silktide

Silktide Accessibility Checker

Introduction

Silktide, founded in 2001, supports thousands of clients in analyzing millions of web pages annually across more than 900 cities worldwide.

The free Silktide Accessibility Checker is a valuable tool, designed to make it easy for non-experts to identify and address accessibility issues such as color contrast, alt text and other [1].

Over 200 WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) tests are available on Silktide presented in an easy-to-understand format [1].

Once the tool is installed in your browser, open your website and click the Silktide logo on the extension icon in your browser menu. The Slide Accessibility Checker will then open on the left side of your browser screen. There are four main tools in the extension: Accessibility checker, Color contrast, Screen reader and Disability simulator. In the picture below you can see Silktide extension icon.

Silktide Accessibility Checker

Pros and cons

PROS

- Free browser extension.
- After scanning your webpage, the detected issues will be provided with advice on how to update your page.
- The tool has four main features in one solution
- Easy to use whenever you need.

CONS

- Only compatible with Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge browsers.
- Only simulates your website on the browser as it cannot simulate a mobile device.
- Two checks of the WCAG 2.1 Success Criterion related to mobile devices are not possible.
- Not all WCAG 2.2 checks are available for example 2.4.11 and 2.4.12 are not possible to check in web browsers.
- Internet needed to use the tool.
- Checks are only for websites not for e-learnings created with Articulate or other tools.

Use case

Everyone who wants to learn about accessibility can benefit from Silktide. Silktide not only checks your website for accessibility issues but also provides a link to learn more about accessibility (Learn about accessibility). The Silktide extension also includes the ability to simulate different disabilities, such as trying a color blindness simulator, an impaired vision simulator and a dyslexia simulator. If you want to demonstrate how users with different disabilities experience your content, you can simulate it using this extension.

Also, this extension has a color contrast checker for users who need to check color contrast and don't want to download other extensions to their browsers.

The Silktide extension has a screen reader simulator users can use it to simulate or as assistive technology to help with navigation.

Considerations

The following considerations are provided for the effective use of the tool.

1 It is important to review this tool's data policy if you plan to use it within the company.

2 Only scans websites and it is not possible to check e-learnings.

3 Not all checks are automatic be aware that you will need to review some elements manually.

4 For more possibilities consider a paid version of Silktide.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided for the effective use of the tool.

1 Please read article provided by Silktide team How to check your web accessibility for free. This article provides all information how to use the tool.

2 Find volunteer team members who can review checks which are not automatic.

3 If company rules allow installing this extension, encourage your colleagues to install it and provide training on how to use the tool.

References

1.SILKTIDE. Interactive. Access via: https://silktide.com [accessed 2024-11-29].

2.SILKTIDE INDEX. Interactive. Access via: https://index.silktide.com/ [accessed 2024-11-29].

3.SILKTIDE ACCESSIBILITY CHECKER. Interactive. Access via: https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/silktide-accessibility-ch/mpobacholfblmnpnfbiomjkecoojakah [accessed 2024-11-29].