Breaking the Barrier to Enterprise Adoption

Why Accessibility Matters
Who Am I?

- KDE contributor since 2018
- Cloud & Infrastructure Engineer at Bixal
- Contractor for the US Federal Government
- DevOps and infrastructure operations
What is Accessibility?

Making a digital product usable for the maximum number of people, regardless of physical or cognitive ability.
Why Accessibility for KDE?

- ADA lawsuits due to inaccessible software

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>262 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>814 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2314 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2235 cases</td>
</tr>
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Overlap with Organizational Goals

- Increases professionalism in both organizational standards and product delivery.
- Fundamental to human-centered design.

Ensures Legality

- Public institutions demand high standards for accessibility.
- Corporations won’t gamble on an inaccessible product that could get them sued or cause loss of business.

Pathway to Proven Growth Strategy

- Some of KDE’s biggest successes hinge on partnerships with schools and government.
- Brazil, 2008
- Valencia, 2005
- Kerala, 2019

Compliance with Accessibility law is essential to further such opportunities in additional countries.
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

W3C Standard
- Governed by the World Wide Web Consortium

Test against specific criteria
- WCAG rating on a scale of A to AAA based on coverage of numerous criteria.
- Most laws target AA rating.

Principles
- **Perceivable**: Content can be assessed with an alternate sense. Captions, alt text, etc.
- **Operable**: People are able to use the product. Keyboard navigation, motion can be paused, etc.
- **Understandable**: UI consistency, element labels, etc.
- **Robust**: Compatibility with users and current technologies.
USA

Section 508 (1998)
- WCAG 2.0 is law
- Government services only
- Applies to public websites, software, and hardware.

Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
- Protects the rights of disabled people in society.
- Employees have legal right to accommodation.
- Applies to both private and public sectors.
EUROPEAN UNION

EN 301 549 (2014)

- WCAG 2.1 compliant
- Applies to hardware, software, websites, and mobile apps
- Large majority of public websites are not in compliance as of 2019.
GERMANY

BITV (2002)

- Barrierefreie-Informationstechnik-Verordnung
- WCAG 2.1 since 2019
- Applies to public websites and mobile apps

Disability Equality Act (2002)

- Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz (BGG)
- Similar to the ADA
- Broader in scope
- Ensures the rights of disabled people in work and society.
Law 34 of 2002

- “De servicios de la sociedad de la información y de comercio electrónico” (LSSICE)
- Standard UNE 139803
- WCAG 2.0 since 2012
- Applies to public sector websites
Law of 19 July 2018

- WCAG 2.1 compliant
- Applies to public websites and mobile apps
- Must list and cite all WCAG criteria which are not fully met
**VPAT and ACR**

Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR)
- Required by US Government agencies before buying software.
- Easiest way is to submit a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT).

VPAT
- Extremely thorough accessibility checklist
- Vendor’s self-assessment and remarks on WCAG criteria
- Functionally similar to Belgian requirement
- Compatible with Section 508, WCAG, and EN 301 549.

### KDE Applications
- LabPlot
- GCompris
- Okular

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Conformance Level</th>
<th>Remarks and Explanations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)</strong></td>
<td>Web:</td>
<td>Web:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also applies to:</td>
<td>Electronic Docs:</td>
<td>Electronic Docs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Section 508</td>
<td>Software:</td>
<td>Software:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 501 (Web)(Software)</td>
<td>Closed:</td>
<td>Closed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 504.2 (Authoring Tool)</td>
<td>Authoring Tool:</td>
<td>Authoring Tool:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 602.3 (Support Docs)</td>
<td></td>
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Accessibility History in Plasma 5

Not accessible at launch
- Plasma 5 launched with inadequate accessibility.
- Extremely difficult to use for several years.

Labeling
- Primary task of Plasma Accessibility team was adding focus, keyboard actions, and accessibility labels to objects.
- Slow and tedious work on huge codebase.

Accessibility goal proposal, 2019
- Aimed to raise awareness and set goals
- Accessibility added to HIG shortly after
Christian’s Retrospective

Progress and gaps closed

Christian’s Blog
www.patreon.com/linux_a11y

Work still to be done
Thank you!